



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

*June 2021*



## **Message from Lynda** *Lynda Edwards, President*

### ***CAMGA President***

Where do I begin? Thank you members for your outpouring of love and kindness for me and my family during our days of grief.



My beloved son Brad Bigham passed away after a sudden illness in a Jackson, Mississippi area hospital on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 and was laid to rest in Prattville May 26, 2021. The autopsy will take a minimum of six weeks before we have answers.

CAMGA members under the leadership of Robin Snyder and Lee Ann Marona provided a wonderful meal for my large family of approximately 70 people immediately after the funeral.

Thank you for the prayers, flowers, cards, texts, emails and phone calls that have provided much comfort. Please continue to pray for me and my family.

A friend sent the following:

*Don't think of him as gone away  
His journeys just begun  
Life holds so many facets -  
This earth is only one.  
Just think of him as resting  
from the sorrows and tears  
in a place of warmth and comfort  
where there are no days and years.  
Think how he must be wishing  
That we could know today  
How nothing but our sadness  
Can really pass away.  
And think of him as living  
In the hearts of those he touched...  
For nothing loved is ever lost -  
And he was loved so much.*

*E Brenneman*

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**CAMGA Garden Buzzzz**  
Carol Pugh — Editor  
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## 2021 CAMGA Plant Sale







## Message from Mallory

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

### **BLOSSOM-END ROT**



Blossom-end rot is a physiological disorder or an abiotic disease (caused by drought, freezing, and other stressors). It is not a disease caused by fungi, bacteria, or other pathogens. Blossom-end rot is easily identified as a brown, leathery rot developing on or near the blossom end of the tomato.

It starts with a dry, brown lesion the size of a dime and generally increases in diameter as the condition worsens. In time, lesions often become covered with a secondary black mold. There is also a condition called internal blossom-end rot in which symptoms develop on the sides of the fruit or internally. You might not see the damage until you cut into the fruit.

#### **Causes of BER**

BER is caused by a calcium deficiency, usually induced by fluctuations in a plant's water supply. Because calcium is not a "mobile" element in plants, even brief changes in the water supply can cause BER.

Droughty soil or damage to the roots from excessive or improper cultivation (severe root pruning) can restrict water intake, thus preventing plants from getting the calcium they need. Plants also can develop calcium deficiency and BER if they are growing in highly acidic soil or are getting too much water from heavy rain, overirrigation, or high relative humidity.

#### **Preventing BER**

The methods used to manage BER in tomatoes are equally effective for other susceptible crops, such as peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, and watermelons. To manage BER, take the following steps:

- Keep the soil's pH at 6.0 to 6.5. Perform a soil test and apply the recommended rate of lime (use dolomitic or high-calcium limestone). Apply and incorporate lime 2 to 4 months before planting tomatoes.
- Apply the required amount of fertilizer when necessary based on soil test results. Applying too much fertilizer at one time can actually induce BER.
- Give your plants adequate water. Tomato plants need about 1 1/2 inches of water per week during fruiting.
- Extreme fluctuations in soil moisture can result in greater incidences of BER.
- If your plants develop BER, drench the soil around their roots with a calcium solution containing 4 pounds of calcium nitrate or calcium chloride per 100 gallons of water (or 4 level tablespoons per gallon of water). Spraying the plants with calcium has no effect on BER.
- Some tomato varieties, especially many heirlooms, tend to be more sensitive to conditions that cause BER. Try growing several varieties and keep notes as to their performance.

If you see fruit with BER, you should remove the affected fruit. Once a fruit develops BER, it will not regrow or repair the infected area. Remove the fruit; otherwise, the damaged area will serve as an entry point for disease-causing bacteria or fungi.



## **CAMGA Minutes**

### **May 18, 2021**

**By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**

***(The CAMGA May 2021 meeting was held at the Lanark Pavilion in Millbrook, Alabama)***

President Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.,

Program: Lynda Edwards turned the meeting over to Vice President Leslie Bingham who introduced the guest speaker Kristen Irons, Alabama Master Beekeeper and Assistant Director of AWF School Programs. Kristen gave a very informative talk on the habits of native bees, honey bees and pollinators. These are ways to support the native bee environment – plant native plants in your yard, do not destroy hollow stem plants but put them in a safe place upright so bee eggs will not be destroyed, and let a section of your lawn become a natural area for wildlife, bees and pollinators.

AWF offers many programs including a bee camp for children. Look on Facebook or request a newsletter from AWF to find out when and what programs are offered.

Lynda began our business meeting by introducing several special guests. They were Dr. Charles Mitchell, Marcelle Milner (Leslie Bingham's mother), Sonya Ford (Autauga County Master Gardener), intern Brannon Bowman, Russell County Master Gardener transfer Sandy Mikashus, and Earnie Edwards (Lynda's husband).

Amanda Bowden and Jane Mobley presented Dr. Charles Mitchell with the prestigious Gary Murray Service Award. Dr. Mitchell was nominated by CAMGA for the award because of his outstanding service to Master Gardeners. Amanda Bowden, Lee Bowden, Jane Mobley, Lee Ann Marona, and Rhona Watson were very instrumental in Dr. Mitchell receiving this award.

Mary McCroan received the Robin Award for her many hours of dedication to the CAMGA Learning Garden.

Member Concerns: John Butler has a torn tendon.  
William Frye's cancer is terminal and he is resting at home.  
Mary Ann Klatt has moved to Birmingham to be with family.  
Brad Bigham (Lynda's son) is in the hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

Prayers are appreciated for all.

President's Report by Lynda Edwards: Lynda encouraged members to respond to Rick Ohlson's recent email request-help at the Millbrook Farmers Market. Rick would like members to share their knowledge of gardening topics such as butterfly gardens, container gardening, etc. with the people who attend the market. This would not be a formal presentation. The member would be at a table under a tent from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to discuss gardening. This event would be on a Tuesday twice a month. Please contact Rick at 334-233-7425 if you are interested in helping and for more information.

Lee Ann Marona was thanked by Lynda for taking vegetable plants from the plant sale to the Millbrook Farmers Market Tuesday to be sold or donated.

Lynda also thanked all members who worked on the recent plant sale.

## CAMGA Minutes Continued

### By: Betty Plaster, Secretary



Vice President's Report by Leslie Bingham: Leslie requested donations from members to help pay for the rental of the Lanark pavilion that was used for the May meeting. The total cost for renting was \$75.00. CAMGA will meet at Lanark in October at no cost.

The June meeting will be held at Petals from the Past with a walking tour led by Jason Powell. Following the tour, the monthly business meeting will be held in the learning building and a box lunch for \$15 can be purchased. Please contact Leslie at 601-594-4434 for more information and to purchase a box lunch.

CAMGA meetings in July, August, and September will be held at the Wetumpka Farmers Market located at 304 East Coosa Street in Wetumpka.

Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty made the following correction to the April 2021, minutes – Leslie introduced CAMGA Master Gardener Intern Sherri Davidson. She is reporting her volunteer hours to CAMGA and plans to join upon graduation. Betty moved to accept the minutes correction and dispense with the reading of the April minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. The motion was seconded by Leslie Bingham. The vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

April beginning balance	\$5,958.20
April income	87.25
April expenditures	642.95
Ending balance for April	\$ 5,402.50

Carol reported that as of May 18, 2021, income from the plant sale was \$2,046.90. There were no questions about the report. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Report by Mallory Kelley: Mallory congratulated Dr. Mitchell on winning the Gary Murray Service Award.

The Smart Yards program for the month of May will be on blueberries at 1:00pm on Wednesdays and the Garden Chat program will follow.

Alabama Master Gardener Help Line is state-wide. CAMGA will only have to man the help line one or two days per month. Elmore county is scheduled to man the help line on Thursday the week of June 14-18.

Recent farm and garden tours have been well attended. Mallory stated that there will be another tour of the Japanese Maple Trees in the near future.

Mallory announced that Capitol City Master Gardeners are having Lunch and Learn meetings at the Montgomery Armory and Autauga County Master Gardeners are having Lunch and Learn meetings at Prattville.

Advisory Council Representative Report by Cheryl Fitzgerald: Cheryl attended the AMGA annual business meeting on April 21, 2021. Guest speaker was Dr. Desmond Layne, Head of the Department of Horticulture at Auburn University. Dr. Layne spoke about a new project called The Transformation Garden. This is 16 acres of land that will act as an outdoor classroom for hands on student learning and research. It will act as a link for current green spaces established at Auburn. There will be many different elements to the garden, including vertical farming. This will be done in shipping containers and be completely hydroponic. Greens and herbs grown here will be utilized in the campus dining room.



## **CAMGA Minutes Continued**

### **By: Betty Plaster, Secretary**

New officers of AMGA were elected at this meeting.

May 4, 2021, Cheryl attended the quarterly AMGA meeting held at the Lanark Pavilion. Autauga County Master Gardeners will be hosting the AMGA one day Fall Conference on September 30<sup>th</sup>. More details will be available at a later date.

Kerry Smith gave the ACES report. Through the program Grow More Give More, Master Gardeners donated almost 26,000 lbs. of produce to food banks and food pantries. In August a segment of Grow More Give More will air on Alabama Public Television.

Alabama Smart Yards will have a new segment airing on Simply Southern, a television show, in July.

Membership Report by Lee Ann Marona: Lee Ann thanked Cathy Whigham for all her hard work on the membership directory. Members were reminded to pick up their directories at the meeting.

Plant Sale Report by Robin Snyder: Robin reported that 31 members worked to set up the plant sale and 33 members worked the day of the sale. As a result of this help the setup, sale, and clean up went smoothly and quickly.

May 6, 2022, will be the setup day for the next CAMGA plant sale and May 7, 2022, will be the plant sale day which will be open to the public. Robin encouraged everyone to start now growing beautiful and healthy plants for the event.

CAMGA Fall intern class will soon be here and volunteers will be needed. Dates of the classes and the type of class that will be held will soon be available.

AMGA 2022 Conference Report by Candy Jones: Candy reported that the Conference Co-Chairs and the Steering Committee would be meeting soon. Candy asked members if they had connections with any vendors, merchants, advertisement businesses, or sponsors that might be interested in participating in the AMGA 2022 Conference to please email Betty Plaster at [bettyplaster@icloud.com](mailto:bettyplaster@icloud.com). Fund raising will begin in June once a list of prospects is compiled.

Merchant Market Report by Sandy Rosamond: June 3 will be the next Merchant Market and Glenn Huovinen will feature pot gardening at the information table. A volunteer is needed to greet people at the table. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sandy at [sandrose2007@gmail.com](mailto:sandrose2007@gmail.com).

Old Business

New Business – Amanda Borden asked members if they would contact her about garden clubs in the Wetumpka area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm

***Respectfully Submitted,  
Betty Plaster, Secretary***

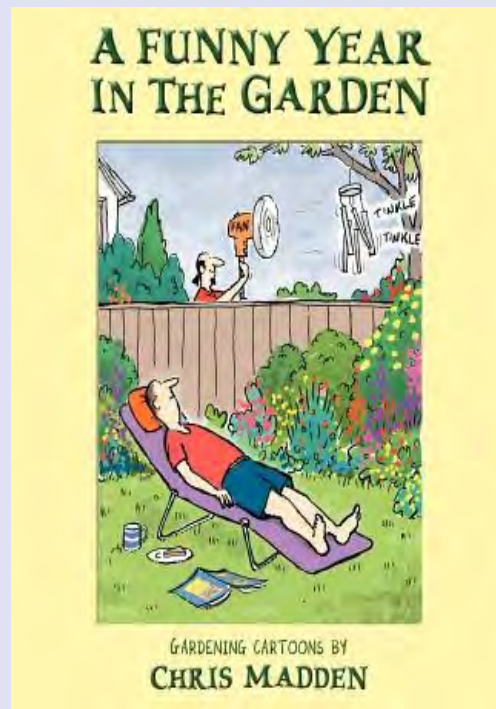


## CAMGA Library News

### By: Dee Turberville

### A Funny Year in the Garden

#### Gardening Cartoons by Chris Madden



Chris Madden's collection of cartoons about gardeners will generate a few smiles for anyone who enjoys working in their home garden plot, whether they are obsessive or just lazy.

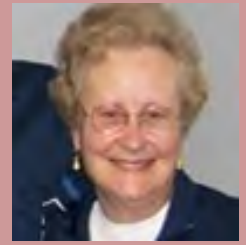
Some cartoons are more amusing than others --- depending upon your sense of humor!



## SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS

### May 2021

By: Judy May



CAMGA members who helped with the Plant Sale both Pricing Day, Friday, April 30 and the Plant Sale May 1<sup>st</sup> were Rhona Watson, Mary McCroan, Judy May, Sharon Kochik, Carol Rattan, Robin Snyder, Terry Chambliss, Jane McCarthy, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, Katrina Mitchell, Carolyn Hensley, Bionca Lindsey, Amanda Borden, Betty Plaster, Candy Jones, Kelly LaFreniere, Allyson Andrews, Dee Turberville, Sheila Radford, Virginia Pruitt, Linda Edwards, Ernie Edwards, Sherri Lynn Davidson, Sandy Rosamond, Lee Ann Marona, Corky Butts, Bill Quailles. Robin says thanks to Katrina and Laurie for allowing us to borrow various supplies from Extension and helping us get them from their storage area.

Members who brought refreshments to the May meeting were Lynda Edwards, Sandra Bowen, Betty Plaster, Bonnie McCormick, Linda Cater, Sheila Radford, Sandy Rosamond, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Leslie Bingham and Sharon Kochik.

A Seed Swap and Garden Tour was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It was fun seeing friends and sharing knowledge along with the seeds. Participating were Iva Haynie, Deborah Kelso, Sheila Radford, Sandra Bowen, Jane Duke, Mary McCroan, Anne Carr, Betty Plaster, Bill Quailles and Terry Chambliss. Afterwards, Mary conducted a tour of the Learning gardens and answered questions about growing, irrigation and maintenance.

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Jane Mobley, Robin Snyder, Rhona Watson, Sherry Davidson and Terry Chambliss manned the table at the Merchant's Market. The theme was butterflies. Jane made a wonderful poster board display. Leftover plants from the plant sale were sold and handouts were available on the subject. Five applications were given out for the next intern class.

Maria says Don Hoover, Leslie Bingham, Carla McCune, Debbie Kelso, Judy May and Sharon Kochik helped her in April and this month, Don Hoover, Carla McCune, Debbie Kelso, Leslie Bingham and Dee Turberville helped her as well. Maria appreciates all the hard work these folks do to help keep the Lanark Gardens beautiful! If you want to volunteer, please call Maria at 657-9414. She will work with you to find a time that is right for you to volunteer.

Helpline volunteers for April were Pat Petro-Perryman, Ricky Hatcher and Mary Ann Hatcher. Volunteers for May were Intern Sherri Davidson, Pat Petro-Perryman and Mary Ann Hatcher.

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

### *Deepest Sympathy*

*We extend deepest sympathy to Earnie and Lynda Edwards for the recent loss  
of their son Brad Bigham on May 19th.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.*





## Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



**April showers have brought May flowers to the Governor's Mansion. Also weeds. We weeded, trimmed, and spread pine straw in the Herb Garden and pruned azaleas and palms. We also watered beds and containers as needed and enjoyed seeing pollinators in the garden.**





## Governor's Mansion Report Continued

By: Amanda Borden







## Learning Garden

By: Mary McCroan

First off, I want to express appreciation to the Master Gardeners who had the Learning Gardens at the Extension looking great for our Plant Sale on 1 May 2021.

The team included Amanda Borden, Bill Quailes, Candy Jones, Terry Chambliss, Corky Butts, Debby Kelso, Jane Mobley, Katrina Mitchell, Sandra Bowen, Virginia Pruitt, Mary McCroan and Jay Maguire. I'm looking forward to next year when I hope these gardens will be used to educate our plant buying customers on growing veggies and berries, or creating a butterfly, water or rain garden.



Meanwhile, our hugelkultur bed acquired a new vertical element that Katrina is using to grow a favorite type of bean. Thanks to Bill, Debby and Katrina.

Terry and her husband made some attractive signs for several of our beds. Many thanks--they look wonderful!



Jane's commitment to the Butterfly Garden, continues to bear fruit--or flowers. We expect that the mugwort that is trying to dominate will never be completely eradicated, so our approach will be to just try and keep it subdued.





## Learning Garden (Continued)

### By: Mary McCroan



I have always been more of a gardener of ornamentals with a focus on my shade garden at home. The other Learning Garden volunteers have gradually seduced me into the world of veggies, with this year being my first real attempt at growing from seed. Terry and I are sharing a bed with beets and turnips and they grew! Big, yummy veg from tiny little seeds. It almost seems like magic!



Not growing up with a southern mom, I had to look up how to cook a turnip root. This one was cooked and mashed with butter, salt and a tiny bit of sugar. Pretty good! There are also some onions in this bed --babies from the Farmers Coop across the street. Jane instructed me on making sure the soil was pulled back from the "shoulders" of the developing onions and it seems to have worked. More magic!



Everybody knows what this last picture is--blueberries. We have several shrubs in our blueberry patch. Some have sweeter berries than others. Everyone is welcome to sample the ripe berries. Warm from the sun is the best! If you are thinking about adding blueberries to your landscape, be sure to buy at least two varieties (three is better) for cross pollination.



Last is a picture of one of the Elderberry Bushes at Extension. We have planted some, but this one came up on it's own and is growing with no irrigation in a dry spot in the garden. They are also growing happily in the Rain Garden, so it is a very adaptable plant. You can currently see them everywhere growing wild in the fields. The berries make a wonderful syrup or jam. Be sure to know that other parts of the plant are poisonous and even the berries can make you sick if not cooked. Be careful not to source berries from plants growing where there a lot of runoff from roadbeds or railroad right-aways or where roadsides are sprayed with chemical weed killers.

Please send me an email with any questions about the CAMGA Learning Gardens at [maryl@mccroan.com](mailto:maryl@mccroan.com).

*Regards to all,  
Mary*



## *Master Gardener Wetumpka Community Market Pictures*



**Meeting Reminder:  
June CAMGA Meeting will be held at Petals from the Past**

Contact Leslie Bingham at 601-594-4434 for more information and to purchase a box lunch.