



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 8 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

Message from Lynda

Lynda Edwards, President

August 2021

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Thanks to Mulder United Methodist Church in Wetumpka for allowing us to conduct our July meeting in their spacious fellowship auditorium and thanks also to Carol Rattan for her assistance in coordinating this venue for us. We will meet again in this same location for next two months. It was great having an indoor meeting so we could breathe easily from the scorching heat we have experienced lately.



I wish I could report on my wonderful garden this year, but would be making a false statement if I did. It's been wonderful not having to irrigate and my cucumber vines are some of the longest ever, reaching across one raised bed and then across another one. They were covered in blooms but very little fruit. Where have the pollinators gone? I haven't sprayed or used any chemicals that could have killed them. No time this year to be the pollinator with a Q-tip or brush. Maybe I need to take up raising bees; or perhaps repeat the course again?

What a disappointment! I promise not to give up and will strive to have a better fall garden. If you had a highly productive garden this year, please write an article for the Garden Buzz for next month and show us some pictures.



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor
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Message from Lynda — (Continued)

Lynda Edwards, President CAMGA President



You don't want to miss our August meeting because we plan to have a pre-party leading into celebrating Alabama Master Gardeners' 40th Birthday on August 30, 2021 via Zoom. Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Fitzgerald and I plan to attend the live celebration in Auburn at the ALFA Pavilion at Ag Heritage Park and you can join in by Zoom.

Reminder that on August 10, 2021, at 12 Noon, Lunch and Learn has returned to First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. Nancy Loewenstein with Auburn University will speak on Invasive Plants. Spread the word.

Also, Sandy Rosamond will be teaching two classes this month in preparation for our 2022 Plant Sale. If you signed up for these classes on August 13th on Hummingbird Swings or Butterfly Feeders on August 27th, please remember the dates. I'm sure Sandy will follow up with a reminder to you.

Happy Gardening!
Lynda

Upcoming Annual Flower Show to held at the AL National Fair

**Submitted by: Rose Winkler, President
The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs**

The annual flower show that is sponsored by the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs is held at the Alabama National Fair. We were able to have a successful show last year with a lot of precautions. This year we are looking forward to a more normal year. Container-grown entries will come in on Wednesday Oct. 6, 2021 from 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. Horticulture cut specimens will be entered on Thursday Oct 7, 2021, from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. There is a youth division that includes both horticulture and photography. The adult photography division is also part of the show again this year.

The deadline for photography registration is September 17, 2021.

The complete flower show schedule book is available online at [Alabama National Fair | The 10 Best Days of Fall!](#) or see contact below for more information on entry times:

Rose Winkler, President
The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs
2021 Flower Show General Chairman
334-270-0884
rmwinkler45@yahoo.com



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

“Fall Armyworms are Making their March”

If they have not already eaten your lawn, start scouting now, because this year they seem to be everywhere! The phones have been ringing off the hook, we know they are already in the area and the numbers this year are extremely high!

The armyworm caterpillars will feed on almost all forage grasses, as well as 100 additional plant species including corn and cotton, which is most detrimental to the cattlemen and farmers. Most often in the homeowner setting we see them in the lawn and then in the vegetable garden (especially on the tomatoes).

The caterpillar stage of the armyworm develops into a moth that lays eggs and the eggs hatch out into baby caterpillars where the cycle begins all over again. In Alabama, there may be as many as five to six generations of this pest every summer (Usually beginning in mid July/ early August). That being said, continue to scout as we have time for multiple generations of armyworms before cooler temperatures arrive.

The best method for control is scouting to detect them when they are young. Fall armyworms can be found on foliage at any time of day, but are more easily detected early in the morning or late in the afternoon. In heavy infestations, you will see caterpillar droppings on the ground underneath your plants. In the lawn the grass will look like it is moving when they are actively feeding and you will start to see brown patches in the yard where they are eating all of the green tissue off of the grass.

When fully grown, armyworms are 1.5 inches long. They are always striped, but their coloring is not always the same. Their background color ranges from light green to almost black.

You can identify fall armyworm caterpillars by four black dots on the back end of the abdomen. Larger caterpillars typically have a light-colored, upside-down Y-shape on the head and three white lines on top of the segment just behind the head.

The earlier an infestation is detected the better. Young fall armyworms (under a half inch in length) don't eat much. As the caterpillars get bigger, their food demands increase dramatically and the bigger they are, the harder they are to control. Scouting for the worms and treating when they are young is your best defense.

Scouting for fall armyworms is a relatively simple process, but for a homeowner they are often undetected until you go out to harvest the ripening tomatoes and there you find them boring into the fruit. In the lawn, they are usually undetected until after the lawn has been mowed and you pull your mower into the garage and walk out an hour later and there are worms all over the ground.

Control of fall armyworms is justified when the population exceeds three 0.5-inch caterpillars per square foot. Fall armyworms need to be treated when they are still small — about 0.5 to 1 inch long. Detecting infestations when the caterpillars are small gives more time for control measures to be implemented.

When armyworms are fully grown, they are less susceptible to insecticides and, therefore, are harder to kill. In addition, if most of the caterpillars are nearly grown, most of the damage will already have been done. In this case, keep the lawn watered well to reduce stress and more than likely the grass will grow back in that area over time, it just leaves an unsightly look to the lawn.

Armyworms do seem to prefer bermuda lawns over all others, but that does not mean that the other grasses are less susceptible, they will truly eat any kind of grass. If the worms are large they have done about all the damage they are going to do and we do not recommend treating.

Treat late in the day when the caterpillars are actively feeding.

Insecticides containing carbaryl or one of the pyrethroids (active ingredients bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, permethrin) are effective against fall armyworms. Active ingredients are listed on the insecticide label. Always read and follow label instructions.



July Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

LEARNING GARDEN

We are into August now and in the middle of the “dog days of summer”. I thought that was when it was so hot, the dogs wouldn’t come out from under the porch. But instead the dog days refer to **Sirius**, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, which means “big dog” in Latin. Fortunately, we’ve had so much rain that the gardens are looking pretty good. The Butterfly Garden often suffers in midsummer, but this year it continues to impresses with its vibrant color.

Terry decided this would be the year of the sunflower and her seeds have created an amazing space in the garden. Katrina and Bill provide the height comparison.



Our newest herb bed is doing well. Our other herbs are planted in raised beds and the good drainage is an environment that herbs are happy in. This is an experiment growing them at ground level, and so far so good. The foreground of this picture is seven different kinds of basil. And if you are wondering what to do with a lot of basil, the answer is pesto. And do you get purple pesto when you use purple basil? I’ll let you know after I make it!

July Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



Speaking of raised beds and herbs, Virginia's sage is now occupying a space 3x4 feet in a raised bed. This is a hard to grow herb for many, including me, but it is liking the raised bed, good drainage, hot sun and regular irrigation.

Our veggies are also doing well, but certainly wanting some extra water this time of year, even with all the rain. My favorite quote from an Extension Agent: "farmers are always just one week away from a drought". And veggies are not thankful for last week's water--they are all about yesterday and today. Right now in the garden we have Katrina's okra, Bill's peppers, a few tomatoes (but they are not looking happy), and Deborah's blackberries.



The last worth item worth mentioning is Candy's vertical bed.

It has turned into a jungle. A very lushly green and attractive jungle. All winding together are passionfruit (showing both flowers and fruit), luffa sponge vines that hasn't fruited yet (fingers crossed), and a few bean plants that are done fruiting, but remain because they are all tangled up with the rest.

One more honorable mention--plantain. It is not happy this time of year in the hot sun, but some remains growing wild. I decided to pull a few weeds from one of the raised beds without bothering to put on gloves and got stung by something black and fast. You'd think I'd learn. Anyway, I chewed up a leaf to make what is called a "spit poultice" and put it on the sting which had really started to burn. After about a minute the pain was completely gone. Anybody that wants to have plantain pointed out to them, stop by the gardens any Thursday morning. Remember that you don't chew on weeds unless you are SURE you know what you are chewing.





CAMGA Minutes July 20, 2021 Betty Plaster, Secretary

(Minutes taken by Sherri Lynn Davidson For Betty Plaster, Secretary)

Present at meeting: (see sign in sheet)

- 1) Call to Order by Lynda Edwards
- 2) Leslie Bingham welcomed Anthony Yarborough who presented "All About Insects" thus completing his 10th presentation requirement for Advanced Master Gardener. Lynda shared she really like eating fried scorpions in China. They tasted like potato chips.
- 3) Member concerns were shared by Lynda: William Frye (chemotherapy), DeAnn Stone (fell and has several broken bones), Sharon Kochik (hip replacement), John Butler's wife (health issues)
- 4) Officer Reports:

President (Lynda Edwards) –

Announced Robin Award winner Lee Ann Marona, who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Party! AMGA's 40th Anniversary Party August 30, 2021 @ 1:30pm in person at the ALFA Pavilion at Ag Heritage Park in Auburn (outside) and online via Zoom. Seating is limited, so RSVP by July 26. Everyone needs to attend at the same time. At the August CAMGA meeting on August 17, we will celebrate with cake as a pre-PARTY event. If you ordered a T-shirt from Cheryl (deadline July 20), please wear it to the meeting. When Cheryl calls you, be prepared to share Why you became a MG.

CAMGA will be submitting the 40 Reasons We Became Master Gardeners for CAMGA's presentation at the Anniversary Event.

Every month on the last Monday at 1:00pm, there is an Extension-MG Update webinar. Connect at <https://auburn/zoom.us/j/93566762516> Meeting ID 935 6676 2516.

Virtual MG Advanced education Conference September 30-October 2, <https://mglearns.org>
Over 30 classes. Early bird registration ends July 31 (\$95), after that \$125.

Fall Seminar "Fall' in Love with Your Garden" in Autauga County on September 30. Registration deadline September 22. \$30 includes lunch and an optional tour of the gardens at 4pm. (Details on page 9 of the AMGA Summer Pathways)

The Summer Pathways 2021 is now posted online at <https://alabamamg.org/archive-pathway-news-letters/>

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Minutes taken by Sherri Lynn Davidson For Betty Plaster, Secretary



Vice President's Report (Leslie Bingham)

Thanks to Carol Rattan and Mulder United Methodist Church (3454 Firetower Rd, We-tumpka)

August 17 Meeting at Mulder UMC -- Deborah Kelso "All about Herbs"

September 21 Meeting at Mulder UMC -- Anthony Branick with GreenSky Farms

October 19 Meeting at Lanark -- Maria Pachecho will talk about Ferns

November 16 Meeting (Location TBD) --Janice Hall "Holiday Cooking with Herbs and Spices"

December Christmas Party reservation at First Presbyterian - 1st Tuesday in December

Secretary minutes printed in Garden Buzz.

A typo correction will be made to the minutes of the May meeting. Total May Income was \$2,811.80, not \$8,214.30.

Motion was made to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer (Carol Rattan)

Balance as of May 31, 2021 was \$8,094.80. Income during June included \$57 for the plant sale, \$180 for 12 Petals Lunches, \$70 collected for donations in memory of Lynda's son, \$80 because AMGA lost our check and \$60 cash from an undetermined source. Expenditures for June included \$130 AMGA dues and \$264 for 22 lunches at Petals. Balance as of the end of June = \$8,147.80 and no outstanding checks.

If you ever receive a reimbursement check, deposit it quickly, please

If you gave Carol \$60 in cash recently, she needs to know who you are and what the money was for; possibilities include Petals lunches, Plant Sale, or a donation.

5) Mallory Kelly

Following the meeting, a Grass Roots meeting was being held. Master Gardener input is appreciated and needed.

Lunch & Learn 2nd Tuesday of every month. August 10, Nancy Loewenstein will speak on Invasive Plants

Still recruiting for Fall Master Gardener Intern classes

Flyer with all virtual learning opportunities sent at the beginning of the year. (Need to resend)

Helpline going on, still working through some technical issues.

6) Lunch & Learn (Robin Snyder)

Need a volunteer to put up the large sign with ropes a couple days before the L&L, pending permission from the church



CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Minutes taken by Sherri Lynn Davidson

For Betty Plaster, Secretary

7a) 2021 Intern Class (Robin Snyder)

Applicants so far - Elmore (13); Autauga (16) . . . 7 early bird discounts-

Schedule - on line sessions/in person sessions

Need MGs to sign up to be a Master Gardener Mentor, to be paired with a 2021 intern

Need volunteers to provide food for the classes – sign up via the online interactive list Genius

If not able to provide food, can also give money for items that have to be purchased

Robin said “y’all”

7b) Plant Sale (Robin Snyder)

Team leaders - confirming those from 2021

Advance team objectives - plants to propagate

Signage - using Leslie’s art - Research new signs

What vendors do we want?

8) Projects (Sandy Rosamond) — Help! Help! Help!

State AMGA Conference ends the Wednesday before the Annual Plant Sale on Saturday.

We need to get ready as much as we can now! See scheduled workdays below.

Place: Elmore Co. Extension Office Auditorium. Time: 9 a.m. — 12 noon

We will need 12 people each day to work on the following dates:

August 13 — Copper Tubing Hummingbird Swings

August 27 — Butterfly Feeders, four Chicken Pot Pies from Gourds, four Bird Houses from Gourds

September 9 — Bottle Top Art

September 27 — Wine Bottle Wind Chimes

October 10 — five Oil Burning Wine Bottles, Tin Can Garden Art, Clay Leaf Dish

Need: Bottle caps — ask your favorite bartender

Blue wine bottles

3 inch (or about), jar caps

9) 2022 AMGA Conference (update by Janice Jackson)

Steering committee has been meeting

Everybody can participate

Raise money with adds in the Program – email Betty or Margaret with contacts for potential sponsors (not necessarily plant related)

Exciting topics and wonderful speakers – save the dates May 2 - 4, 2022 (Anthony announced that AMGA is recruiting for board member slots)

10) Main Street Merchant’s Market (Sandy Rosamond)

August will be the last month so we can prepare for AMGA

Need an August topic/presenter for August 5, 2021 (1st Thursday 5-8pm) Wetumpka Community Market

Meeting adjourned at 12:18pm CT



CAMGA Library News

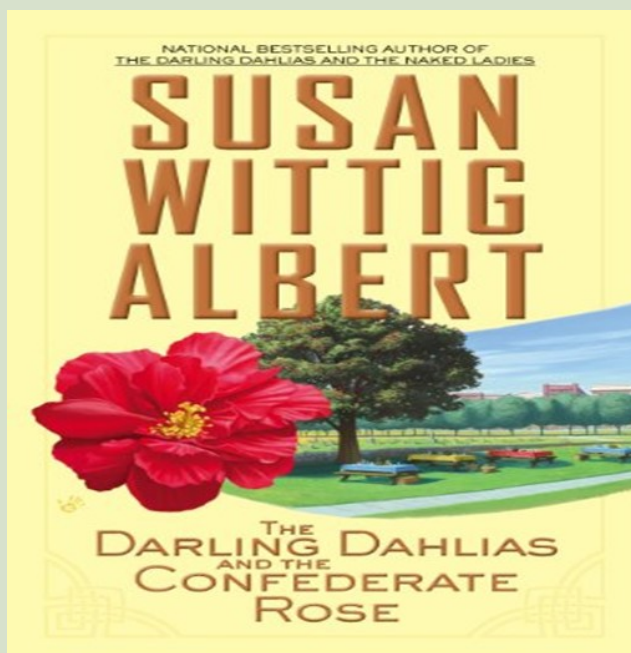
By: Dee Turberville

The Darling Dahlias and the Confederate Rose

By Susan Wittig Albert (#3 in a series of 9)

It's time for a good summer read of Sweet Home Alabama! How about a cozy mystery of strong and self-sufficient Depression era gardeners in Darling, Alabama? The Darling Dahlias Garden Club is getting ready to plant confederate roses at the cemetery in time for Confederate day celebrations. Miss Dorothy Rogers, the club's librarian, who reminds the group that a confederate rose is really a hibiscus, discovers a curious pattern of needlework on one of her grandmother's pillows. As she researches her family history, she discovers a mysterious woman among her ancestors, the "Confederate Rose," a spy during the civil war. It is time to investigate.

But trouble is brewing because after a recent county audit, Verna Tidwell, the club's treasurer and manager of the Cypress County probate court, has become a suspect for missing money. The supervisor is making her the scapegoat. The ladies rush to her aid and are determined to solve this mystery. They care about gardening, and more so, about each other; they also like to dig into crime.



"...a small Southern town comes to life and vividly captures an era and culture – the Depression, segregation, class differences, the role of women in the South - with authentic period details." -- Library Journal

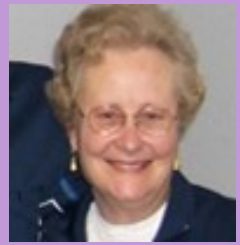
"Albert threads through the story her wide-ranging knowledge of plants and herbals. Her ability to use historical research to realize settings and characterizations that ring true should appeal to those seeking a simpler life*."

-- Booklist

(*including Southern-style Depression-era recipes)

Another title in the CAMGA collection: Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree, #1 in the series

SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS
July 2021
By: Judy May



Members who brought refreshments to the July meeting were: Iva Haney, Janice Jackson, Robin Snyder, Jane Duke, Carmen Lanier, Rhonda Miles, Judy May, Mary Ann Hatcher, Bonnie McCormick, Sandra Bowen and probably some others whose names we don't have because they didn't sign up.

Working the Helpline this month were intern Sherri Davidson, Cathy Whigham and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Susan Carmichael, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Peggy Funk, Bionca Lindsey, Jane McCarthy, Dawn Mitchell, Kathy Quinn and Robin Snyder.

Volunteers this month at the Millbrook Farmers Market were Rhona Watson, Glenn Huovinen and Rick Ohlson.

Working the Wetumpka Merchants Market this month were Mary McCroan, Sandra Bowen, Sherry Davison, Robin Snyder and Sandy Rosamond.



Governor's Mansion Report

By: Amanda Borden



Despite the challenges of torpedo grass, poison ivy, and weeds galore, we had a good month at the Governor's Mansion.

We worked in the Mansion back yard, parking lot bed, and front yard. At the Hill House we weeded the front (although we got rained out), and then the side yard.





Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

By: Amanda Borden



Both Robin and Anne in the sun, but we finished before 10:00 am.