



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 9 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## Message from Lynda

*Lynda Edwards, President*

*September 2021*

## President's Message

Sue Stuart-Smith is an author and prominent psychotherapist who believes gardening can help us process our thoughts and feelings. In her popular book, "The Well-Gardened Mind," she describes the garden as a powerful space that mirrors our inner world. As we tend to the plants, we tend to ourselves. Within this mindset, the act of sowing and caring for a seed is also a hopeful investment in our own future. The time and labor we put into a garden comes back to us in so many ways, not only through the beautiful and delicious plants we can enjoy, but in the healing benefits of slowing our pace, breathing fresh air, and connecting with nature.



Her famous quote — ***"When we sow a seed, we plant a narrative of future possibility."*** Sue Stuart-Smith

This past Monday, CAMGA members had an opportunity to join with other Master Gardener Associations from across the state at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration conducted live and by Zoom in Auburn. I hope you were able to be a part of that celebration. We heard numerous speakers and some charter members of that first group forty years ago.

It made me proud to be a part of this wonderful organization comprised of so many talented and diverse individuals.



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
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## ***Message from Lynda — (Continued)***

### ***Lynda Edwards, President CAMGA President***



Cheryl Fitzgerald collected 40 reasons why our members decided to join this group and they are published in this newsletter. Please take a moment to read them.

Whether you joined like I did for the knowledge it provided about gardening or you joined to meet people as a newcomer to the area, may I say, we are so glad you joined.

Our Nominating Committee is busy recruiting officers for 2022. If you get a call, please seriously consider taking a leadership role and sharing your time and talents. Some of our members give so much every month and maybe we need to lessen their load.

Our Lunch and Learn program needs someone who will place the sign in front of the First Presbyterian Church the second Monday night of each month advertising the event for the next day. This is a simple task but when you don't live in Wetumpka, it's not so simple. Surely there is someone who would be willing to volunteer their time to help finish out the year; only four times between now and January 1st. Please give me a call if you are willing to perform this task, 334-224-0496.

We will be back at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church at 3454 Firetower Road, Wetumpka for our September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

We are so thankful for the opportunity we have to meet here and we look forward to seeing you.

***Lynda Edwards***





## Message from Mallory

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

The August heat has been brutal and I know we are all longing for the crisp feeling of fall in the air. When it comes to fall, the chrysanthemum is arguably the favorite of all fall flowers and comes in a wide variety of colors and bloom variations. When cruising the garden center and looking to purchase a garden mum for your back patio or front door, timing and temperature do play a roll in how long you can expect those blooms to last.



For one thing the dry, hot days of fall will cause container plants to dry out much faster so be sure to water them daily. If you need instant impact buy those with most of the blooms open, but for a longer lasting impact of blooms purchase those that are still in bud. Remember that the warmer it is the quicker the buds will open which will result in a shorter bloom period. Waiting until the temperatures start to drop will increase your bloom time and also decrease their need for water.

Even though they are not often looked after for survival through the winter, mums are perennials, meaning that under favorable conditions they will come back each year.

To care for a mum in hopes that it will survive to bloom another year takes some preparation and special care.

Begin by planting mums in well-drained soil where they will receive at least six hours of sunshine daily and plant at the same depth they are in the pot. To carry them from year to year in the ground you need to plant right away and keep watered. Planting anything in September or October in central Alabama can be a challenge as we are so hot and dry. Plant mums as early as possible to give them time to be established before winter or they won't have enough time to build root systems strong enough to get through winter.

Water is critical to the growth and survival of mums. They often get too dry in the containers on your front porch as October is usually our hottest and driest month of the year. Mums will be damaged if they are allowed to dry out. Apply sufficient water to a depth of four to six inches regularly. Too much water is also a problem. As with most plants, it is best to water during the day so the foliage will have time to dry off before nightfall. Moisture left on foliage can cause diseases.

Mulch around the mums well to help protect the plant and hold moisture in the ground and protects roots throughout winter.

- \* Deadheading (removing spent blooms) not only keeps the plant blooming longer, it also allows mums to put their energy into the root system. When they are finished blooming, remove all dead blooms but, leave foliage to help them get through the winter.
- \* Before the first hard freeze, make sure the soil is very moist. Apply several inches of mulch such as straw or leaves around the roots to protect the plant through the winter months.
- \* In late winter or early spring, remove the previous year's plant material and the mulch you applied for the winter.

If your conditions are right and you are fortunate to have your mums come back next spring, the plants will benefit from monthly fertilization. Pruning them back in June will help create a more compact look and increase bud shoots for more blooms in the coming months.

Daylength of light also affects when they bloom so those in the ground usually start blooming earlier than those you would purchase in the garden center.





## **CAMGA Minutes**

### **August 17, 2021**

**Mulder First United Methodist Church**  
**Betty Plaster, Secretary**

Vice President Leslie Bingham introduced Sue Brasel from Prattville who gave a very informative talk on Growing Edibles in Containers with a Focus on Low Vision and the Blind. Sue began her talk by discussing problems people have with their eye sight. Then Sue talked about Home Gardening Methods such as Growing Sprouts, Regrowing Kitchen Scraps (including rhizomes, roots, and tubers) and growing Plants from Cuttings. To ensure the plants are healthy, if the plants are growing in an air-conditioned environment, make sure to use a fan so the stem of the plant will be strong. If using water from the tap to water the plants leave the water outside six to eight hours per day. Rainwater is the best source to water plants. All plants need six to eight hours outside per day.

Sue gave tips on the best potting mix to use, how to grow microgreens, what containers to use for various plants, and how to use plant fertilizers. Also remember that some flowers are edible but before eating the flowers do research to know which flower and what part of the flowers are edible.

President Lynda Edwards announced that today CAMGA was celebrating 40 years of having a Master Gardener Program. August 30, 2021, a 40-year celebration will be held at the Alfa Pavilion in Auburn at 1:30 pm. CAMGA members can watch the celebration Via Zoom.

During refreshment time, Cheryl Fitzgerald asked members to complete giving 40 reasons why they became Master Gardeners. This information, along with pictures of our members and the celebration cake, will be sent to Kerry Smith and used in a slide presentation for the party on August 30, in Auburn.

President Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:20 am.

Member Concerns: William Frye has just completed 24 Chemo treatments and three rounds of radiation for tumors on lungs, colon and kidneys. The numbers looked good on his recent CT scan so the doctors are giving him three months off of treatments and will do more CT scans in October.

Andy Wallace is doing well after having melanoma surgery. Andy and Barbara expect to attend the CAMGA September meeting.

Sharon Kochik had surgery the day of the CAMGA July meeting. Glad to have Sharon at the meeting today.

Rose McCauley's husband was buried last Thursday. There was a graveside service. Remember Rose and the family in thoughts and prayers.

President's Report by Lynda Edwards: Lynda announced the Nominating Committee for 2022. Anne Carr, Linda Carter and Judy May will present the officers nominations to the membership at the October 19, 2021, monthly meeting.

Mary Ann Hatcher was asked by Lynda if help was needed for the Helpline next week and Mary Ann stated that Ricky Hatcher would be assisting.

Lee Ann Morona was not able to attend the July CAMGA meeting where it was announced that she was the winner of the Robin Award. Therefore, at the August meeting Lynda presented a small gift to Lee Ann and thanked her for all the work with CAMGA.

## CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

### Betty Plaster, Secretary



The winner of the Robin Award for August is Sandra Bowen.

Vice President's Report by Leslie Bingham: Leslie announced the September meeting speaker would be Anthony Branick with Greensky Farms. For more information on Greensky Farms visit the website <https://greenskyrenewableenergy.com>.

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

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

July Beginning Balance \$8147.80

July Income \$18.00

July Expenditures \$26.45

Ending Balance for July \$8139.35

Fall Intern Class Report by Robin Snyder: Robin stated that the Fall Intern Class has begun. Interns will watch Zoom lectures in the mornings and then join class members for lunch and afternoon learning activities. The class members are from Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery counties. Volunteers will be needed to provide lunch for interns at various places and Robin will announce the lunch place and needs on a week-to-week basis. If a member is not able to cook food, donations are welcomed to purchase food and supplies. See Carol Rattan or Robin Snyder to make a donation. Robin is in the process of assigning mentors to the interns. The Mentor Lunch will be held August 26, at the Montgomery Botanical Gardens.

Plant Sale 2022: Rhona Watson requested that members bring chipped pots or pots that you no longer want to the next meeting. Rhona plans to make gardens in these pots for the next plant sale.

Projects: Sandy Rosamond is hosting another work day on August 27, to make butterfly feeders and paint the recently made "chicken pot pies." There will be other work days September 8 and 22, and October 5 from 9:00 am- 12:00 pm at the Elmore County Extension Building. Please come and help with the art projects that will be sold at the 2022 CAMGA plant sale. For more information and to reserve a place contact Sandy at 334-652-4552.

2022 CAMGA Conference Report: Betty Plaster requested that members please submit names of potential sponsors for the 2022 CAMGA Conference. This information can be given to Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sandy Rosamond, Linda Jarzyniecki or Betty Plaster. Lynda Edwards asked for volunteers for the Conference decorating committee.

Old Business – none

New Business – Terri Chambliss announced that there would be a member plant swap in October. More information will be coming soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 pm

*Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Plaster, Secretary*



## CAMGA Library News

### By: Dee Turberville

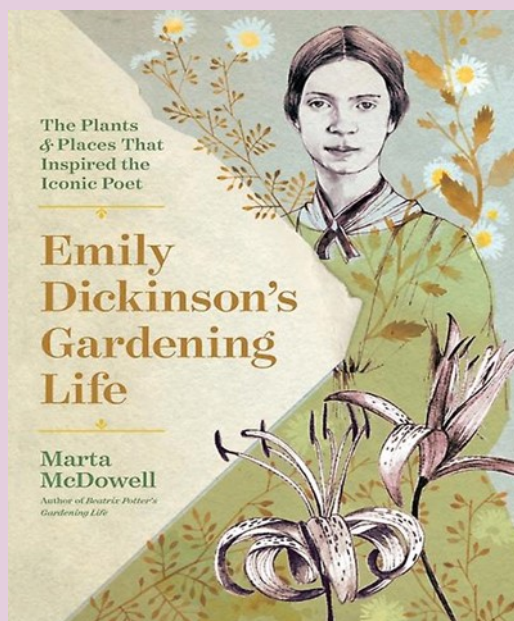
#### Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life

By Marta McDowell

*Purchased in Memory of Patricia Petro-Perryman, CAMGA 2013*

In *Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life*, award-winning author Marta McDowell explores Dickinson's deep devotion for plants and how they inspired her poetry. This lovely book gives us a glimpse of Victorian New England and the Dickinsons' knowledge of horticulture and arboriculture all within the framework of the seasonal year at their family home, Homestead.

Emily Dickinson was a keen observer of the natural world, but less well known is the fact that she was also an avid gardener who sent fresh bouquets to friends, included pressed flowers in her letters, and studied botany at Amherst Academy and Mt. Holyoke. She tended plants in a small conservatory and a flower garden. She and her siblings went on many walks in the surrounding fields to gather native wildflowers. At fourteen, she created an "herbarium" book of 400 pressed flowers and plants that she had collected and preserved. The herbarium is a treasure, now held within Harvard's Houghton Library.



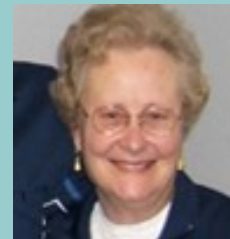
The extensive chart and plant index at the end of the book lists every plant that Emily grew, discussed in a letter or included in her poetry, all cross referenced. So much of her poetry refers to plants. There is a chapter in the back of the book to help you create your own Poet's Garden.

"A visual treat as well as a literary one...*Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life* will be deeply satisfying for gardeners and garden lovers, connoisseurs of botanical illustration, and those who seek a deeper understanding of the life and work of Emily Dickinson" – **The Wall Street Journal**

## **SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS**

### **August 2021**

**By: Judy May**



Bringing refreshments to the August CAMGA meeting were Bonnie McCormick, Linda Jennings, Anne Carr, Sharon Kochik, Leslie Bingham, Cindy Augustine, Dee Turberville, Lynda Edwards and Linda Jarzyniecki. Thank you Robin for organizing this so nicely again this month.

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

On August 13, a group of volunteers met to make some hummingbird swings and chickens out of gourds. The chickens will roost on a terracotta pot when finished. The crafts are for the Merchants Market and the plant sale in the spring. It was a lot of fun. Sandy Rosamond demonstrated each step which made it easy for the non-crafty folks. Those participating were Robin Snyder, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sheila Radford, Jane Duke, Anne Carr, Lynda Edwards, Marilyn Knapp, Sandra Bowen, Mary Ann Hatcher, Marjorie Hannah, and Terry Chambliss. Sandy treated us with barbeque sandwiches, chips and coleslaw.

Maria says Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham and Don Hoover helped keep things cleaned up in the garden this past month. As always, they do a great job!

If you are looking for a place to volunteer, please consider Lanark gardens. We meet all week long, Monday through Friday and you can come in the morning or the afternoon. Just please call Maria to schedule your time. The next few months are the time of year when she might be doing a talk or off shopping for plants! Her favorite things to do.

Maria will be on vacation from September 10th until the 21<sup>st</sup>, so please check with her first before you visit. She can be reached at 334-657-9414. She says we have a great time working and making new friendships, plus it's a beautiful place to practice your gardening skills or learn new ones!

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

Volunteering at the Millbrook Farmers Market this month were Rick Ohlson and Glenn Huovinen.

On August 26 Class Facilitators Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond and Lee Ann Marona and mentors Bionca Lindsey, Judy May, Carol Rattan, Sherri Davidson, Ernie and Lynda Edwards, Jane Mobley and Rhona Watson brought lunch for their intern to the Mentor/ Intern luncheon at Oak Park.

More fun was had by all at the craft workshop held on August 27<sup>th</sup> where they made butterfly feeders, more chickens for chicken pot pies and seeded some gourd bird houses. Those participating were Bonnie McCormick, Linda Jarzyniecki, Carmen Lanier, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sheila Radford, Candy Jones, Janet Lewis, Jane Duke, Rick Ohlson, Cathy Whigham and Sandy Mikashus. The class was led by Sandy Rosamond.





## Governor's Mansion Report

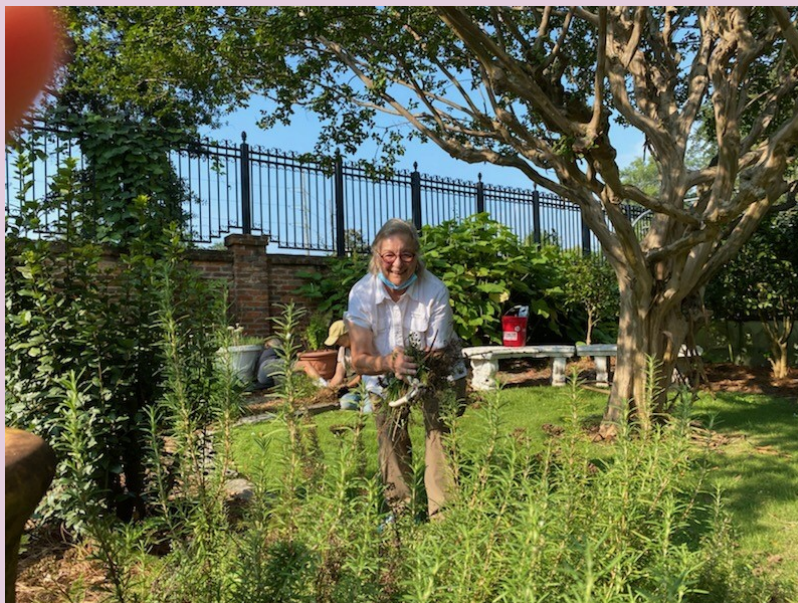
By: Amanda Borden



In August we worked two full Mondays on the Hill House. We weeded, pulled poison ivy, and air layered oak leaf hydrangeas.

We weeded our least favorite weed—torpedo grass—and trimmed camellias in the Mansion back yard.

The Herb Garden was lovingly labeled, trimmed, and weeded.





# 40 REASONS WHY I BECAME A MASTER GARDENER

## Submitted By Central Alabama Master Gardener Members

Article submitted by: Cheryl Fitzpatrick  
CAMGA Master Gardener

- ◆ One of my earliest memories are of my Mother's eyes lighting up when she read aloud from letters from my Grandmother. There would almost always be some mention of her garden. It sounded like such a pleasurable thing. When I first heard about the Master Gardener program, I was immediately interested, but a demanding full-time job kept me from pursuing this interest. My husband Jay, and I talked about taking this course together, but Jay died in 2013. When I retired in 2017, I decided that I wouldn't put off the master gardeners any longer. There's nothing more liberating than stepping outside and letting cares and concerns leave my mind. I enjoy talking about plants with others that like learning and sharing about growing things. There is something so satisfying about getting other people excited about gardening, especially those that have never tried it before. Gardeners truly are the best folks, and there's always room for more — *Sheila Radford.*
- ◆ One of the largest reasons I became a Master Gardener is my generational LOVE of all sorts of plants! Both of my grandparents loved plants and gardening, and my parents passed that love on to me! After becoming a Master Beekeeper, which is a three year program, I wanted to be a gardening master as well! I am so thankful for the love and encouragement that I receive from my master gardening family! I'm heading into retirement and can't wait to join in some of the events that corporate work has made me miss! I love bees, I love plants and I love people, three great reasons I took the master gardening class! Y'all BEE BLESSED □□□□ *Allyson Andrews*
- ◆ I became a Master Gardener so I could help my husband with his U-Pick farm.
- ◆ It was on my bucket list!
- ◆ I became a Master Gardener to meet people and develop new friendships. Gardening is no longer secondary.
- ◆ I wanted flowers blooming in my yard all year long.
- ◆ I became a Master Gardener to learn more about growing things.
- ◆ As a newcomer to town, I joined Master Gardeners to meet people.
- ◆ So I could learn more about gardening.
- ◆ To get free plants from fellow gardeners.
- ◆ To make new friends and learn how to grow things in the South.
- ◆ Learning about plants has been a joy for me since childhood.
- ◆ Plants are therapy.
- ◆ Being outdoors and sharing plants is a happy place for me.
- ◆ When I retired, I knew it was time to continue life long learning as a Master Gardener.
- ◆ I helped my parents in their home garden and my interest grew from there.
- ◆ As a nine year old, I became involved with 4-H. My dream was to work with the Extension Service and I succeeded. Master Gardeners allows me to continue my relationship with the Extension Service as a volunteer.
- ◆ My wife and I were moving to the country and wanted to learn how to grow vegetables. What we did not expect is I had just retired and my yard needed to be landscaped. I needed to learn how to do it.
- ◆ I had been to seminars where Master Gardeners spoke and I wanted to do that!
- ◆ I had heard about it through a friend and joined when I retired.
- ◆ My goal when we settled down was to become a Master Gardener. We were military and moved a lot.
- ◆ Soil in Alabama is unlike any other and I needed help with the soil in my garden.
- ◆ I love flowers and I finally had the time to do it.

## 40 REASONS WHY I BECAME A MASTER GARDENER

### Submitted By Central Alabama Master Gardener Members (Continued)

- ♦ Working the soil, smelling and feeling the freshly turned earth, and planting flowers and vegetables provided me with a sense of peace and calm. When my friend, Debbie Corn, told me about the MG program, I jumped onboard. I knew I wanted to learn so much more about gardening. Becoming a MG exceeded my expectations. Many thanks to CAMGA for their exceptional education program!
- ♦ I became a Master Gardener for the love of gardening and flowers. I wanted to get all the information I could to improve my skills.
- ♦ I share a lasting fellowship and friendship with others.
- ♦ I became a Master Gardener because someone asked me.
- ♦ I joined to build my community network.
- ♦ I joined to keep myself out of trouble, but it didn't work!
- ♦ I like growing plants and flowers and digging in the dirt. It's therapy.
- ♦ After my husband and I moved from Pittsburgh to Alabama, I wanted to grow my own food and pretty plants. It was a great opportunity to get to know people in my new home town. It was something I always wanted to do and finally had the chance when I moved to Alabama. Best decision ever!
- ♦ Master Gardeners is an opportunity to learn more about gardening.
- ♦ Volunteering to keep community places looking pretty makes me feel good.
- ♦ I like to help others learn about how to care for their gardens.
- ♦ Being a Master Gardener has given me confidence in my skills to grow vegetables, flowers and fruits.
- ♦ My Mom had the best green thumb and she passed in 2017, so I became a Master Gardener to honor her and to feel close to her.
- ♦ "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver" **Maya Angelou**



## Alabama Master Gardeners Association 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By: Cheryl Fitzpatrick  
Master Gardener



On Tuesday August 17th, CAMGA members held an early celebration in recognition of AMGA's upcoming 40th Anniversary. President Lynda Baine gave a brief speech and members enjoyed eating a beautiful cake made special for the occasion by Jennifer Kaye Trippe, owner of Trippe 'N Cakes, (check her out on Facebook). Members also contributed to "Why I Became a Master Gardener" which was submitted to ACES /Kerry Smith. You can read our reasons below.

A special thank you to Robin Snyder, Leslie Bingham, Jane Mobley and Carol Rattan for helping to make the party a success.



## Intern/Mentor Luncheon Pictures Montgomery Botanical Gardens August 6, 2021



## Speakers Are Announced For AMGA Spring Conference

*By: Jane Mobley  
CAMGA Master Gardener*

Capital City Master Gardeners and Central Alabama Master Gardeners have arranged a fabulous lineup of speakers to inspire us at the “Behind the Garden Gate Conference” to be held in Montgomery, May 2-4, 2022. The pre conference workshops are Herbal Beverages by Debbie Boutelier, past president of the National Herb Society and president of Autauga County Master Gardeners, and Propagating Camellias by Rhona Watson and Jane Mobley, Advanced Master Gardeners with CAMGA. Attendees will go home with goodies.

Conference speakers are: Gary Bachman who will speak during the Tuesday dinner session on Horticulture CSI: Search For the Long Beach Radish and during the Wednesday morning session on Growing Potential Of Small Gardens. On Tuesday Erica Glasener will present Cultivating Sense of Space and Designing a Garden For Four Seasons. Jack Rowe will discuss Trees You Didn't Think Of: Uncommon Yet Wonderful Ornamental Trees. Michelle Samuel-Foo will share Ten Things You Didn't Know About Entomology. Beth Bolles will present Vertical Beauty With Flowering Vines.

We are so excited about this conference and getting to see everyone again! Please plan on joining us at the Embassy Suites in May. Look for your application in the *Pathways* later in the year.



**Picture from the Wetumpka  
Market on August 5, 2021**