



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 10 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

Message from Lynda *Lynda Edwards, President CAMGA President*

October 2021

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Most all have heard that Life Began in a Garden. I did some research recently and our bible is full of scripture related to the garden, plants, fruits, seed, soil and planting. So I thought it would be neat to include some scripture verses as a reminder starting with the Book of Genesis 1: 29:



"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

Happy Fall Ya'll - This is my favorite time of the year. Fall seems to have started right on time this year but our weather experts tell us not to be fooled, there are many hot days ahead. Our trees in Central Alabama make take longer to change than what I remember growing up in Tennessee but they don't stay bare long. It seems our full display of color doesn't happen until the first of December and I love our short winters. We can't have it all.

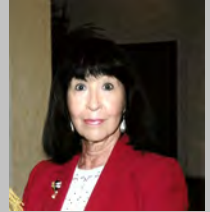
I call your attention to the minutes of our September meeting that are printed in this issue of the Garden Buzz. The membership approved increasing dues by \$3 per year and those dues are due November 15, 2021 for the coming 2022 year. A membership form is included in this publication to complete and mail to our Treasurer, Carol Rattan, by the due date.

A salute to Cathy Whigham who has been a member of the Membership Directory committee for six years and served as Chair since Ann Hill left. Cathy is ready to retire and give someone else the opportunity to serve. She has agreed to assist in any way she can.



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor
pughdia@aces.edu

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



If this is something you would enjoy, please give me a call. Cathy, we thank you for your dedication to the Membership Directory. You did an outstanding job.

The Nominating Committee has worked hard to produce a slate of officers to bring before the membership at our October 19th meeting for the coming year. We will vote on the officers in our November meeting and installing at our December Christmas party.

Our October meeting will be at the Lanark in Millbrook with member Maria Pacheco, 'Lanark Grounds Specialist/Tour Coordinator, bringing our program. She always looks forward to our being at her beautiful venue in October and we look forward to her educational programs. Her topic this month will be Ferns. I hope to see a large number of our membership present.

Thanks to Sandy Rosamond for teaching a class on Wine Bottle Wind Chimes this past Friday. We made at least a dozen to have available at our 2022 Plant Sale. Not only is Sandy a good teacher but she's an excellent cook and we were served a bowl of her delicious Jambalaya with bread and dessert at the completion of class. Thank you Sandy.

Lynda Edwards
CAMGA President



Message from Mallory

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

Fall Mums

Nature's transition to fall colors is truly breathtaking. One of the most mesmerizing fall colored plants is the chrysanthemum, or mum. Arguably the favorite of all fall flowers, mums come in a wide variety of colors and bloom variations. When choosing a mum from the store, more goes into it besides choosing your favorite color. Timing and temperature both play a role in the longevity of the mum's blooms.

To care for a mum in hopes that it will bloom again next year requires preparation and special care. At the store, it may be tempting to purchase the mum that is already in full bloom. However, for longevity, purchase those with most of the buds still tightly closed and only a few blooms open. This will ensure the longest possible bloom period.

The warmer the temperatures are, the quicker the buds will open, resulting in a shorter bloom period. Therefore, waiting to purchase until temperatures begin to drop will prolong the bloom time. As the temperatures drop, this will also decrease their need for water and result in less stress on the plant.

Planting Mums — While many prefer to keep their mums potted on the front steps, planting mums is an alternative. To make sure they last more than one season, they will need to be planted immediately. The sooner they are planted, the better established their roots will be before winter. Begin by planting the mums in well-drained soil where they will receive at least six hours of sunshine a day. Plant the mum at the same depth of the pot they came in.

Water — Water is critical to the growth and survival of mums. They usually get too dry in the containers on the front porch, especially since October is one of the driest months of the year. Mums will be damaged if they are allowed to dry out. Regularly apply sufficient water to a depth of about four to six inches below the soil. 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.

For mums that are planted, placing mulch around the mums will help to hold moisture in the ground as well as protect the plant and its roots throughout the winter.

Post Bloom Care. After the beautiful fall mums have run their course, they will still require plenty of tender loving care to bloom again next season.

First, remove all dead blooms once the mum has finished blooming. Even after removing dead blooms it is best to leave the foliage to help the plant survive the winter.

Second, make sure the soil is very moist before the first hard freeze. "Apply several inches of mulch, such as straw or leaves, around the roots to protect the plant through the winter months.

Lastly, in the late winter or early spring, remove the previous year's plant material and the mulch applied for winter. Then in early summer, cut them back again as needed for reshaping or for more compact growth.



CAMGA Minutes

September 21, 2021

Mulder First United Methodist Church
Betty Plaster, Secretary

(Minutes Taken by Sheila Radford for Betty Plaster)

Vice President Leslie Bingham introduced Anthony "Tony" Branick the CEO, President of Greensky Family Farms, a nonprofit organization fairly new to our area. This forty-three acre facility is located on the corner of Old Prattville Road. and Grandview Road.

Tony brought along several co-workers that spoke briefly about many varied programs that Greensky is offering now, and that they expect to offer in the future. Their main goal is to educate children about growing food and taking care of animals while making learning fun and combining education and experience. There is no charge for children to make use of this facility. For more information the website is <https://greenskyrenewableenergy.com>

The CAMGA meeting was called to order by President Lynda Edwards at 11:00 a.m. Lynda suggested that master gardeners volunteering at Greensky might be another way for our organization to "give back" to our community. Mallory Kelley confirmed that volunteer hours would be awarded for this project.

The winner of the Robin award was not present at the September meeting. Lynda opted to hold the announcement until this member is present.

Rick Ohlson spoke regarding the Millbrook Farmers' Market 2021. This year instead of having master gardeners there every Tuesday from opening to closing, Rick had guests speakers present two times a month from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. This seemed to get a more enthusiastic response from shoppers and it encouraged Rick to continue doing the famers' market booth next year.

The October meeting will be held at Lanark. Maria Pacheco will be talking about ferns on October 19th.

The August meeting minutes were in last month's Garden Buzz and available to all members. The motion for acceptance was made Bonnie McCormick and seconded by Judy May.

Carol Rattan, treasurer, reported that:

August beginning balance was	\$ 8,139.35
August expenditure was	21.00
August ending balance was	\$ 8,118.35

CAMGA President, Lynda Edwards told us that the Montgomery Federation of Gardeners will have their annual flower show at Garrett Coliseum October 8-17.

CAMGA's monthly board meeting was held at 2 p.m. on September 20th.

Cathy Whigham wishes to step down from publishing the annual directory. After discussion of the merits of on-line directories vs printed copies a show of hands suggested that most members would like to continue getting printed directories.

We need to find someone willing to take on this important job. It was further recommended that renewal forms for membership be included in October's Garden Buzz with a firm date that dues must be paid by. Several people recommended that late fees be instituted.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Betty Plaster, Secretary

Additionally, the Board proposes that dues be increased. CAMGA dues have been \$12 annually for many years and state dues are \$10 annually. We've been told that if you wanted to pay for both, it would be \$20. So each time a member paid for both state and local CAMGA was short \$2.

After much discussion, the recommendation was made that dues be raised to \$25 per person effective January 2022. Ten dollars of this will be sent to the state organization and \$15 kept locally at CAMGA. This decision was brought to a vote. Motion was made by Carol Rattan, and it was seconded by Terry Chambliss. Motion carried.

Robin Snyder spoke about the Intern Class. The joint classes are going well. There is a continued need for providing lunches for about thirty people at a time. Monetary donations are welcomed for food and supplies. Contact Carol Rattan or Robin Snyder if interested in helping in this way. Sandy Rosamond also mentioned that she is willing to meet at the Extension office with anyone from Millbrook needing to transport food for intern lunches and Robin can do this for people closer to Prattville.

Mallory urged members to get involved with the interns. She referenced something our guest speaker, Tony Branick, said. Let's make use of our interns' "super powers". They quite likely have the skills to accomplish many of the things discussed today.

The Lunch & Learn program is making a comeback. We need more volunteers to keep it going. Kelly LeFreniere will be our featured speaker. Her subject will be backyard composting.

Mallory gave members an uplifting little talk. She reminded us that CAMGA is doing a lot. "Don't be discouraged! We are making a difference." She listed off a great many things for example, Millbrook Farmers' Market, Lanark, Governor's Mansion, Intern Program, Helpline, CAMGA Library, the CAMGA Directory, CAMGA Plant Sale, and You Tube videos.

The next craft workday is October 1. Sandy needs large coffee cans or the x-large canned vegetable type cans for a project making scarecrow heads.

The crafts this year are some of the best we've ever done. There will be a Wetumpka Community Market on November 4th. Sandy would like to have some handcrafted Christmas ornaments available to sell.

A member plant swap is planned for October 22 at 10am.

CAMGA meeting adjourned at 12: 25 p.m.

***Respectively submitted by,
Shelia Radford (for Betty Plaster)***



CAMGA Library News

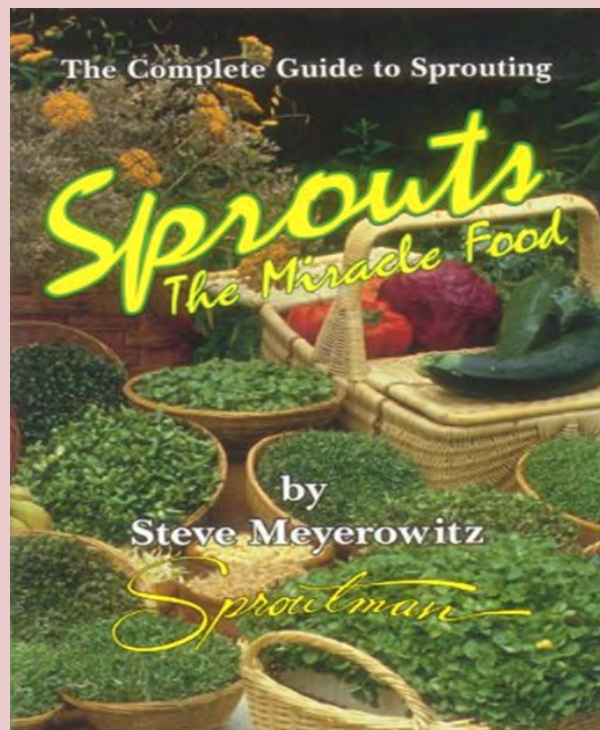
By: Dee Turberville

Sprouts, the Miracle Food; the Complete Guide to Sprouting

By Steve Meyerowitz

The sproutsman's guide to indoor gardening reveals step by step instructions how to grow delicious microgreens and mini vegetables in just one week from seed to salad. This guide by Steve Meyerowitz, the Sproutman, can make anyone a self-sufficient gardener of sprouts that are bursting with concentrated nutrition, four times as much as purchased vegetables, according to Sue Brasell, Autauga master gardener.

In her recent presentation, "Growing Edibles in Containers," to the CAMGA master gardeners she recommended this now out of print book, a bit dated by nevertheless a great source of information on sprouting.



"The medicinal properties of these little plants, not to mention their prodigious nutrition does indeed make them a miracle food." –Healthy Times Magazine

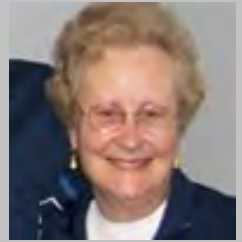
Buckwheat lettuce, hearty baby sunflowers and spicy garlic are a few of the many flavors and textures covered -- grown in a jar or a sprouting bag with no soil required. The book includes comprehensive sprout nutrition charts, questions and answers, a seed resource section, illustrations, photos and charts.

Now, you can grow your own fresh organic food right in your kitchen, all year round!

SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

September 2021

By: Judy May



Members who brought refreshments to the September meeting were: Sandy Mikashus, Dee Turberville, Judy May, Bonnie McCormick, Iva Haney, and Jane Duke.

Sandy did it again! On September 8th, a group got together for some bottle cap art. She had the wood cut with pictures that made it easy to create one of a kind pieces of art. They turned out so cute and will surely be best sellers at the plant sale. She is so creative! Those who participated were Sheila Radford, Dee Turberville, Candy Jones, Lynda Edwards, Mary Ann Hatcher, Terry Chambliss and Sandy Rosamond.

In addition, Sheila Radford, Sherry Davidson and Kelly LaFreniere met with Sandy to paint wine bottles on September 19th. This was in preparation for making wine bottle wind chimes on October 1st.

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

Maria wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped with Honey Fest. She says we had a great time. The folks who worked and helped make Honey Fest a success are: Carla McCune and her husband John, Linda Queen, Sheila Pearson, Dee Turberville, Don Hoover, Ricky Hatcher and Mary Ann Hatcher, Ernie Edwards, Kelly LaFreniere, Judy May, Linda Jarzyniecki and intern Vicki Williams.

Over the last month, several folks from CAMGA really helped a lot! I appreciate them all as we had two big events and we'll have 3 weddings this October. Thanks to: Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, Sheila Pearson and Don Hoover.



Governor's Mansion Report

September 2021

By: Amanda Borden



The Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group weeded and trimmed in the Mansion's ever-elusive Secret Garden, its slowly improving Herb Garden, and the very frustrating Office/Pool area. We fought weeds of all kinds, reined in raging torpedo grass and runaway wisteria, and tried to keep the hedge trimming grounds crews away from the camellias and azaleas.



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

September 2021

By: Amanda Borden



**Photos from Alabama
Master Gardener Association Fall Conference
(Photos submitted by Jane Mobley)**





Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

Fall is an exciting time in the garden. We think about finishing up the summer harvest, what we might plant for winter veggies (collards, turnips, etc.), what did well this year and what we might do different next year.

We had one significant surprise this summer. The vacant field next to the Extension Office was purchased by a developer who plans to build duplexes similar to the new buildings on the other end of Queen Ann Road. The updated survey surprised everybody with the lines further south than expected. One impact for the Learning Garden is that over half of the area that we'd been using to store plants we are propagating for our plant sale is on the wrong side of the line. So now they are squished into a smaller footprint close to the shed. The good news is that we can use some of the space inside the privacy fence on the North side of Extension. A recent project was to place landscape fabric so that we don't have to pull weeds between the pots and the county doesn't try and mow between them either. Good job Candy and Rhona!



Speaking of propagation. We have Cashmere Bouquet (*Clerodendrum bungei*) plants popping up at Extension and I have them at my house. I've had it in pots at my house, but never deliberately in the ground. So, it spreads easily! However, the flower is gorgeous and it's easy to pull from unwanted locations. So I plan to relocate it to pots and offer it for sale in 2022.

A plant that has done exceedingly well this year is Cuban Oregano (*Plectranthus amboinicus*). Although it tastes like a strong oregano, it is technically not an oregano, but a member of the Lamiaceae family. The small plant that Deborah Kelso placed in this 4x4 bed last spring has completely taken over the space. It's easy to grow, tastes good, smells great and is gorgeous. It is not frost hardy and we have taken cuttings in hopes of overwintering it and having plenty for the plant sale. If other members would like to try propagating cuttings, give Deborah or me a call, or just stop by on any Thursday morning.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

Our fig trees fruited last Spring and are we are enjoying a 2nd harvest now. Double the flavor, double the fun, but way better than Double Mint Gum. Most of us are probably old enough to remember that jingle from the 80s.



A successful experiment by Sandra Bowen last Spring was to plant Jerusalem Artichokes (*Helianthus tuberosus*). They have no relationship to Jerusalem or to artichokes. They are native to North American and in the sunflower family. Our specimen, after just a few months, is wider than I can reach and over my head. It has pretty yellow flowers and it is eatable. The roots can be eaten raw or cooked and were a food source for Native Americans. They are currently available at Whole Foods if you'd like to try them before going to the trouble of growing them. They are reported to be invasive in places, but I've had them before without a problem.

Another continuing success story is the Roselle Hibiscus. It seems to love our climate and is currently in full fruit. The bright red calyxes are a yummy walk-through-the-garden snack (feel free to try them), and dried they are the tart ingredient in Red Zinger Tea.



Candy decided to grow some luffas this year and for awhile we'd thought the vine climbing one of our vertical elements would neither flower nor fruit. However, there is large fruit on the vine now with lots more flowers promising more luffas if we don't have an early freeze. Mosquitoes were chasing me today out at Extension as I was taking pictures and I got some bites. The narrow leaf plantain came to the rescue again!

Behind the Garden Gate
2022 Alabama Master Gardener Conference
May 2-4, 2022

Submitted by: Candy Jones

Planning is well underway for the 2022 AMGA State Conference and excitement is building! Working together, CAMGA and CCMGA members are already raising the funds necessary to make this conference a reality and obtaining commitments from speakers, while other committees are in various stages of planning, preparation and committee building.

In addition to the Conference Chair, Janice Jackson, and co-chairs, Margaret Cully, Sandy Rosamond and Candy Jones, there are ten (10) Steering Committees hard at work. These committees, each co-chaired with a CAMGA and CCMGA member, are: Facilities, Lynda Edwards and Henry Lucas; Finance, Candy Jones and Margaret Cully; Program/Speakers, Rhona Watson and Billie Crawford; Fundraising Betty Plaster and Margaret Cully; Silent Auction, Anne Carr and Linda Cater; Printing/Program Book, Dee Turberville and Helen (Ann) Hamill; Registration, Cindy Augustine and Terese Goodson; Door Prizes, Cheryl Fitzgerald and Bobbie Speziale; Publicity/Photography, Jane Mobley and Eileen Webb; Volunteer Coordinator, Bionca Lindsey.

The Steering Committee co-chairs have begun recruiting committee members. Many are needed to make this conference a success, so PLEASE SAY YES! Better yet, \contact one of the above members and volunteer to be a part of this great project! There are many moving parts in putting this together, and volunteers are needed now, and throughout the process. So, no matter how much time you have, whether it is from now through the end, a month or a day, there is a place for you.



Central Alabama Master Gardener Association
2022 Membership Form
Due: November 16th, 2021*

Please print:

Name _____ **Birthday Month** _____ **Day** _____

____ *Check if your information in the 2021 CAMGA Membership Directory is correct. If your information is correct, it is unnecessary to complete your profile information below.*

Address _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Home Telephone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Email _____

Year of your Master Gardener Graduation _____ **County** _____

Membership *(includes graduating interns):*

____ **CAMGA Membership Dues - \$25 (\$15 for CAMGA, \$10 for state)**

____ **Pay \$15 only if you are already paying state dues through another Master Gardener Association (example: CCMGA, ACMGA, LCMGA) or a Lifetime Member**
Name of Association of State Membership: _____

Checks should be made payable to CAMGA.

Amount Enclosed: Check \$ _____ **Check Number** _____ **Cash \$** _____

Please mail or give this completed form and dues to:

Carol Rattan
309 Nolen Lane
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Would you like to receive a CAMGA Membership Directory Booklet as well as the digital version **or** only the digital directory? **Check one:**

____ **CAMGA Directory Booklet as well as the Digital Version**

____ **Digital CAMGA Directory Only**

***Your completed form and dues must be submitted by November 16, 2021, or you risk not being included in the 2022 CAMGA Membership Directory. If you wish to have a new picture in the directory, send to lawmarona@gmail.com by December 7.**