



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 11 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

Message from Lynda
Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President

November 2021

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President's Message

"I am the vine: ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5 KJV



The Nominating Committee came through for us and brought a slate of officers to be voted on in the November 16th meeting. They are as follows:

President: Lynda Edwards
Vice President: Kelly LaFreniere
Secretary: Sheila Radford
Treasurer: Sherri Lynn Davidson

Our November Program Speaker will be Jane McCarthy, Advanced Master Gardener and CAMGA member. I've been told that Jane will show us how to make a "kissing ball" for Christmas. Whatever Jane does, it will be both informative and entertaining. Please don't miss this meeting at Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church, 3454 Fire Tower Road, Wetumpka.

November is the month to give thanks and even though it has been a year of tragedy for me, I still give thanks for the many blessings that God has given me. One of those blessings has been working with such a wonderful group of people who are members of Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association.



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

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



You are tops in my mind. Even though I lost over 70% of my hearing this year, I still consider my good health as a wonderful blessing. I am thankful that you have accommodated my disability.

Thanksgiving 2021 does not resemble the Thanksgiving of 1621. Historians tell us that the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621.

The meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations today. They likely killed some deer, some fowl and used Native American spices and cooking methods. No menu has ever been found. Thanksgiving is my favorite meal to prepare and we always have it outdoors at the farm.

I wish for all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving with your family.

Lynda Edwards
CAMGA President



Message from Mallory

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

Mulch for your Landscape

With Fall upon us, it is a great time to think about mulch in the garden. Mulch is a natural process that occurs regularly in nature with fallen leaves, twigs, and spent flowers. There are so many benefits to using mulch to keep your garden and landscape healthy.

Mulches can be in the form of organic or inorganic. Organic mulches are made up of plant material and will decompose and become part of the soil. Organic mulches must be replenished periodically due to their rate of decomposition. Inorganic mulches are not composed of plant material and are often seen in the form of plastics or rock type formations.

Mulching helps the soil hold moisture and helps prevent weed seed germination. Mulch also helps keep the soil cooler and when mulch decomposes it increases organic matter which helps with soil aeration and water absorption.

Organic mulch is less expensive and can be created through leaves and grass clippings that are already present in your landscape. Bark mulch or wood chips are made from different types of trees and are very attractive in the landscape. These mulch materials have a slow decomposition rate, but should not be used next to foundations as they can attract termites. Other types of organic mulches include, leaves from your trees, grass clipping, pine straw, and even old newspapers.

This year there has been lots of interest in using newspaper as a mulch in the landscape and in the vegetable garden as a weed barrier. This is a great idea as it also helps enrich the soil as the newspaper breaks down over time, but it also helps retain moisture. When using the newspaper use multiple sheets or even a whole section of the paper at a time (6-10 pages thick) for the best weed control especially throughout the summer months when weeds are most prevalent.

Inorganic mulch such as gravel, crushed stone, and plastics are more expensive, but are permanent additions to the landscape. They come in a variety of different colors, textures and materials. These inorganic mulches can add a great element to the landscape, but keep in mind that these types of mulches will be much warmer in the summer months removing more water from the soil and can scorch nearby plants. Plastics are good inorganic mulch, but can cause the soil to remain too wet resulting in root disease problems. Black plastic is not very durable and tends to break down quickly, but can be used seasonally in a vegetable garden, but don't forget the irrigation lines first. It is often a good idea to cover plastic mulches with a thin layer of pine needles or wood chips to help slow down the decomposition of some plastics and also to help keep the plastic cooler in summer months.

Tips to most efficiently use mulch in your landscape:

- ♦ Always remove existing weeds before applying mulch.
- ♦ If applying mulch in the fall, wait until the soil has cooled before applying as this can encourage weed seed germination.
- ♦ Keep mulch depth uniform throughout your planting beds and around trees (2-4 inches for organic and 1-2 inches for inorganic mulches).
- ♦ Never let mulch build up around the trunk of trees or shrubs. After a few years of mulch application if you see this buildup occurring rake away old mulch and apply a new layer.
- ♦ If the mulch starts to smell like vinegar, ammonia, sulfur, or silage the mulch has gone bad. The smell is unpleasant in the landscape and can damage your plants. To cure this problem in your landscape turn the mulch once or twice a month- Good aeration should eliminate the problem quickly.



CAMGA Minutes October 19, 2021 Lanark Pavilion Betty Plaster, Secretary

President Lynda Edwards introduced the speaker Maria Pacheco, Ground Specialist at Lanark. Maria gave a very informative talk on the many ferns that can be found at Lanark especially on the three hiking trails at the center. Ferns have spores not seeds, rhizomes not roots and fronds not leaves. Ferns have been here since the Dinosaur Age and are well liked by birds. Birds like to eat the spores and use ferns to build their nests. Ferns like to be misted and given fish emulsion fertilizer.

According to Maria, to learn about the different types of ferns and their growing requirements select a good book about ferns. Maria can be contacted at 334 657 9414 to help make a fern book selection.

President Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Lynda recognized and thanked the 2021 interns for attending the monthly meeting.

Member Concerns:

- Lois Pribulick recently had leg surgery and is in a cast. Another surgery is scheduled for next Wednesday.
- John Butler had ankle surgery and will be in a cast for eight weeks.
- William Frye is still battling cancer.
- Cheryl Christian is having issues presently receiving physical therapy and pulmonary therapy.
- Linda Carter had stem cell surgery on the foot.
- Mallory Kelley's thirteen year old lab had to be put to sleep. Her husband and children are very upset to lose this special friend.
- Lee Ann Marona's husband had leg surgery.
- Robin Snyder is having neck/shoulder pain.

Please remember our members in your thoughts and prayers.

President's Report by Lynda Edwards: Lynda thanked Sandy Rosamond for hosting the refreshment table at the October meeting.

Nominating Committee Report by Judy May: The following slate of officers have been nominated to serve for the year 2022. President Lynda Edwards, Vice President Kelly Lafreniere, Secretary Shelia Radford, and Treasurer Sherri Lynn Davidson. The officers will be voted on by the membership at the November monthly meeting and installed at the December luncheon.

The 2022 Membership Directory will be chaired by Carol Rattan. Carol reminded the membership that dues are due November 16, 2021, so the Directory can be printed in January 2022.

Annually members have an opportunity to make recommendations for changes to the CAMGA By-Laws. If there are any recommendations, please present them in writing to Amanda Borden at amandawborden@gmail.com. The deadline is December 1, 2021. Any changes must be voted and approved by the membership.

Vice President's Report Given by Lynda Edwards: Janice Hall will be unable to present the November program, but Jane McCarthy will give a talk on holiday decorations and a demonstration on how to make a Victorian kissing ball.

Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty reminded members to sign the sign in sheet. Betty moved to accept the September minutes and dispense with the reading of the September minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. Judy May seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Betty Plaster, Secretary

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| September Beginning Balance | \$8,129.76 |
| September Income | \$12.00 |
| September Expenditures | \$255.00 |
| Ending Balance for September | \$7,874.76 |

Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Advisory Council Representative Report by Cheryl Fitzgerald: Cheryl reported that the next AMGA meeting will be November 2, 2021, at 10:00 AM at Petals from the Past. At this meeting the Advisory Council nominees for 2022-2023 will be voted on by the membership.

The speaker for the November meeting will be Matthew Durbin, with Alfa, and the topic will be the Alabama Farm Center to be built in Clanton and how the complex will host state events. Remember to watch the Zoom Workshop this Thursday (October 21) about Gardening, for Seniors starting at 11:00 AM.

2022 AMGA Conference Report by Janice Jackson: Janice stated that work is continuing on the upcoming Conference and encouraged all CAMGA members to be prepared to say yes when asked to work at the Conference. Members were also encouraged to contact Betty Plaster with any leads of potential vendors, sponsors, etc. Janice thanked Jane Mobley for hosting the booth at the Fall AMGA Seminar and passing out brochures announcing the upcoming Conference.

Projects Report by Sandy Rosamond: Sandy reported that the intern class participated in decorating a scarecrow for downtown Wetumpka. The "dancing lady" scarecrow will be on display beginning October 22 and will be in competition for best scarecrow. The winner of the scarecrow competition will be announced October 28, 2021, at the Coosa Crawl.

CAMGA members and interns can participate in a plant swap Friday, October 22, at 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM at the extension office kitchen.

November 4, 2021, CAMGA will have a table at the Wetumpka Merchants Market. Items for sale will be Christmas ornaments, **bottlecap** art, chicken pot pies, and wind chimes. Debbie Kelso has volunteered to take up money at the event. November 12, 2021, at 10:00 AM at the extension office kitchen members are invited to help fill sachet bags with herbs. Please let Sandy Rosamond if you are available to help.

December 3 and 4, 2021, Wetumpka will host the Charles Dickinson Christmas festival. Members are asked to help pass out the sachet bags and dress up in Victorian style clothes. Please let Sandy Rosamond or Terri Chambliss know if you are available to help with this project.

Learning Garden Report by Mary McCroan: In order to have more plants for the upcoming plant sale and a place to store plants during the winter, Mary will be transforming the chicken house at the extension office into a greenhouse. Funds from the Learning Gardens account and the plant sale account will fund this project. Mary will soon be requesting members to help with this new project.

Old Business: Bionca Lindsey with the Autauga County Master Gardeners Association announced a field trip to Bellingrath Gardens and Home on November 17. The bus will leave the parking lot of First Baptist Church in Prattville at 7:00 AM and return at 5:00 PM. The cost is \$60 per person. To make reservations call **Bionca** at 501-765-9882.

On December 8, there will be a bus trip to Callaway Gardens and the cost is \$50 per person. The bus will leave at noon from the parking lot of the First Baptist Church in Prattville and return at night. Contact **Bionca** to make reservations.

New Business— None. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

***Respectively submitted by,
Betty Plaster***



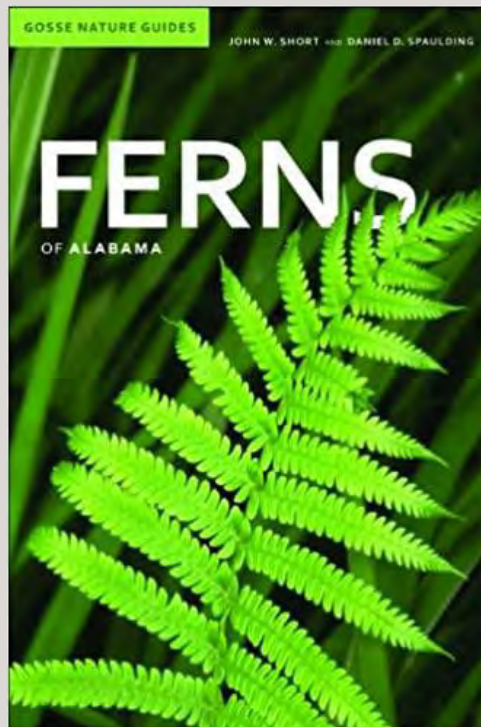
CAMGA Library News

By: Dee Turberville

Ferns of Alabama

By John Short and Daniel Spaulding

Published in 2012 within the Gosse Nature Guides series, the *Ferns of Alabama* is a collaboration between two of the most knowledgeable botanists on the state's fern flora. It is a high quality, full-color guide that includes more than 120 species of ferns and lycophytes. The individual species contain a description of the plant and its habitat, range, history, conservation status, and common names. The plants are shown in their native settings and maps illustrate the county-by-county distribution of the various species covered.

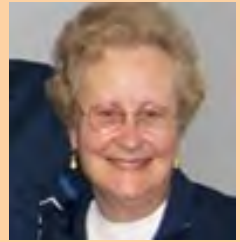


"Ferns of Alabama is well organized, and the photographs are of good quality and composition. The photos gave me insight into the fern's local environment by showing neighboring plants. It is a delight to see the lycopodiums and other fern allies presented in a convenient way. I see old favorites and new, unfamiliar ones. The ecological and geological notes will be useful tools for the horticulturist." -- Michael Gibson, coauthor of *Wildflowers of North America*

SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

October 2021

By: Judy May



Members who attended the September 30th AMGA Fall Conference were: Lee Ann Marona, Marjorie Hannah, Terry Chambliss, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, Glenn Huovinen, Jane Mobley and intern Karen Ver Haagh.

On October 1st a group of volunteers met to make and decorate wine bottle wind chimes to sell at the Community Market and plant sale in the spring. They turned out great and several were purchased at the end of the class. As usual, Sandy had a variety of decorations to make one of a kind creations. It was a lot of fun. Those participating were Robin Snyder, Karen Ver Haagh, Ann Carr, Linda Cater, Lynda Edwards, Jane Mobley, Marilyn Knapp, Betty Plaster, Terry Chambliss and Sandy Rosamond.

On October 5th, Linda Jennings, Sandy Rosamond, Terry Chambliss, Betty Plaster, Ann Carr, Sandy Mikashus and Judy May met to create additional crafts to sell including bottle cap art, wine bottle wind chimes, tin can art and hummingbird swings.

Members who brought refreshments to the CAMGA meeting October 19 were Dee Turberville, Iva Haynie, Deborah Kelso, Cindy Augustine, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Cathy Whigham, Bonnie McCormick and Judy May. Maria said the Chamber had met earlier in the same location and donated their leftover refreshments that included donuts as well as fresh fruit.

On October 20 and 21 members who worked on air layering camelias from Dr. Mitchell's for the AMGA conference and the plant sale were Rhona Watson, Terry Chambliss, Candy Jones, Janice Jackson, and Jane Mobley.

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

Maria says in late September Don Hoover, Carla McCune and her husband John, Sheila Pearson, Linda Queen, Ricky and Mary Ann Hatcher, Dee Turberville, Ernie Edwards, Judy May, Linda Jarzyniecki and Kelly LaFreniere helped with our first Honey Fest held at the Nature Center. We made good money at the plant sale and the event was well attended. We hope to do it again next fall. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a success! I apologize to anyone I may have left out; it's been a busy month.

Maria also wants to thank all the folks that have helped in October, there were three weddings to prepare for, Maria needed help with preparations to host the Autauga Master Gardeners annual meeting, CAMGA's annual meeting, and Mallory's Tree ID program for the interns. We also had our big event of the year, the Governor's Achievement Awards, where AWF honors the best in the state for conservation, Maria needed help delivering flowers to the Marriot for this event- so an extra big thanks to Don Hoover for help keeping things neat with the weed eater as well as his invaluable help delivering 40 flower arrangements.

Also, Maria failed to mention in August that Rhonda and Jesse Miles helped shuttle guests at the Catfish Rodeo in early August. Maria called them at the last minute and they agreed to help out, AWF appreciates your willingness to jump in for such an important event.

Thanks to everyone for all your help, even those that can't get here to work as often as they'd like. I know you are still out there encouraging others to volunteer and spreading the word about Lanark.

Thank you! From Maria.



Governor's Mansion Report

October 2021

By: Amanda Borden



Please note: The Governor's Mansion Workday time will change to 9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon starting Monday, November 8th due to daylight saving time ending.

In October we potted the portico pots and worked in the Herb Garden.



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

October 2021

By: Amanda Borden



**Photos from Camellia Harvesting and Potting
October 21, 2021
(Photos submitted by Jane Mobley)**



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.