



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 12 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



## December 2021



**Message from Lynda**  
*Lynda Edwards, President  
CAMGA President*

*Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. Genesis 2:8*

Holiday Greetings Everyone! It has always been hard for me to let go of things I possess; whether it's my car, house, job, clothing, most anything, I become attached and hate to let go. Oh, yes, I enjoy getting new things but if I have to let go of something to get it, it becomes difficult. However, letting go of 2021 is not going to be difficult at all, not going to miss this year. Even with all the challenges this year has brought, I can still find more blessings than I deserve.

This is my 40<sup>th</sup> year as a volunteer for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It is very dear to my heart for many reasons. Every first Saturday in December for the past 20 years is the annual St. Jude Marathon in Memphis. I first ran the ½ Marathon in the second or third year of this event and have watched it grow by leaps and bounds. In the beginning you had your choice of the ½ mile or the mile. Now they have added a 10K and a 5K and for the past several years I have participated in the shorter races. When you reach a certain age, running a marathon is not really that healthy. That is my excuse. It also takes too many months of hard training that I don't enjoy. Regardless, this weekend I will be on the road to Memphis with my daughter Tonya and niece Karmala from Tennessee joining me. Every state in the U.S. is represented and 17 foreign countries. To be a participant with more than 25,000 runners and another 40,000 spectators is truly electrifying; the best way to describe it. It has to be special for me to miss the SEC playoffs on Saturday.



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz  
Carol Pugh — Editor

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



A Reminder: I haven't completed all the Chairs and Board appointments for next year but would like to thank those who have replied "yes, I'll be back next year."

If you would like to serve on the CAMGA Executive Board, please give me a call. I have saved the perfect spot for you. Thanks to all CAMGA members for your support this year.

We have a busy month at CAMGA in December. Hope to see many of you at our Christmas luncheon December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 a.m. at The First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. Look for an email from Robin Snyder to sign up.

Stay safe and healthy as you travel during the holidays.

*Merry Christmas,*  
*Lynda Edwards*





## Message from Mallory

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

### *Keeping Poinsettias Healthy through the Holidays*

The very popular Christmas plant, poinsettias are actually native to Mexico and can be seen growing along the roadsides in their native habitat reaching heights of 6-8 feet tall, but keeping one alive and healthy looking in a pot for 1-2 months in the state of Alabama can often times be a challenge.

The poinsettia made its way to the United States through the United States Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. He took cuttings from the plant on one of his visits and sent them back to South Carolina where the climate was just warm enough to allow the plants to survive.

Poinsettias in Mexico bloom in late fall through early winter, but in order for them to bloom during our holiday season north of the border, special care must be taken.

The part of the plant often referred to as the “blooms” or “flowers” of the poinsettia are actually colored bracts, which are leaves that form at the base of the flowers. The flowers are the yellow structures, called cyathia, which the red bracts surround.

Even though the holiday season is when the poinsettias are in bloom, the cooler temperatures in the United States often times make it difficult to keep the plants alive and healthy.

Here are some tips for keeping your poinsettia healthy through the holiday season.

- Place plants in very bright, but indirect light. Southern windows with full sun exposure are not a good choice because of window drafts and temperature fluctuations.
- Try to keep plants far away for outdoor entrances as the sudden drafts of cool air are not good for the plants and will dry them out quickly.
- Keep the soil evenly moist, but not too wet. Too much moisture will kill a plant as quickly as not enough moisture. Do not allow the plants to dry out completely this will cause the bracts color to fade and leaves to begin to drop and it will be very difficult to rewet the soil in the pots.
- If when watering, the water immediately rushes through the plant and out the bottom then the plants were too dry and never allow water to stand in the tray as this will drown the roots and kill the plant. Continue to empty the tray and slowly add more water until the plant is evenly moist and no water is collecting in the tray.
- Keeping the indoor temperature between 70-75 degrees in the day and 55-65 degrees at night is best.



Keeping poinsettias looking great throughout the holidays can be frustrating, but understanding what they like will allow them to last and look beautiful much longer.



## CAMGA Minutes November 16, 2021 Betty Plaster, Secretary Mulder Methodist Church

President Lynda Edwards welcomed members to the monthly meeting and Vice President Leslie Bingham introduced the speaker Jane McCarthy, Master Gardener. Jane gave a very informative program on how to make a Victorian kissing ball.

To make a Victorian kissing ball you will need the correct tools. These tools need to be sharp so holes can be made in apples or potatoes (using apples and potatoes helps to keep the leaves moist). Start designing your kissing ball by piercing the apple with a sharp tool and making a hanger for the ball. Cut greenery that will stay fresh a long time such as boxwood, holly, tea olive, magnolia, bay laurel or pittosporum leaves. When cutting the greenery remember to use pruning techniques. Using the sharp tools, pierce the apple and insert the leaves and mistletoe and then complete the ball using ribbon.

The Victorian kissing ball technique can also be used to make door wreaths, door hangers, or greenery arrangements for mantles. Usually, the potato is used for these decorations. Use your imagination when decorating the greenery by adding ribbons, dried flowers, or other natural Christmas decorations.

President Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM.

Lynda thanked Jane for a great program. Member Concerns: Lois Pribulick will have two more surgeries on her leg. Please remember Lois in your thoughts and prayers.

President's Report by Lynda Edwards: Lynda announced that it was time to vote on the CAMGA Officers for 2022. The By-Laws state that nominations for officers may be accepted from the floor at the time of voting. The By-Laws also state that anyone nominated from the floor must have given permission prior to having their name placed in nomination. At the meeting there were no nominations from the floor. Therefore, the CAMGA 2022 are as follows – President Lynda Edwards, Vice President Kelly LaFreniere, Secretary Shelia Radford, and Treasurer Sherri Lynn Davidson. These officers will be installed at the December monthly meeting.

A reminder that the By-Laws may be amended or changed by the membership. If you have recommendations for change, please submit in writing the recommendation to Amanda Borden at [amandawborden@gmail.com](mailto:amandawborden@gmail.com) by December 1, 2021.

The deadline for membership dues is today, November 16, 2021. Per Carol Rattan, 38 members have paid their dues.

Lynda stated that Auburn Extension had lifted Covid meeting restrictions and wanted to know if members would like to have 2022 meetings at the Extension Office or First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka. Members decided that they would like to meet at the First Presbyterian Church. The church will be contacted to see if monthly meetings for 2022 can be held in the fellowship hall.

Members were asked by Lynda to be ready to say yes when she calls asking for Committee or Chairmen volunteers. Presently there is a need for an Education, Publicity, and Membership Chair.

Vice President's Report by Leslie Bingham: Leslie reported that the Christmas Party would be December 7, 2021. Robin Snyder stated that the party would be at the First Presbyterian Church beginning with a short business meeting at 10:00 AM followed by holiday music and lunch. Members will be receiving an invitation soon with more details.

Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty reminded members to sign the sign-in sheet. Betty moved to accept the October minutes and dispense with the reading of the October minutes since there were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. Terri Chambliss seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

## CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

### Betty Plaster, Secretary

#### Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan:

October Beginning Balance \$7874.76  
 October Income \$ 846.00  
 October Expenditures \$119.54  
 Ending Balance for October \$8601.25  
 Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Carol also reported that the 2022 Membership Directory will have a new look and it will be easier to add new information pages.

Mallory Kelley Regional Extension Agent Advisor Report: Mallory encouraged members to reach out and contact members who have not been attending meetings and invite them to come to the CAMGA Christmas party.

Mallory invited members to the Montgomery Master Gardeners Intern graduation brunch on December 14, 2021, at the Church of the Ascension. If planning to attend you must RSVP since the brunch is being catered.

A big thank you to Lee Ann Marona and Robin Snyder for a successful intern class this year. Sandy Rosamond helped with the food and Rhona Watson and Jane McCarthy hosted interns at their houses. The mentors were faithful to attend the meetings and contact the interns. Please mentors keep contacting the interns. Thanks to everyone who made this program successful.

In order to try to bring members back to CAMGA in December the membership will receive the newsletter by mail which will include the dates of meetings and other activities sponsored by CAMGA. All other newsletters for 2022 will be by email.

A discussion followed that some members were not receiving CAMGA emails. It was suggested that an email team/committee might need to be formed and also better communication with Anida Wishnietsky could help solve the problem.

It was also mentioned by members that a monthly calendar showing the CAMGA activities for each month would be helpful and may increase participation. The calendar could be on the website or in the monthly newsletter. One person would be responsible for updating the calendar.

The idea of each committee having a column in the newsletter would also give members the information needed to know what meetings they would like to attend. Mallory stated she would discuss these changes with Carol Pugh.

CAMGA has hosted four Lunch and Learn meetings in 2021. Because of Covid, there were no Lunch and Learn meetings for almost two years. The mission of Master Gardeners is to educate others and the Lunch and Learn program provides education for the public. CAMGA had a wonderful Lunch and Learn Committee for many years, Charlotte Hall, Cathy Whigham, and Sandi Adkison. Presently, Linda Cater, Sandy Rosamond, Robin Snyder, and Lee Ann Marona have been leading the Lunch and Learn program. However, a new Lunch and Learn Coordinator is needed and volunteers to help the coordinator for the 2022 Lunch and Learn program. Mallory stated that two people have already committed to help the new Coordinator. Please contact Mallory if you are willing to work on this committee. Mallory can help secure speakers for the programs.

It was discussed to change the Lunch and Learn program to meeting six times a year and the programs being two hours with people bringing their lunch. After the discussion, Mallory stated that the program would stay the same, a one hour meeting and meeting every month. Mallory also stated that the Lunch and Learn program could not continue until CAMGA had a Lunch and Learn Coordinator. Members, please contact Mallory or Lynda Edwards if you can fill this position.

Lynda Edwards asked members to pick up one of the eighteen Membership Directories and contact the member who has not attended any CAMGA meeting this year and invite them to the Christmas Party. We need members to come participate in the CAMGA activities.

## CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

### Betty Plaster, Secretary

Advisory Council Representative Report by Cheryl Fitzgerald: The Advisory Council Meeting was held on November 2, 2021, at Petals from the Past. Guest speaker was Matthew Durdin, External Affairs and Communications Director for ALFA/ Farmers Federation. Matthew spoke on the creation of a farm center as a centennial gift from ALFA to its farm members. The center will be located on 526 acres at exit 212 of the Interstate 65 N. Plans include an expo hall, livestock barns, and arenas. The hope is to attract various entities to use the venue since it is centrally located in the state and can appeal to many areas of agriculture. AMGA has a new website address. It is [alabamaamga.org](http://alabamaamga.org).

Roger Clarke has been appointed Chairman of the Transformation Garden AMGA Committee. Roger will be contacting the president of each LMGA for money to fund a walking path for one end of the garden to the other. It will meander through sixteen acres of the Auburn campus/Transformation Garden.

January 15, 2022, is the Project Funding deadline. \$2000.00 is the limit per application. Those not eligible will be listed in the upcoming Pathway Newsletter.

Updates on the 2022 and 2023 conferences were provided.

Kerry Smith gave the ACES report. Highlights included the mission statement for Master Gardeners is being rewritten and a vision statement is being created as well. Intern/Mentor activities have focused on community food programs such as Harvest for Health will end in spring of 2023. Horticulture Therapy will be added as a new activity.

The increase in intern fees was briefly discussed. Early Bird registration is \$150.00. After December 19, 2021, the cost will be \$200.00. The increase will fund a new position at Auburn with ACES.

Membership Report by Lee Ann Marona: Lee Ann awarded the Robin award to the following members- November- Carol Rattan, October- Shelia Radford, September – Rhona Watson. Thank you ladies for all your hard work!

2022 AMGA Conference Report by Sandy Rosamond: Sandy reported that the 2022 AMGA Conference will be held May 2-4 at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery, Al. Registration for the Conference will begin in January 2022. Sandy also announced that the Train Shed in Montgomery would be available to vendors at the Conference Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The cost will be \$100 and the vendor must have a Montgomery Business license. For more details, please contact Sandy Rosamond or Betty Plaster.

Sandy reminded members that the Wetumpka Charles Dickerson Christmas will held December 3 and 4 2021. If you would like to help with giving out the herb sachet bags with the Master Gardener information cards, please contact Sandy.

Greenhouse Report by Mary McCroan: Mary reported that the plastic covering has been installed on the greenhouse and it also has a remote temperature control. If you are interested in helping with installing shelving in the greenhouse, come to the Learning Gardens this Thursday, November 18, 2021.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting Adjourned at 12:23 PM

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



## CAMGA Library News By: Dee Turberville

### **Cooking Light PICK FRESH Cookbook** Creating irresistible dishes from the best seasonal produce By **Mary Beth Burner Shaddix**

*Cooking Light Pick Fresh Cookbook* is filled with tips on buying, storing, growing, and preparing the 50 most well-loved fruits, vegetables, and herbs. The book has 150 garden-to-table recipes with 200 full-cover photos that cover appetizers, sides, fresh salads and main dishes as well as sweet desserts. Each recipe includes a list of the key nutrients, vitamins and minerals.



After ten years working in the marketing and research department at *Cooking Light*, Mary Beth Shaddix traded in her business suits for rubber boots and returned to her roots. She began learning the breadth of gardening at a local retail nursery and became a master gardener in the process. Meant to be, the manager who hired her at the nursery would soon be her husband. They now grow together at their wholesale nursery and farm, Maple Valley Nursery, near Birmingham, AL. She is also the founder of A New Leaf Consulting and manages social media at Bonnie Plants.

Mary Beth reveals her expertise on growing your own produce anywhere, whether in your back yard, in raised beds, or in a small collection of containers. She includes season-to-season garden plans and easy-to-follow instructions for maintaining and caring for your garden. Look forward to checking this book out from the CAMGA library in 2022 -- a resolution to cut back on those heavy holiday treats and eat fresh light foods in the New Year!



# Governor's Mansion Report

## November 2021

By: Amanda Borden



In November we prepped the Hill House for Christmas decorating. We dusted, cleaned, vacuumed, moved furniture (to include rugs, couches, radiators, and a grand piano). Then we decorated the Hill House all for the Christmas Candlelight Tours on 6, 13 and 20, December, (5:30-7:30pm).





# Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

## November 2021

By: Amanda Borden



**At the November CAMGA meeting, Jane McCarthy constructed a beautiful kissing ball to display in the Hill House foyer.**

## **SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS**

### **November 2021**

**By: Judy May**



Members who brought refreshments to the November meeting were: Lynda Edwards, Iva Haynie, Dee Turberville, Anne Carr, Betty Plaster, Sharon Kochik, Bonnie McCormick and Judy May.

Mary Ann Hatcher worked the Help Line this month.

Volunteers at the Governor's mansion this month were Robin Snyder, Peggy Funk, Bionca Lindsey, Kathy Quinn, Ann Carr, Linda Cater, Susan Carmichael, Soyna Moore, Beth Wicker, Ann Hamill, Marina Vorontasova and Jane McCarthy.

Maria says this month Carla McCune, Leslie Bingham, and Don Hoover helped her prepare for a wedding (again!) and general fall clean-up and annual winter planting.

Thanks to everyone for all the help and support. Winter at Lanark is a great time to volunteer as we do some fun things that we can't do in the hectic spring and summer. We explore the property for extra plants we can dig up and bring to the gardens or pot up for plant sales, we do a lot of pruning, we plant bulbs and we go in search of bulbs on parts of the property that are not in regular use so the bulbs have been forgotten. We reclaim them! We also have fun cleaning up areas we can't get to in the hot months. Consider helping us out. Call Maria at 334-657-9414 to schedule your workday. I'll work with your schedule Monday – Friday. Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you!

On November 12th, a group of volunteers met to stuff sachet bags with aromatic herbs for the Dickens Christmas event in December. The room was quite fragrant! Those participating were Sandy Mikashus, Lynda Edwards, Marjorie Hannah, Sherri Davidson, Jane Mobley, Sandy Rosamond and Terry Chambliss. On November 19th, Sandra Rosamond, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Sheila Radford and Terry Chambliss decorated a Christmas tree in front of the Market Shops in downtown Wetumpka. The ornaments were the ones that had been used for the tree at the Chamber of Commerce in 2019- all handmade completed at the ornament workshops that year. It was fun rediscovering the beautiful works of art. We have a lot of talent in our organization.

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Mary McCroan, Lee Borden, Candy Jones, Debbie Kelso, Sandy Mikashus and Terry Chambliss worked on converting one of the chicken houses into a greenhouse. It is on the west side of Extension behind the privacy fence. It involved cleaning out the chicken poop, equipment and other debris before construction could begin. Two sides were completed that day and on November 8<sup>th</sup>, Lee, Mary, Candy and Debbie finished up. Debbie, Mary and Candy already had some plants and cuttings ready to be overwintered within the temperature controlled area. Great Job!

On Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Terry Chambliss, Sheila Radford, Cheryl Fitzgerald and Sandy Rosamond decorated the Christmas tree in front of the Market Shoppes in downtown Wetumpka.



## Learning Garden By: Mary McCroan

In more northern climates, gardeners are sitting around the fire, drinking cocoa and dreaming of spring. In Alabama, we are blessed or cursed with year around gardening. Which is great. Until I start thinking that a rest period might be nice! So things going on in the Learning garden include winter veggies, garlic, and thinking about terminating annuals, cutting back perennials and general cleanup. We have done some propagation with the division of the Lemon Grass and cuttings of the Cuban Oregano that were planted last spring by Deb Kelso. The Lemongrass is an annual that is now over wintering (I hope, successfully) in our new greenhouse. The Cuban Oregano, is also not hardy in our area, and we hope it does well in the greenhouse.



Mary and Terry are sharing a bed growing Collards, Kale, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts and whatever else Farmers Co-op had on hand. It's our backup to what Winn Dixie might or might not have on hand this winter.

Terry also planted half a bed of garlic and the sprouts are up already. It will be ready for harvest next spring.



Candy's green wall (green beans, luffa and passion flower vines) is just starting to fade. It has been impressive all summer and might provide inspiration for covering up a fence you don't like.



Speaking of fading, the less than attractive picture of the front of the Extension office is a reminder of pruning to be done sometime in the next month or so: cut back lantana and grasses, prune the Loropetalum, cut the suckers off the Crepe, etc.

## Learning Garden (Continued) By: Mary McCroan

It was great to have such a mild fall with many plants blooming longer than normal. The picture to the right was taken only two weeks ago. Even now many plants are still delighting us with flowers with the Rosemary and Hot Lips Sage far from finished. Our turmeric bed is finally winding down. We can harvest the turmeric roots anytime after the leaves are fully dormant.



I personally still have plenty of ground and frozen roots at home, and don't plan to dig it this year. However, if any of our MGs want turmeric, a "u-dig" day can be planned.



Any of our MGs, new or old, that would like to come out on Thursdays to enjoy some gardening comradery, your company is welcome. You might be interested in adopting a particular area of the garden to maintain, or plant your own bed with herbs or veggies. Or just come out one or two days to earn a few hours. Give me a call at 334-312-0679.

***Merry Christmas to all,***

***Mary McCroan***

## *Happy Holidays to you all...*



*The season is upon us and you are invited to join us in celebration of Christmas and the coming New Year.*

*We will be gathering at 10 a.m. on Tuesday December 7th at the First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka Fellowship Hall located at 100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka. We will start with a short CAMGA meeting to install our 2022 officers and follow with our celebration of the season and lunch.*

*Plenty of parking is available on either side of the building and a full kitchen is there for warming, cooling or food prep as needed. The hall is large and we will spread out as much as possible. I ask that you click on the following two links. The first is to indicate that you will be attending the event and the second is to volunteer to help in various ways and also indicate what items of food or drink you are planning to bring.*

*If you have any problems with your RSVP or volunteering on these links, please contact me by clicking "reply" at the end of this email or email me directly at [jmsrgs@gmail.com](mailto:jmsrgs@gmail.com) and I will assist you.*

*Also, if you are willing to participate in the musical or Christmas memories part of the program please let me know at [jmsrgs@gmail.com](mailto:jmsrgs@gmail.com).*

*We will be welcoming our special guests this year...the 2021 intern class and their mentors and class facilitators from Autauga County MGA. I encourage all CAMGA members to contact our members who have not been present for a while and encourage them to join us once again. Everyone is welcome to bring a guest.*

*We look forward to seeing each of you at this final CAMGA meeting of the year. We always have a good time of fellowship and good food at this event, so you don't want to miss it. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year...Robin Snyder and all of us at CAMGA*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AFA929A0F5C34-camga6>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AFA929A0F5C34-camga7>

# Upcoming Lunch & Learn Programs

## Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association

### Lunch & Learn 2022

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**

- 11 January Camellias of Alabama  
*Dr. Charles Mitchell, Retired Professor, Auburn University*
- 8 February Succulents Info and SALE!  
*Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & MG*
- 8 March All About Azaleas  
*Shane Harris, ACES Tallapoosa, CEC*
- 12 April Gardening with Climate Change  
*Lee and Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardeners*
- 10 May Facts and Myths About Food  
*Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Horticulturist, ACES*
- 14 June Good Garden Thugs  
*Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist and MG*
- 12 July Making Kambucha From Your Garden For Your Gut  
*Debbie Kelso, Elmore County Master Gardener*
- 9 August Crape Myrtle Bark Scale in Alabama  
*Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES*
- 13 September Pumpkinology!  
*Hayes Jackson, Horticulturist, ACES*
- 11 October Mushroom Mania-Take a Grow Log Home  
\*Call to reserve a log (334-567-6301)  
*Rhonda Britton, Horticulturist, ACES*
- 8 November Ancient Grains & Sour Dough Bread Making  
*Mary McCroan and Debbie Kelso, Elmore County Master Gardeners*
- 13 December Crafts at Christmas  
*Central Alabama Master Gardeners*



For more information, please contact the  
Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301  
[www.aces.edu/elmore](http://www.aces.edu/elmore)

## Elmore County Master Gardeners Association

### Lunch & Learn 2021

TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER

12:00-1:00 P.M.



First Presbyterian Church

100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092

**BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED**

### “Planting & Transplanting Trees & Shrubs”

**Speaker: David Doggett**

**Advanced Master Gardener, Birmingham, Alabama**

Improper planting is the #1 cause of a shortened life for trees and shrubs planted in residential and commercial sites. This program covers the latest research-based recommendations and best practices for how one should plant or transplant trees and shrubs at this time of year.



For more information, please contact  
Elmore County Extension Office  
(334) 567-6301



## Chicken to Greenhouse Conversion By: Mary McCroan



A small group of enthusiasts met in November to adapt an existing chicken house at our County Extension Office to a Greenhouse. If you want to visit and take a look, this project is located in the fenced area on the north side of the Extension Building.

Volunteers included Lee Borden, Mary McCroan, Candy Jones, Terry Chambliss and intern Sherri Lyn Davidson. We put on two layers of plastic, one on each side of the 2x4s the chicken house was constructed with. The plastic is a heavy gauge purchased from a greenhouse supply company.

We determined that battery operated staplers are great fun. And that a piece of cardboard makes a good, long “square” to cut the plastic.



We’ve installed a greenhouse heater for those cold nights. This was a little more expensive than getting an off-the-shelf model from Walmart, but it is designed to be protected from water splashing, has a nice wide base and we hope it will be safe and reliable. Amazon users gave it generally good ratings with a 4.7 out of 5. It does not have a feature where it can be set to a certain temperature, so I’m playing with the knob to get it to stay in a “warm enough” range.

We also got a remote, wireless thermometer. Thanks to Lee Borden for doing the research. So far we’ve varied from 45 degrees to high 90s! But the current greenhouse occupants seem happy enough. If you want to take a look, download the Govee app, then login with my email (maryl@mccroan.com) and the password is CAMGA123.



## Chicken to Greenhouse Conversion (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

I was asked if we could overwinter house plants and the answer is that I don't know. I want to try and keep the temps above 50, but sometimes it will probably drop down to 45 and I'm afraid a lot of houseplants may not survive. If you want to bring some houseplants as an experiment, give me a call at

334-312-0679. Right now I have some impatiens, painted begonias, arborvitae fern, and lemon grass. We have room for more plants, and can also build more shelves. But you can't yell at me if we end up not controlling temps well enough to keep plants alive. This first winter, it is an experiment.



Shelving currently includes a small wood unit custom built from 2x2's--a fun and easy project. And some wire shelving from Lowes--at about \$100 for a 48" wide x 18" deep x 72" inch high unit, this was cheaper than buying the wood for a similar size unit. The question is which will last longer. Will the wood rot first, or will the metal rust first. Inquiring minds will find out over time.





# Master Gardener Class 2022



## Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Do you love plants? Do you enjoy volunteering your time? Then you are a great candidate for Master Gardener Intern Training! You do not have to be a garden expert. Simply come with a desire to learn and grow!

2022 Spring Session: February 3rd - May 5th  
Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM &  
1:00-2:30 PM

Early-bird discount of \$150 to MG Interns who register between Nov. 3 and Dec. 19. Registrations received after Dec. 19 will then increase to full price of \$200. Spring MG Intern registration will close on Jan. 23. Training classes will begin on Feb. 3, 2022.

ONLINE REGISTRATION:  
<https://www.aces.edu/go/2022springMGclass>

Extension  
Volunteers



Alabama  
Master  
Gardeners  
[aces.edu](http://aces.edu)



## MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION DUES ARE DUE!

Please send your 2022 dues in to Carol Rattan at 309 Nolen Lane, Wetumpka AL 36092. She is working on the directory now, and while the deadline is past, you will be put in the directory as long as yours dues are received before it is ready to print. Dues are \$15 for CAMGA and \$10 for AMGA. If you've paid for AMGA through another association, or you are an AMGA Lifetime Member, you only need to pay the CAMGA dues, \$15.

### ***Central Alabama Master Gardener Association 2022 Membership Form***

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

# December 2021



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<i>1</i> Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.	<i>2</i> Learning Gardens Extension Office 8 a.m.—12 noon	<i>3</i> Dickens Christmas Downtown Wetumpka 5-8 p.m.	<i>4</i> Dickens Christmas Down- town Wetumpka 5-8 p.m.
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Governor's Man- sion Gardens 9-11 a.m.  CAMGA Executive Board Meeting via Zoom — 2 p.m.	<i>7</i>  CAMGA Annual Holiday Party First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka 10 a.m.	<i>8</i> Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.	<i>9</i> Learning Gardens Extension Office 8 a.m.—12 noon	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Governor's Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.	<i>14</i> Lunch & Learn 12 noon — 1 pm First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka	<i>15</i> Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.	<i>16</i> Learning Gardens Extension Office 8 a.m.—12 noon	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Governor's Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.	<i>23</i> Learning Gardens Extension Office 8 a.m.—12 noon	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> <b>Merry Christmas</b>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> Governor's Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.	<i>30</i> Learning Gardens Extension Office 8 a.m.—12 noon	<i>31</i>	