



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



July 2021

Message from Lynda *Lynda Edwards, President CAMGA President*



Happy 4th of July!

On July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress voted in favor of Independence from Great Britain, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, therefore from 1776 to present, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with all types of festivities, including fireworks, parades, concerts, family gatherings and barbecues of every kind.

This year, July 4th is on Sunday and the federal holiday will be observed on Monday, July 5, 2021. No matter how you enjoy your day, I hope you will fly your flag proudly and remember our nation's military that protects our freedom.

For those unaware, we lost one of our faithful CAMGA members. Patricia Petro-Perryman passed away on June 25 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on June 23, 2021. It is our understanding that her wishes included no service, but that her ashes buried at the Alabama National Cemetery at Montevallo, AL.

A group of CAMGA members provided food for the family last Tuesday. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her husband Reginald, son Jonathan and the entire family. Pat will be missed.

Rich Ohlson, who heads up the Millbrook Farmers' Market program for CAMGA was hospitalized earlier this week and spent a couple of nights there. Not sure they have a diagnosis for him but he is home now and I'm sure would appreciate a call, text or card.

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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
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Message from Lynda — (Continued)
Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President



Lunch and Learn is back!!!

Spread the word. We will resume each month for the remainder of 2021 on the second Tuesdays of each month.

July 13, 2021 at 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church,
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka
Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener, CAMGA
Turmeric and Drying Garden Herbs

Kerry Smith, with Alabama Master Gardener Association has announced that we will be having a statewide party celebrating our 40th Anniversary this year. There is an invitation with the date/time and other details going out to all CAMGA members shortly. The date is August 30, 2021 and we will be celebrating using Zoom and in person at ALFA Pavilion at Ag Heritage Park, Auburn University, Auburn. Watch your Inbox for more information.

I am happy to announce that Sandy Rosamond will be teaching a Yard Art Project in August. We can use the yard art in the 2022 Plant Sale. Look for information soon from Sandy regarding date for classes.

CAMGA Master Gardeners



Steering Committee for the 2022 AMGA conference which we are co-hosting with the Capital City Master Gardeners on May 2-4, 2022 at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery



Master Gardeners who worked on the CAMGA booth at the Wetumpka Market held on June 3, 2021



Message from Mallory

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

Work Now to Ensure a Healthy Crop of Blueberries Next Year



Blueberry season is quickly coming to an end in Central Alabama. We usually have blueberries through July, but with our mild winter and early spring temperatures the blueberries are about fizzled out. With that said, it is now time to start thinking about next year. A little maintenance now will ensure a healthy blueberry crop next year.

The most important thing you can do any time of year for a blueberry is water and weed control. Now that the plants are finished making berries the plants will begin to put their energy into making new shoots and branches. This is exactly what you want as the new growth between now and Fall is where the biggest and best berries will be next year. For optimal branch growth the plants will need water, mulch and a little boost of fertilizer. Make sure not to fertilize after mid September or the new tissue will be susceptible to frost damage.

Generally, blueberries need fertilizing twice a year, once in early spring and again as the berries fade away. Use a Urea based fertilizer or a fertilizer labeled for Azaleas/Camellias as this will help acidify the soil as blueberries like a low pH of 4.5-5.2. Have a soil test done if you have not had one in the past three years to know what nutrients are lacking and what the pH is.

Pruning blueberries now will multiply your berry production next year. As your plants start to grow long straight shoots/canes, clip these a little lower than where you would like to have the fruit next year. This means, if you want the fruit to be chest height, clip those canes about a foot lower. The more you clip (especially the long canes) the more branching you will get.

The more branches you get, the more fruit you will have from those branches next year. Also remove any dead or diseases branches while you prune.

Plant more blueberries this fall and remember to plant different varieties of “Rabbiteye” to prolong your season as different varieties produce at different times throughout the summer. Plant blueberries in full sun with a moist, well-aerated, well-drained soil, high in organic matter. Incorporate organic matter such as peat moss, compost, or fine pine bark into the soil and mulch around the plant to help in retaining water and suppressing weeds.



CAMGA Minutes

June 16, 2021

By: Betty Plaster, Secretary

The June monthly meeting was held at Petals from the Past with Jason Powell giving members a walking tour of the gardens beginning at 10:00 AM. Jason began the program by giving members an overview of how this business began 26 years ago. According to Jason, the focus of his business is to help customers place southern plants in their landscape (plants that grow in southern climate), educate customers on how to select plants that meets their needs, and fruit production.

As members toured the garden, Jason gave information on which plants were repeat bloomers, which plants were reseeding annuals, how to water plants in this climate, and how to plant herbs and vegetables to promote more pollination and more produce.

President Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM at Petals from the Past. Lynda thanked Leslie Bingham, Vice President, for coordinating the June program and lunch at Petals from the Past.

Member Concerns: William Frye continues treatments for liver cancer.

Cecelia Ball's sister passed away on June 4, 2021.

Lynda Edwards and family after the death of her son Brad Bigham.

Prayers for all are appreciated.

Vice President's Report by Leslie Bingham: Leslie thanked members for attending the June meeting at Petals from the Past. The July meeting's speaker will be Anthony Yarbrough discussing Garden Insects. The meeting will be held at **Mulder Memorial Methodist Church** located at 3454 Firetower Road, Wetumpka, Alabama. Due to the hot weather, we will **NOT** meet at the Wetumpka Farmers Market in July. Also, please note that the August and September monthly meetings will be held at the Mulder Memorial Methodist Church.

Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty read a thank you card from the family of Brad Bigham and Lynda and Ernie Edwards. Appreciation was expressed for flowers, food, and support that was given to the family after the death of Lynda's son, Brad Bigham.

Betty moved to accept the May minutes and dispense with the reading of the May minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. There was no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

May beginning balance	\$ 5,402.50
May income	\$8, 214.30
May expenditures	\$ 119.50
Ending balance for May	\$ 8,094.80

Plant sale profit as of June 10, 2021 is \$2,235.90 There were no questions about the report. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Mallory Kelley Report: Master Gardener Helpline is now operating year round. CAMGA is responsible for working the Helpline one day a month. This month Mary Ann and Ricky Hatcher will be working the Helpline on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

CAMGA Minutes Continued

By: Betty Plaster, Secretary



Robin Award: Vice President Leslie Bingham presented the June Robin Award to Betty Plaster.
Membership Report by Robin Snyder: Robin reported that she is now using an online system to sign up to bring refreshments to monthly meetings. The online request will be emailed to members one or two weeks before the meeting.

The Fall Intern Class will begin August 12, 2021. The class will have online lectures in the morning and outside sessions in the afternoon at gardens or at Master Gardener's homes. Lunch will be provided to the interns so they will have an opportunity to socialize with members and other interns. The intern class can be completed totally online or it can be a hybrid class as discussed above. Robin needs intern applications turned in, so please spread the word about the upcoming class.

CAMGA 2022 Plant Sale - Members were encouraged by Robin to begin planning for next year's plant sale. Plant sale team leaders will soon be selected and then goals for each team will be established. Popular, healthy, and beautiful plants are needed for the sale and more members are needed to be involved in working with the sale. It is possible that vendors (not plant vendors) such as arts and crafts or food vendors will be included at the plant sale next year to bring more potential customers to our event.

AMGA 2022 Conference Report by Sandy Rosamond: Sandy reminded members they received a request from the 2022 AMGA Conference Fundraising Committee to send contact names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and information on how you know the contact that may be willing to sponsor or advertise with the conference. Please email Margaret Cully at mycl@knology.net or Betty Plaster at Bettyplaster@icloud.com with the contact information. CAMGA and Capitol City must raise ALL funds needed to cover expenses for the conference.

Sandy informed members the Steering Committee Co-Chairs met and will now be contacting members to volunteer to be on committees. Please say YES! There is a place for everyone in our Association to volunteer.

Merchants Market Report by Sandy Rosamond: Mary McCroan will host the information table July 1, 2021, and discuss the benefits of turmeric plants. Mary will have turmeric plants for sale and turmeric powder she has prepared to show the public. Sandy needs two volunteers to help greet the public at the July event.

Learning Gardens Report by Mary McCroan: Mary reported that recently, someone, not a Master Gardener, came to the Learning Gardens and picked all the blueberries. The Learning Gardens are for educational and demonstration purposes. Please be respectful and do not pick all of the produce. Mary will discuss this matter further in the Garden Buzz.

President's Report by Lynda Edwards: Lynda reported that CAMGA Lunch and Learn programs will begin July 13, 2021 at the Wetumpka Presbyterian Church. However, Lunch and Learn Coordinator, Charlotte Hall, is stepping away from this position because of her husband illness. Mallory needs a new leader to help greet, remind and thank the speakers, make sure drinks are provided for the participants, make sure the speaker has the technical equipment needed for the program, and clean up the church after the meeting. Please let Lynda or Mallory know if you are interested in this position. Mallory is preparing a flyer to advertise the Lunch and Learn program and has secured the following speakers.

July - Mary McCroan: Benefits of Turmeric

August - Nancy Lowenstein, Auburn University Professor: Invasive Plants

September - Betsy Smith: Herbs

Old Business - None

New Business - None

Meeting Adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Betty Plaster, Secretary*



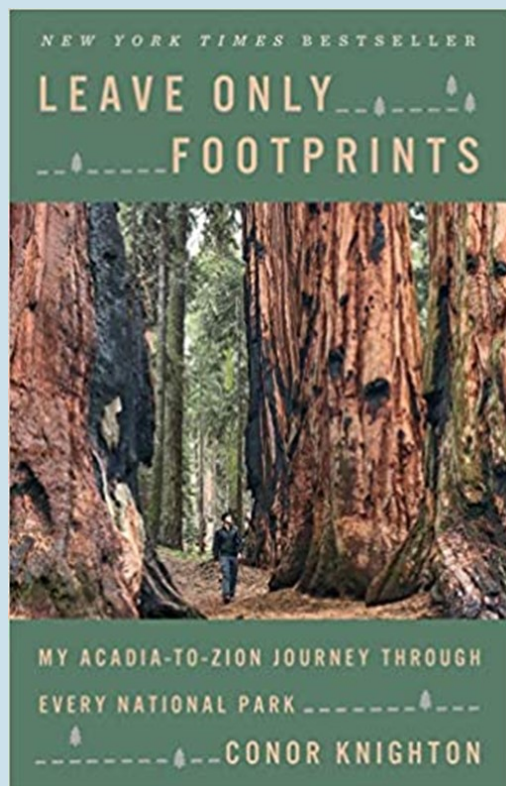
CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

Leave Only Footprints; My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park **By Connor Knighton**

After a broken engagement, *Leave Only Footprints* is the healing memoir of Connor Knighton's year spent traveling across the United States to visit the fifty-nine American national parks in 2016.* Not a guide to the parks but instead more like a travel monologue, a personal narrative, somewhat like *A Walk in the Woods*, Knighton organizes the 23 chapters into themes such as canyons, food, water, trees, diversity, and forgiveness. Along the way, as he crisscrosses the country, he weaves in bits of history, science, geography, statistics and little-known fun facts.

The book is entertaining, humorous at times, informative and inspirational. It is a testament to the healing power of nature and will appeal to anyone who has been an armchair traveler this past year. It is so engaging and inviting that I plan to visit more of our national treasures, those parks less traveled -- to better enjoy "America's Best Idea."

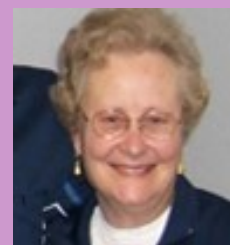


*(Note: there are now sixty-two national parks.) Knighton also filmed twenty-four segments for the CBS Sunday Morning show during his journey (available online as *On the Trail*).

SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS

June 2021

By: Judy May



Working at the Governor's Mansion this month were Kathy Quinn, Amanda Borden, Linda Cater, Robin Snyder, Dawn Mitchell, Susan Carmichael, Bionca Lindsay, Anne Carr, Beth Wicker, Soyna Moore, Shannon Mayes and her grandson Jeffry and Jane McCarthy.

The only one working the Helpline this month was Mary Ann Hatcher.

Volunteers for the CAMGA table at the Millbrook Farmers Market this month were Rick Ohlson, Glen Huovinen, Deborah Kelso, Judy May, Hugh Wicks and intern Brandon Bowman.

Maria says this month was the Hydrangea Fest! It was very successful thanks to these people who volunteered and helped make it happen.

The members who helped prepare for the Fest and work in the Lanark Gardens before the sale were: Don Hoover, Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Debra Kelso, Sue Brasel, Sheila Pearson, Dee Turberville and her grandson Harrison Allen. Maria says it takes a lot of work to prepare for a big plant sale and keep the gardens looking beautiful at the same time. Thanks for all the hard work.

The folks who helped set up the sale or worked the sale which includes talking to customers, selling plants, taking the money, collecting the entry fee- which keeps the facility, shuttling folks around in a golf cart, or helped take everything back over to the nursery, or cleaned up the Pavilion were: Debra Kelso, Carla and John McCune, Ricky Hatcher, Don Hoover, Sheila Pearson, Cheryl Fitzpatrick, and Judy May. Maria says her daughter Alex also helped. All the help was deeply appreciated and the money made will go to the continued beautifying of the Lanark Gardens. Thank you all for your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to keeping the Lanark gardens presentable and available to our visitors.

Deepest Sympathy

We are sadden to learn that one of our fellow Master Gardeners, Patricia Petro-Perryman, passed away June 25th. Pat was a member of the 2013 Master Gardener Class. She was an active Master Gardener and will be greatly missed.

Please keep Pat's family in your thoughts and prayers during this sad and difficult time.



Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



During June we worked in the side lawn, the front beds, the Frank Fleming Garden, the kitchen garden, the herb garden, and around the pool. Most of our work focused on pruning camellias and azaleas, limbing up hollies and camellias, trimming Lady Banks roses, and weeding--including pulling torpedo grass from around the forsythia. There was much to show for our efforts: on June 21 we filled 12 toters with debris!

In the eight years we have been volunteering at the Governor's Mansion, we have put in a total of 5937 hours (and this does not include drive time). Impressive!



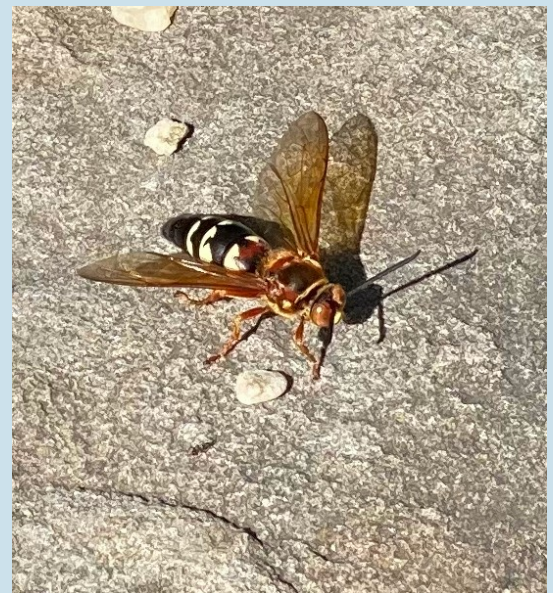


Governor's Mansion Report Continued

By: Amanda Borden



Anne photographs a cicada killer wasp, one of many found in the Herb Garden. These are dangerous to cicadas but NOT to humans!



Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association

Lunch & Learn 2021

2nd TUESDAY of EVERY
Month 12:00-1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092

BRING A SACK LUNCH

FREE PROGRAM

DRINKS PROVIDED

13 July	Turmeric & Drying Garden Herbs <i>Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener, Elmore County</i>
10 August	Invasive Plants <i>Dr. Nancy Loewenstein, Extension Specialist, ACES</i>
14 September	Planting Bulbs & Tubers for Next Year Bloomers <i>Karen Weber, Master Gardener, Montgomery County</i>
12 October	Backyard Composting <i>Kelly LaFreniere, Master Gardener, Elmore County</i>
9 November	Fermentation for Life <i>Deborah Kelso, Master Gardener & Herbalist, Elmore County</i>
14 December	Transplanting Trees & Shrubs <i>David Doggett, Master Gardener, Jefferson County</i>

For more information, please contact the Elmore County
Extension Office (334) 567-6301 www.aces.edu/elmore and
www.camga.net



What's going on at Lanark?

By: Maria Pacheco

Hi everyone, just a few words to let you all know how much I appreciate the help you give me and to tell you about a few opportunities.

We held the Hydrangea Fest at Lanark, June 5th. It was at the Pavilion, which requires enormous work to move all the plants over to that facility and then after the plant sale to move everything back to the nursery area.

We enjoyed a good crowd of visitors and we sold a lot of plants! Besides several varieties of Hydrangeas, we had about 60 other types of plants for sale.

Being unable to have a public plant sale sure didn't stop us from continuous dividing of plants or from rooting plants we cut back. Let me tell you, we have a lot! We still have many varieties of plants that I'm selling, so if you missed the Hydrangea Fest, and you want to visit the gardens and see what's available, please call me and I'll be glad to show you the nursery. 334-657-9414. All proceeds benefit the Lanark Gardens.

Also, a big thank you to everyone that helped to make the Hydrangea Fest possible and successful! I appreciate you all!

A special shout out to Sue Brasel: almost every Friday she comes to work at Lanark and pots up whatever we've dug up for the week or whatever we've cut back and put in water for her. Although, the volunteers and I do quite a lot of the rooting and potting our work is no where near the amazing amount of plants Sue pots up every week. A large reason we have so many healthy plants to sell is due to her hard work. Thanks, Sue!

I will be pruning and rooting Hydrangeas during the months of July and August- please join us.

It's a lot of fun and everyone gets to take home at least one plant. Call and let me know that you want to come.

Can't wait to see you this summer!
Maria