



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 31 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



July 2022



Message from Lynda
Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President

As I write the message for our Garden Buzz, most Americans have begun enjoying preholiday activities and anxiously looking forward to July 4, 2022 Independence Day. I pray your holiday was fun and safe.

Last week, I attended the Millbrook Farmers Market for two hours, along with Norma Busby, Intern and husband Earnie.

I had a demonstration of succulents, my favorite, and about a 20 minute presentation planned. The weather was cooperative and we were setup in a shaded area of the park. It was very convenient to unload.

I took a couple of dish gardens that I had made and picked up a variety of different beautiful succulents from Walmart in Prattville. They were kind enough to allow me to return all I did not want after the presentation.

I also took information to distribute regarding our upcoming Intern Class beginning next month, information about Lunch and Learn and some soil sample packaging.



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor

Message from Lynda (Continued)

*Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President*



We probably need to rethink having a presentation because the audience consists of no more than one or two people at the time. It is easier to just do one-on-one as they come by.

CAMGA needs someone to be there the 4th Tuesday of July and August. This is another opportunity to get more volunteer hours.

My biggest concern for CAMGA is our low attendance at both Lunch and Learn and our monthly meetings. We have not returned to our pre-Covid attendance and this is disturbing to me.

We need more emphasis placed on our Lunch and Learn program in order to continue in 2023. I am so excited that Deb Kelso will be our speaker on July 12, 2022. If you haven't heard Debbie, you are in for a real treat. For those of you who faithfully attend, invite a neighbor or a friend to come and hear this program. They will not be disappointed.

Next month our By-laws state that I appoint a Nominating Committee to find a slate of officers for the coming year. Please be receptive to a call to serve. We have a wonderful group of officers and I hope each one will continue to serve on the board and move up the ladder to lead us in 2023. After serving for two years, it's time for new leadership.

Happy Gardening!
Lynda



Message from Mallory

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

Tips to Keep your Tomato Plants Healthy



The tomato is by far the most popular plant in the vegetable garden, but it can also be the most problematic. There are so many things to watch for when growing tomatoes to insure you have a healthy crop. Following the tips below will help keep your plants healthy the further we go into the hot and humid summer months.

Start with drip irrigation or hand watering only at the surface of the soil to avoid splashing. Then prune all lower limbs off the tomatoes that are touching the soil and apply mulch. Mulching your tomatoes keeps the plants moisture level consistent and will help prevent blossom end rot. Mulching helps control weeds where insects like to overwinter and eliminates there competition for the fertilizer you have applied. Mulch also creates a barrier between the plant leaves and the soil to help control many of the fungal problems that come from the surface of the ground.

Remove yellow and brown spotted leaves as soon as they appear and if not already, start a fungicide application to prevent “Early Blight.” No tomato grower can avoid this problem so apply the PREVENTATIVE fungicide before the tomatoes get the fungus. Products with the active ingredients: Chlorothalonil, mancozeb or copper will control Early Blight.

Scout daily for insects. Go out and inspect for armyworms, fruit worms, hornworms along with stinkbugs. (The main insect problems on tomatoes). Products that contain *Bacillus thuringensis* (Bt) will work when the WORMS are young or use products containing carbaryl if the worms are larger. Another insecticide that will control stinkbugs and some of the other pests you may find is bifenthrin. Don’t wait until your plant has no more leave before you start your search for the hornworm. Scout today cause the plant may not be there tomorrow!!!! Weather challenges, garden insects, viral, fungal and bacterial problems, and disorders are all challenges we face with growing our own backyard tomatoes.

Like I said, they are the most popular vegetable/fruit to grow, but also the most problematic. If you have more questions on what may be affecting your tomato plants and what you can do to stop it.



CAMGA Minutes — June 21, 2022
10:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon
First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka and
By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

Twenty-two members attended the June CAMGA meeting at the church. Kelly introduced June's speaker, Debbie Boutelier. Debbie presented a very interesting program on herb usage titled "Herbs for the Health of It". Some of the many uses for herbs are culinary, medicinal, and ornamental purposes. Very effective cleaning products can be made at home with easily obtained ingredients: vinegar, baking soda, washing soda, and castile or any other vegetable-based soaps, and of course, herbs. A refreshing beverage is simply made by adding leaves of lemon balm to a jug of water and placing this in the sun for a few hours. Pour over ice and enjoy.

Herbal medicine is the oldest and most widely used system in the world. 77% of the herbs utilized today have been used in the same way for centuries. Even now many countries without access to the pharmaceuticals we've become accustomed to commonly use herbs to treat numerous maladies. Books that Debbie recommended for further information are: "The Green Pharmacy" by James Duke; "Family Herbal" by Rosemary Gladstar and "Alchemy of Herbs" by Rosalee De La Foret.

Debbie's presentation ended at 11:09.

President Lynda called the meeting to order at 11:30. Carol Rattan is experiencing some health concerns with breathing difficulties. Pray that this issue will be speedily resolved. Carol is continuing to work on the directory during all this.

Vice President Kelly has a potential speaker for July. She will be contacting a micro greens producer that Lynda met to see if they will speak. August's meeting is the interns' graduation/potluck. There will be a brief business meeting that day. In September a botanist will speak. October's meeting will be at Lanark. Members will have an outing in November to tour a Christmas tree farm. In December there will be the Christmas party instead of a meeting.

Secretary Sheila moved to dispense with reading the last meeting's minutes. They are available to members in the Garden Buzz. Kelly seconded the motion.

Treasurer Sherri was absent. No financial report was available.

Mallory urged CAMGA members to recruit, recruit, recruit for the intern class starting August 11. There is a fairly detailed process to apply and the deadline is July 29, 2022. This course will be a hybrid version of previous courses. The only in-person portion that will be mandatory is Thursdays from 11:30-2:30. There will be a live zoom Q&A on Thursday mornings, but those are recorded for later viewing if interns can't attend live. August and September Thursdays the class will meet at the Autauga County office for the in-person class and lunch will be provided. In October and November, the classes will meet in various gardens for "hands on" learning, i.e., scavenger hunts, dissecting flowers and other activities. On these days, a refreshing snack will be available, but lunches will not be provided.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

June 2022

By: Sheila Radford



There will be a Tomato Growing Advanced Class held at the Municipal Center in Jemison on July 14th. More information will be forthcoming in a flyer.

Robin shared information about the Help Line. Mary Ann frequently does it alone and there is a tremendous backlog of requests for gardening information. To help alleviate this situation, the requirement for interns to sign up for two shifts with the Help Line will be reinstated effective with the intern class starting in August. Fulfilling this obligation will be mandatory in order to graduate. Established members are welcome and encouraged to sign up for shifts as well.

August 16th is the date for Intern Graduation/Potluck. The business meeting will be very short. Forty people have expressed an interest in taking the master gardener training and only one of them is from Elmore County. Autauga County will be the main sponsor of the joint Fall 2022 class. There will be three meals that CAMGA will be responsible for, and due to monies donated previously Robin has sufficient funds to purchase food for these meals.

There is still no information on the final income from the AMG convention.

Carol Rattan gave an update on the picture portion of the CAMGA Directory. She has decided to provide the picture section after Intern graduation so new members can be included. Carol is still missing pictures. If you haven't provided Carol with a picture taken at one of the CAMGA meetings, please send her a headshot to crattan@elmore.rr.com so it will be included.

Sandy has agreed that the Projects Committee will have someone give a 15 - 20 minute presentation at the Millbrook Farmers' Market on one Tuesday morning in July and on one Tuesday morning in August. Discussions and decisions on future participation at this event need to be made before next year's market. Rick Ohlson is no longer representing CAMGA at the Millbrook Farmers' Market. The workshop to make all natural Christmas ornaments has been moved from August 19 to November 9. There will be two sessions one from 10-12 and the second one from 1-3.

Jane Mobley will conduct a workshop on making terrariums on June 29th with volunteers who have agreed to help seniors at the Senior Center of Wetumpka, Cedarwood Community Church, 10286 US-231, Wetumpka. Those who plan to take part are encouraged to bring moss, pebbles, sticks, rubber bands, scissors, etc. The class for seniors is scheduled for July 15, 2022

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Meeting adjourned at 12:15

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Radford, Secretary



CAMGA Library News

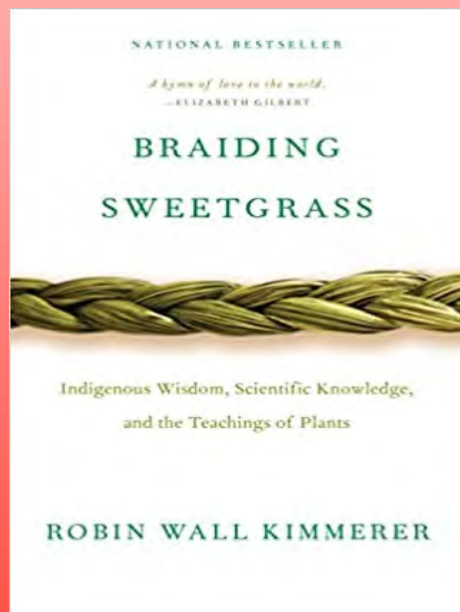
June 2022

By: Dee Turberville

Braiding Sweetgrass; Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants By Robin Wall Kimmerer

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a mother, a botanist, and a writer. She is a professor at the State University of New York in the College of Environmental Science and Forestry. She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the founding director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. A storyteller who creates a collection of Potawatomi teachings in beautiful prose, Kimmerer emphasizes that science and spirituality can complement one another, that plants are on the top of the pyramid for indigenous people, not humans, and that they have messages for us. Robin sees botany experiments as conversations with plants. As well, she ponders the difficulties for women in science, and the disdain some academic scientists have for indigenous knowledge.

Sweetgrass is the centerpiece of the book. In indigenous stories, sweetgrass was one of the first plants to grow on the earth. The chapters in this book are divided into sections based on the way indigenous people interact with sweetgrass: planting, tending, picking, braiding, and burning. Sweetgrass braids are given as gifts, to honor, to say thank you, to heal and to strengthen. The three braids represent the unity of mind, body and spirit. Individual chapters include stories such as “The Council of Pecans,” “Maple Sugar Moon,” “The Three Sisters,” and “Umbilicaria: The Belly Button of the World.” One of my favorite stories is “A Mother’s Work,” in which Robin clears a weed-choked pond for her daughters, Linden and Larkin. I identified with her reflections on motherhood, what we do for our children to create memories.



The book, published in 2013, spread by word of mouth, became a bestseller and now has almost a cult-like following. It has become an “ecology bible.” It speaks to people living in an industrial age -- people who long for connection with nature but are unsure of how to access it.



Governor's Mansion Report For June 2022 By: Amanda Borden



We renewal pruned azaleas, Japanese Cleyera, and a few weed-infested (and struggling) camellias.

We weeded in the Herb Garden while dodging very active and ferocious-looking cicada killers, so we worked around them. Hard to believe this is a beneficial!



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)
For May 2022
By: Amanda Borden



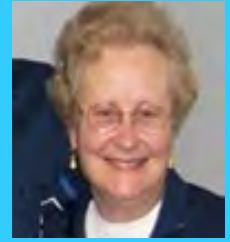
We pruned spirea and wisteria, weeded, planted donated plants, and watered all while staying out of the sun.



SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

For June 2022

By: Judy May



Members attending the Projects Committee meeting this month were Sandy Rosamond, Rhona Watson, Michele Sharpton, Anne Carr, Lynda Edwards and Judy May.

Dee Turberville, Lynda Edwards, Robin Snyder, Sharon Kochik, Bonnie McCormick, Connie Willis, and Janet Jackson brought snack packages left from the conference for refreshments for the meeting June 21st.

Again this month Mary Ann Hatcher worked the Helpline by herself.

Volunteering at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Jaeri Ellis, Ann Hamill, Debbie O'Brian, Jane McCarthy, Cheryl McKiearnan, Darwin Prewitt, Kathy Quinn and Robin Snyder.

June 28th, Advanced Master Gardeners Lee and Amanda Borden, Rick Cybulsky, Glenn Huovinen, Jane Mobley, Candy Jones, Rose McCauley, Anthony Yarbrough, Judy May and Mallory Kelley listened to Blount County Master Gardener Susan Hagen's presentation "General History of American Ornamental Home and Public Garden Conventions with special focus on Southern Traditions" for her Advanced Master Gardener certification.

Maria says she received some wonderful help with the Hydrangea Fest on June 4th. Leslie Bingham, Carla and John McCune, Don Hoover, Deborah Kelso, Judy May, Ricky and Mary Ann Hatcher, Cheryl Fitzgerald and Sheila Pearson helped set up and work the Hydrangea Fest. It was a great success and she appreciates the help.

During the month, Leslie Bingham, Don Hoover, Carla McCune and intern Norma Busby helped maintain the Lanark gardens. The weather is pretty steaming but we still managed to get a lot done and leave in time. Maria thanks all for their hard work.

On June 29th a group of volunteers met to practice making terrariums in preparation for doing them at the Senior Center in Wetumpka in July. It was a lot of fun and these talented ladies produced some beautiful creations that they took home. Those participating were Rhonda Miles, Sheila Radford, Rhona Watson, Anne Carr, Robin Snyder, Michelle Sharpton, Lynda Edwards, Kelly Lafreniere, Terry Chambliss, Connie Willis, Iva Haynie and Sandy Rosamond. Jane Mobley led the class.





Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

Hey to all. I haven't written an article in a couple of months. So there are a few things to let you know about how the garden grows.

PLANTS FOR SALE

First, we are nurturing plants left over from our May plant sale. I've been offering them for sale via Facebook Market Place and have so far earned a little over \$100. But it occurred to me that our members might still like some of these gems. Particularly if you were not able to make it to the sale. We have herbs: Yarrow (1), Chocolate mint (1), Lemon Grass (1), Marjoram (5), Rosemary (1), Passionflower (1). And some shrubs: Dwarf Yaupon Holly (1), Maple Leafed Viburnum (1), Winter Jasmine (4). Perennials include: Forsythia Sage (2), Turks Cap (2), Solidago Fireworks, Rose Campion (4). And some great groundcovers for shady spots: Anemone or Wind Flower (7), Japanese Ardesia (11), Arborvitae Fern (8), Variegated Acorus (10), Lamium (4), Pachysandra (4), Violets (5). If you'd like to come shop, please stop by any Thursday morning from 7ish to it "gets too hot". Those are our normal summer volunteer hours.



BLACKBERRIES

If you came to the plant sale, you may have noticed the wild blackberries growing on the fence across from the Learning Gardens. These have produced excellent, but very small fruits. I've taken home about four cups, popped them in the freezer, and plan to make blackberry syrup. There are still ripe and unripe fruit on the vines, but our hot weather is resulting in even smaller and less sweet fruit.

Our dilemma with these self-planted wild blackberry plants is that they may carry a disease that affects the domestic cultivars we have growing on the blackberry trellis. And even if we eliminate the one growing on the fence, and infection reservoir may still exist in the nearby fields.

Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW VEGGIES

We planted **Burdock** for the first time this year and it seems to like our Alabama climate. Although the leaves are edible, the most commonly eaten part is the root. Burdock is biennial which means it's full life cycle is two years. However, unless you want to let it go to seed you will normally harvest it the first fall or spring after planting. You cook it like you would carrots, but for longer as it is tougher. Burdock root is a healthy choice as it is low in calories, high in dietary fiber and also rich in potassium, calcium, magnesium and antioxidants. It has also been widely used by herbalists for medicinal purposes although there is not any scientific support for these uses. Yet.



Another first time plant for the Learning Garden was **Chijimisai**. In the spring, I often cut a bunch of this, took it home, and sautéed the leaves in olive oil with a little onion. It was delicious. The Chijimisai would obligingly put on new growth each time I cut some. It was said to be a spinach-like veggie that would handle the heat longer than spinach. I think that was shown to be true. Thanks to Deb Kelso for planting the seeds.

Not a new plant, but I gotta mention the **Bronze Fennel** flowering in the herb bed right now. We grow it because the pollinators like it and it is a prime host plant for the Swallow Tail Butterfly. In past years, the caterpillars would pretty much eat this large plant to nubs. No worries, it keeps coming back. You can also add the leaves to your salad for an interesting anise flavor kick or chop the stems to add to stocks.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



GARLIC.

Our garlic bed was a success this year with both soft and hard neck varieties planted. Thanks to Terry Chambliss for donating the starter cloves. The best time to plant garlic in our area is October or November so the bulbs get enough chill time before harvesting in May or June.

Virginia Pruitt, Bill Quails, Rhona Watson and Debbie Kelso did the honors come harvest time.



After harvesting, you can refrigerate and eat them immediately, or for longer storage you would hang them up to dry. This might take a month or longer in our humid climate. You can hang them in a dry location outside or inside. I have some keeping my CRV company in my garage. Once fully dry, your garlic will keep for nine months without refrigeration.

Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

POTATOES.



The potatoes did even better than the garlic this year. Thanks to Virginia for bringing the seed potatoes. The recommended time to plant potatoes in Alabama according to ACES is February, but our best recollection is that we planted in March. By late May, the vines are starting to die back, indicating it is time to dig the potatoes. And the first week in June we pulled them up. That turned out to be a super easy job--pulling the potatoes from the loose, rich soil of the raised beds. Bill Quailes seemed to enjoy the process. And we ended up with a wagon load. Some went home with Master Gardeners, some went to our allies in the Extension Office, and some went over to the Elmore Food Bank.

BRASSICAS

Collards, Kale, Mustards, Brussels Sprouts grow best when it is not too hot. For us, that means plant in the early fall and harvest in the spring. These plants take some frost, but if we have a hard winter, it is possible to lose the crop. This year we grew everything except Mustards.

My favorite turned out to be the Brussels Sprouts--not the mini-cabbage head looking things that grow like little alien pods on the stem. Although those were good. It turns out that the top growth on the plant is tender and delicious. It looked good to eat, so I checked it out on Google who opined that Brussels Sprout leaves are good to eat. I took some home, introduced them to a hot pan and some olive oil. Recommendation: Very good--the tender top leaves of a Brussels Sprout plant are tasty! Who knew?



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

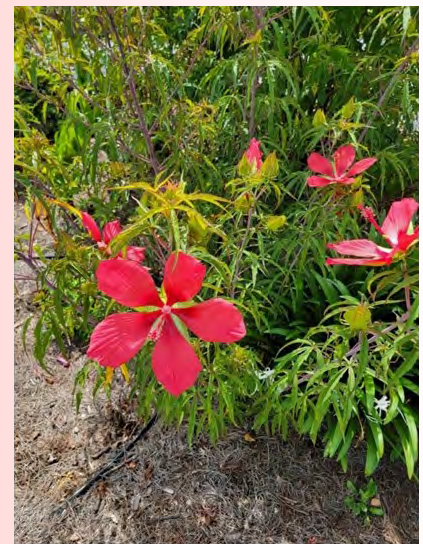
The curly kale was the most fun plant to grow. Some of it, we harvested a little at a time which gives you the tuft on a stem look. Some of it, we let grow which gives you the Cousin It look. For those of us old enough to remember the Addams Family. Most of the brassica bed has now been harvested and is being allowed to rest while waiting for fall plants, but the two Curly Kale at the end of the bed that were not continually cut, are still going strong. An application of diatomaceous earth chased the squash bugs away when we started getting tattered leaves and right now it is looking good. So we will keep it going as long as we can, just to see. I think I'll try this as a decorative plant in my front yard next year. Terry Chambliss and Mary McCroan provided the Brassica starts.



HIBISCUS in the RAIN GARDEN.

The rain garden is currently decorated with blooms from three different hibiscus. The Texas Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) has been there for years and was originally planted by Linda Griebel. Although not actually a Texas native, this plant is native to the Southeastern United States. This is one of several moisture loving hibiscus known as swamp hibiscus or swamp mallow.

Another variety of swamp hibiscus planted itself in our garden a couple of years ago. This is the Crimson eyed mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*). This plant has a much wider native range and is found as far north as Canada. I have seen it (or it's very close cousin) on the banks of the Coosa while kayaking. This is a beautiful plant that is getting bigger every year.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



And our last hibiscus, planted just this year by Terry Chambliss, is the Turks Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*). It is growing well and liking the full sun and damp soil of the rain garden. However, I also have it growing at my house in a very well drained, dry area above a wall and in dappled shade. It will have fewer flowers in the shade garden, but they are enough to brighten a shady area. I've included a picture of this plant from my garden because it is in bloom. We have two of the Turks Cap for sale. I recommend it!

We have been experimenting with plants for the rain garden for a number of years. Canna Lilies and the Umbrella/Papyrus Plant were too aggressive. Irises were both aggressive and messy looking most of the year. We're pretty happy with the current mix that showcases these perennial hibiscus.

That's it for this month. I'll save stories about the mystery squash and hops experiment for next time.

Mary McCroan — 334-312-0679.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

July 2022 Featured CAMGA Member: Jane Mobley



Hello, I'm Jane Mobley, the Historian/
Photographer for CAMGA .

I am a retired teacher from BTW Magnet
High School where I taught Anatomy and
Physiology and Environmental Science and
Biology.

I have three sons, six grandchildren, and one
great grand and two cats.

My home town is Montgomery.

My hobbies include gardening — of course, wire wrapped jewelry making—
taught that at William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in North Carolina, and I
love to study herbs.

I took the Master Gardener Course because I never got over playing in the dirt!

My favorite garden interest depends on when you ask...I love herbs and pruning
(although you wouldn't know that from looking at my yard right now), grafting
Japanese maples, crazy about camellias, trying to be more successful with veg-
gies, and I haven't met many plants that I don't like.

Other than gardening I enjoy making jewelry, reading mystery books and thrill-
ers and studying Bible prophecy.

Something that many don't know about me is, I love the "blues".

Upcoming Workshop

"More" about Tomatoes

Advanced Tomato Workshop



Hosted by the
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Thursday, July 14th 2022

Jemison Municipal Complex
14 Padgett Lane, Jemison, AL

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Topics to be discussed:

- What is a Hybrid? • Grating Tomato Demonstration • Hands on Identifying Tomato Diseases & Disorders with Control Recommendation • Tomato Taste Testing and "More"

***BLT's along with other creative tomato dishes provided for lunch by Alabama Master Gardeners!**

***Bring a Fresh Sample of any Insect, Disease or Problem & (3-4) Tomato Fruits from a Known Name Variety for the Taste Testing.**



To sign-up or for more information, contact the Chilton County Extension office at (205) 280-6268. Cost is \$15 per person.

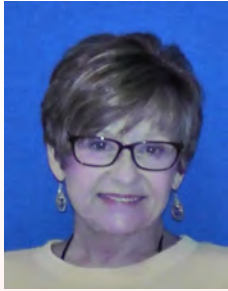
Pre-Registration and Payment is required by July 12th.

To Register please visit the link below:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/AdvTomatoWorkshop>

If you have a smartphone, go to the camera app and open as if to take a picture. Hover over the QR Code below and the link will appear to direct you to registration/payment link:





Projects Update

By: Sandy Rosamond

At the Projects Meeting on June 14th, we realized that we needed to change the date for making Christmas Ornaments. We changed the date to November 9th to give us enough time to collect dry natural elements used to make the ornaments.

Save The Dates!

July 15 - Senior Project — (9AM----12pm)

September 23 - Make and Take — (10AM----12PM)

October 25 - Plant Swap Propagation — (10AM ---12PM)

November 8th - Sachet Workshop Combined with Meeting
(9AM--11AM)

November 9 - Christmas Ornaments - 10AM---12PM and (1PM--3PM)

JULY 2022



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Happy Fourth of July!! 	5	6 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	7 Learning Gardens — Extension Office, 7—10 a.m.	8	9
10	11 Governor's Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	12 Projects Meeting, Extension Office 9:30-11 a.m. Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.	13 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	14 Learning Gardens — Extension Office, 7—10 a.m.	15 Senior Terrarium Project, 9 a.m. — 12 noon, Senior Center of Wetumpka, Cedarwood Community Church, 10286 US-231, Wetumpka	16 Wetumpka Elementary School work day
17 CAMGA Zoom Meeting 3 p.m.	18 Governor's Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	19 CAMGA Monthly Meet- ing 10 a.m. First Presbye- rian Church, Wetumpka	20 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	21 Learning Gardens — Extension Office, 7—10 a.m.	22	23
24	25 Governor's Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	26	27 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	28 Learning Gardens — Extension Office, 7—10 a.m. Master Garden Helpline 9—1 a.m. Elmore Co. Extension Office	29 <i>Intern Class Application Deadline!</i>	30
31						

