



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 31 Issue 8 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



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Message from Lynda
Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President

Each time I travel lately I seem to have unexpected issues. This trip to Indianapolis was no different. We had a wonderful Convention but unfortunately, I spent Wednesday through Sunday quarantined in my hotel room after testing positive for Covid.

I feel certain that I was exposed on the airplane on the flight going there. Don't worry, Covid doesn't last very long and if one has been vaccinated, the symptoms are very mild. I only experienced discomfort one day.

Our meeting on August 16, 2022 will be brief as we celebrate our Intern Graduation. I hope all of you plan to be there. Also, it will be a time that I appoint a nominating committee. Be receptive if you receive a call to serve.

Lynda

Lynda Edwards
CAMGA President



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
 Carol Pugh — Editor



Message from Mallory

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

Brown Patch in your Lawn

Brown patch is a serious disease on home lawns across Alabama and it seems to be very common right now, especially in our urban landscapes. If you are in an area getting the feast of afternoon showers you could be seeing brown patch starting in your lawn.

Brown patch outbreaks occur on St. Augustine grass, zoysia, centipede and tall fescue, but can also be found on Bermuda. This fungal disease is almost always tied to excessive or late use of nitrogen along with several days of cloudy wet weather (especially afternoon showers) and high humidity.

Any lawn can be subject to brown patch damaged when hot, wet summer weather is occurring. In the Gulf Coast counties, brown patch often appears during warm spells anytime from late fall to early spring. Further north, this disease is usually seen just before the first frosts in the fall and shortly after green-up in the spring.

Brown patch first appears as small brown areas a few inches in diameter. These patches quickly increase in size and merge together, forming large patches of damaged turf. On St. Augustine, these patches may reach 20 feet in diameter. Damage is often worse on shaded lawns.

Good management often helps prevent outbreaks of brown patch. Never water your lawn in the late afternoon. This water remains on the blades of grass throughout the night giving the fungi lots of time to multiply and grow into a problem. Watering first thing in the morning is best so the sun is able to dry up the water on the blades very quickly. Also apply low rates of nitrogen fertilizers monthly through the growing season. Avoid fertilizing St. Augustine grass, zoysia grass and centipede grass with high rates of nitrogen shortly after spring green-up and do not apply high rates of nitrogen to tall fescue in the summer.

To speed evaporation of dew, prune trees and shrubs to increase sunlight penetration and increase air circulation. In addition, dethatch your lawn to prevent the buildup of thatch if needed, but if you are mowing your lawn on a regular basis there should never be a thatch problem.

Preventative fungicide of home lawns is usually unnecessary. Routine applications should only be considered on lawns damaged by brown patch year after year. Otherwise, spot-treat damaged areas after symptoms are first seen. Make several fungicide applications with Immunox or Banner Maxx to those areas every 7 to 10 days to prevent further spread of the disease.

For more information on brown patch and its control or if you have other gardening related questions, call the Master Gardener helpline or go to the link below and fill out the HELP REQUEST FORM and the Master Gardeners will contact you.

[Help Request \(acesagmg.site\)](https://acesagmg.site)



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

Kelly introduced July's speaker, Deborah Kelso. Deborah is an RN and a lifetime member of CAMGA. She graduated in the intern class of 2013. Deborah's been working with herbs and oils for over 30 years. Cold-pressed organic oils are the best quality to work with. Avoid the accidental introduction of water while blending oils and herbs. The results would be ruinous. Almond, apricot, and grape seed oils are especially good for facial care products. Olive oil tends to be too heavy and can block pores. To make a solar fusion chose a glass jar with a lid, fill it with the selected herbs up to the shoulder of the jar, add the preferred carrier oil, put the lid on, label the vessel, and set it in a sunny spot for 2-5 weeks. Check the jar often for it may be necessary to add more oil. Deborah demonstrated making various salves, bars, and other methods of using the herbs so many people already have growing around their homes. Deborah's presentation ended at 11:00 a.m.

Twenty-six members attended the July meeting at the church. Five people attended via zoom. President Lynda called the meeting to order at 11:20. Health concerns made known were that Carol Rattan continues to have respiratory issues, and that Lynda Edwards will be traveling to Birmingham soon for a re-adjustment of her cochlear implant. Please pray for healing and for traveling mercies for all who are in need.

Janice Jackson announced that CAMGA's portion of the proceeds from the AMGA 2022 convention is \$10,354.30. Lynda will be appointing members to a committee to study the best uses for this money.

A nominating committee will be formed in August to fill 2023 board positions as needed. This slate of officers will then be presented at the October CAMGA meeting.

Kelly reminded members that the August business meeting will be very brief. The interns' graduation ceremony and the subsequent potluck meal will begin at 10:15.

Sheila moved that the reading of last month's minutes be dispensed with. They are available for all members to read in The Garden Buzz. Sandy Rosamond seconded the motion.

Sherri presented the CAMGA Financial Reports for May 17-June 20, 2022 and June 21-July 18, 2022 as well as the preliminary Plant Sale Report as of July 18, 2022.

MAY 17—JUNE 20, 2022

Beginning balance	\$12,609.36
Income	117.00
Expenses	0.00
Ending balance on 6-20-2022	\$12,726.36

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

July 2022

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

JUNE 21 -- JULY 18, 2022

Beginning balance	\$ 12,726.36
Income	0.00
Expenses	- 793.14
Ending balance on July 18, 2022	\$ 11,933.22



2022 Preliminary Plant Sale Report

Income from cash and checks	\$ 3,510.75
Income from card sales	2,007.50
Total	\$ 5,518.25
 Minus Total Expenses	 - \$ 981.52
 Net Income	 \$ 4,536.73

There is still an outstanding check payable to the American Diabetes Foundation from 2021. This should actually have been sent to the American Diabetes Association. There are reimbursement forms available for any member's use.

Robin announced that the first meeting of the new intern class is August 11th. There are eleven interns from Autauga county and one from Elmore county.

Team leaders from the plant sale plan to meet and exchange ideas for next year's event.

CAMGA members will receive an e-mail request to sign up to bring food for the pot luck meal on the 16th. Robin will provide a main dish for this event. ACMGA members have been invited to attend. Volunteers will be needed on Monday, August 15th, to set up at the church for the program and the meal. Additionally, there will be opportunities to aid with serving the food.

Sandy updated members regarding the annual Make & Take project. It will be held Friday, Sept. 23rd at the extension from 10-12. The cost is \$10.00. This year's project is a 8" tall plant stand/stool to be made using pre-cut wood. There is a sign up sheet available for this event.

Mary informed the group that there are still a good variety of plants available for purchase at the learning gardens. Tours of the learning gardens for people that haven't yet become master gardeners can be set up through contacting Mary.

Old Business : None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

*Respectively submitted by,
Sheila Radford, Secretary*



CAMGA Library News

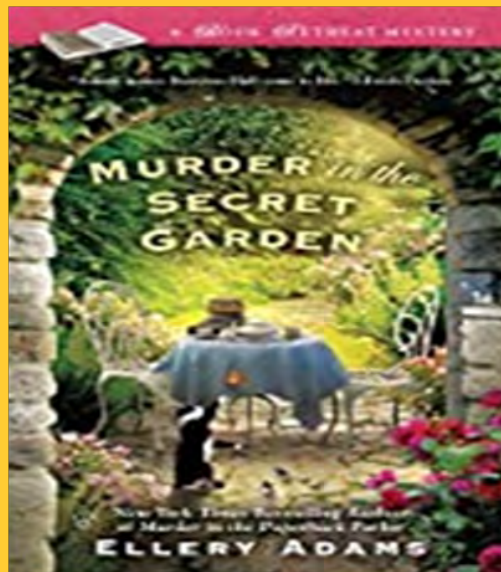
August 2022

By: Dee Turberville

Murder in the Secret Garden

By Ellery Adams

Third in the series of the cozy Book Retreat mysteries, Ellery Adams' clever novel reminds me of one of my favorite childhood stories, *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There is a hidden garden bordering the grounds of Jane Steward's book-themed resort, Storyton Hall. The garden is filled with beautiful but deadly plants such as mandrake and nightshade. Tucked away behind ivy-covered walls and accessible only through a single locked door, the garden is of special interest to Jane's current group of guests, The Medieval Herbalists, and a unique wedding party. Jane is also the caretaker of a hidden library, one that holds treasures unknown to the public, like Shakespeare's missing play, and an unknown copy of the Gutenberg Bible. Jane and her staff are part of an ancient secret society tasked with caring for, saving and preserving these rare books. She discovers that one of the herbalists may be plotting to steal a rare book on herbs, PLUS, one of the herbalists' bodies is found floating down the river!



Jane is raising two boys, Hemi and Fitz, who are fun characters in the story while her boyfriend, Edmund, is a puzzling and odd addition or backstory romance. He appears to be a thief called The Templar. Is he kind of a good guy or kind of a bad dude? The Finns, staff members at Storyton, unbeknown to the guests, also act as investigators. They “work” with the authorities, yet, they have their own way of solving the murder. Jane Steward is a likable and intrepid heroine. She has a lot on her plate in finding a killer who used her garden to commit murder. Mix together a garden of poisonous plants, a local druid with a past, wedding members with secrets, and herbalists with devious plots and you get a tangled web of lies, deceit, revenge and murder. If you like “bookish” cozy mysteries with a garden theme, then this novel is for you. This bibliophile thinks it makes a great summer read.



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



We took the 4th of July off, then took the 11th off due to COVID, doctors appointments, surgery, rehab, and travel. When we got back to work on the 18th and 25th we weeded, trimmed, and watered out Serenity Garden transplants.

We're still waiting for Debbie O'Brien to recover from her car accident and rejoin us.



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

For July 2022

By: Amanda Borden



This little frog was enjoying hanging out on the horsetail!



SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

For July 2022

By: Judy May



Members who brought refreshments to the July meeting were: Lee Ann Marona, Dee Turberville, Judy May, Bonnie McCormick, Connie Willis and Iva Haynie.

MaryAnn Hatcher worked the Helpline by herself again this month.

On July 15th a group of Master Gardeners met at the Senior Center in Wetumpka to make terrariums. The seniors were delighted with their creations, thanking us many times and hoping we will come back for more projects in the future, Those assisting were Iva Haynie, Rhonda Miles, Sheila Radford, Robin Snyder, Rhona Watson, Connie Willis, Anne Carr, Terry Chambliss, Lynda Edwards, Kelly LaFreniere and Sandy Rosamond.

Jane Mobley taught the class and provided written instructions on the process and maintenance. Thanks to all of you who donated jars. The Master Gardeners collected materials including sticks, drift wood, for different kinds of moss, mushrooms etc. and with the donated jars, made this a very low cost project. Well done, Ladies.

Members who volunteered at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Jeari Ellis, Ann Hamill, Jane McCarthy, Cheryl McKiernan, Darwin Prewitt, Robin Snyder and Kathy Quinn.





July 2022 Learning Garden

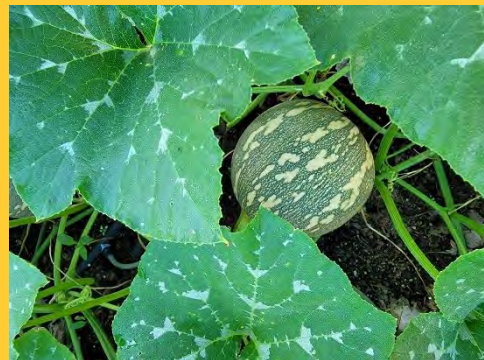
By: Mary McCroan

The Learning Garden continues to be both educational and entertaining. Not to mention a great way to spend a few hours each week with compatible souls.

One of our new plants this year is Hops. Hops are actually the flower of *Humulus lupulus* which is one of two members of the Cannabaceae family. One guess for what the other member is. There are only a few varieties of hops that may do well in our area. The main challenge is our latitude--*Humulus lupulus* (say that three times fast) needs really long days to flower. So far our hops is growing well. I'd read it can enjoy a little shade in the south, so it was planted under the shade cloth with the bines trained to grow both outside and inside the shady area. It remains to be seen if we will get the actual flowers. Only female plants are grown for plants, with no pollination needed since the part we use is the flower and not the seed or fruit



We had a volunteer squash sprout last spring that we decided to let grow. It turns out to be a variety of winter squash that is pretty tasty. I tossed it with a little olive oil, salt and pepper and roasted it at 400 degrees. Happy harvesters include Deb, Candy, Terry and Virginia.



July Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



The No Dig concept of gardening has inspired the addition of cardboard to some of our beds. Cardboard is a bit controversial with differing opinions as to the possible leaching of chemicals from the manufacturing process into garden soils. This article was a pretty good discussion of the risks with using cardboard or paper in composting or the garden: <https://www.gardenmyths.com/safe-compost-paper-cardboard/>. In addition, I found several articles from university sources (.edu) recommending sheet mulching or composting with cardboard. What I can tell you for sure, is that it kills the weeds and stops them from sprouting so it is a big time saver. I can also tell you that the fire ants seems to think it is a great place to hide a nest. I am thinking that when it comes time for fall planting, we may just cut or drill holes in the cardboard for the new plants.

We got a load of wood chips donated by Jacob from Trees, Etc. He has cut down a few trees in my yard, and I took advantage of that professional relationship to see if he could bring us some wood chips next time he was cutting in Wetumpka.



It turns out that he was working at Jane Mobley's house a few weeks later and we got Jane's chips. Thanks Jane!

And thanks to Trees, Etc. Adding a layer of chips to our cardboard beds will be attractive, but will also be part of the web of life that feeds our veggies as both the cardboard and the wood chips decompose over time.

And of course we will use chips to mulch beds without cardboard because it reduces weeds, makes the weeds easier to pull and feeds the soil.



Some people worry that wood chips will leach nitrogen out of the soil. However, there are several university based studies that show nitrogen levels stay higher in beds where wood chips are used.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

August 2022 Featured Member: *Michelle Gentry*

Hello my name is Michelle Gentry. I am a Master Gardener Intern and will be graduating from the Master Gardener program this month, August 16th.

I took the Master Gardener class to meet people who have a passion for gardening and the beauty of nature. My favorite garden interest is ornamentals and houseplants.

I graduated from Troy University in 1996, and worked as a Registered Nurse for around ten years.

My home town is Montgomery, where my parents, brother, sister, niece and nephew also live.

My son lives in Madison, Wisconsin and attends the University of Wisconsin.

I enjoy gardening and nature; listening to music; watching movies and anything garden related; reading, cooking, traveling and thrifting.

One thing that you may not know about me is, I use to play the drums.

Wetumpka Senior Center Terrarium Project

Pictures from the Senior Terrarium Project that we did on July 15th at the Wetumpka Senior Center. It was a blast! (Pictures submitted by Jane Mobley).





In Deepest Sympathy

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Becky Brown, fellow Master Gardener who passed July 23, 2022.

Becky was a member of the 2006 Master Gardener Class. She was an active Master Gardener in CAMGA participating in gardening projects and helping others in the community.

Becky was an integral part in the recruiting, preparing and assisting in the many duties to help facilitate Master Gardener Intern Classes held at the Elmore County Extension Office for many years. Becky will be deeply missed.

CAMGA & ACMGA INTERN GRADUATION LUNCHEON

We are excited to announce the upcoming combined CAMGA & ACMGA Intern Graduation and Luncheon which we are hosting on Tuesday, August 16 (normal monthly meeting date) at First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka. Everyone is invited to join us in welcoming and celebrating the newest members of our Master Gardener family!

Two more emails will follow in the coming days. Please watch your inbox for these two messages. One email will be a request for an RSVP for you and your guests. The other email will be a food sign-up sheet for members only. Robin will provide a main dish and members are requested to provide sides. Interns do not need to bring food!

Please see details and official invitation by clicking on the link below.

*Thank you,
Robin and Lee Ann
CAMGA Intern Class Facilitators*

Please see details at the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yI5xM6K7mOj02kQMB2WOBf1ToiqgM8ZG/view>

August 2022



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

Governor's
Mansion Gardens
8-11 a.m.

*2**3*

Lanark Gardens
8-11 a.m.

4

Learning
Gardens, Extension
Office 7-10 a.m.

*5**6**7**8*

Governor's
Mansion Gardens
8-11 a.m.

9

Projects
Committee Meeting
9:30-11 a.m. Extension
Auditorium

Lunch & Learn
12-1 p.m. First
Presbyterian
Church, Wetumpka

10

Lanark Gardens
8-11 a.m.

11

Learning
Gardens, Extension
Office 7-10 a.m.

*12**13**14*

CAMGA
Board Zoom meeting, 3 p.m.

15

Governor's
Mansion Gardens
8-11 a.m.

16

CAMGA
Monthly Meeting
& Intern
Graduation First
Presbyterian
Church,
Wetumpka 10 a.m.

17

Lanark Gardens
8-11 a.m.

18

Learning
Gardens, Extension
Office 7-10 a.m.

*19**20**21**22*

Governor's
Mansion Gardens
8-11 a.m.

*23**24*

Lanark Gardens
8-11 a.m.

25

Learning
Gardens, Extension
Office 7-10 a.m.

*26**27**28**29*

Governor's
Mansion Gardens
8-11 a.m.

*30**31*

Lanark Gardens
8-11 a.m.