



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 31 Issue 12 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## *Hello December 2022*



### **Message from Lynda**

*Lynda Edwards, President  
CAMGA President*

**Happy Holidays!!** I sincerely hope you had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and plan to attend CAMGA'S Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian

Church. If you haven't signed up, please contact Robin Snyder immediately. Robin is CAMGA'S hostess and has planned not only a great luncheon with your contributions of food but also a good program as well. We will be installing our new officers for the 2023 year at the Christmas event and conducting a very short business meeting. It is exciting to hear that some of our past members will be in attendance and I look forward to seeing all of you.

It has been both a joy and a challenge these past two years to serve as your president. I hate that Covid ruined many of our plans in 2021 and we were forced to find venues outside and in other places that would provide the social distancing that was needed at that time.

I am most proud that we adopted our first Budget in 2021 and updated our 10-year-old Bylaws. We adapted, we survived. We won't ever forget living through a pandemic and sharing these experiences down through the ages. Hopefully we will never see another pandemic in our lifetime.

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**CAMGA Garden Buzzzz**  
Carol Pugh — Editor

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

I wanted to highlight some of your achievements this year. Our Projects Chairs Terry Chambliss and Sandy Rosamond have been very busy all year and gave us opportunities to:

Decorate a float and enter Wetumpka Mardi Gras Parade - February  
Organize Lanark Work Day—with Maria Pacheco  
Learning Garden Work Day— Weekly directed by Mary McCroan  
Governor's Mansion Work Day— Weekly directed by Jane McCarthy  
Wetumpka Community Market – Months of April - November  
Propagation Workshop—By Jane Mobley and Rhona Watson  
Rose Pruning and Fertilization at First Presbyterian Church  
Earth Day— April  
Craft Workshops for the Plant Sale  
Make & Take Project - September  
Plant Swap – October  
Oktoberfest  
Scarecrow Contest  
Senior Project – Teaching Terrarium making at the Senior Center  
Sachet Bag Workshop  
Dickens Christmas – December

CAMGA co-hosted the AMGA Conference in Montgomery with CCMGA and it was a huge undertaking. Thanks to members Candace Jones and Sandy Rosamond who represented CAMGA and Janice Jackson and Margaret Cully, representing CCMGA and the many members who took important positions that resulted in a nice profit for our treasury.

Robin Snyder chaired our biggest Plant Sale in CAMGA history, thanks to all CAMGA members who made this possible. It was a huge success and the first time Vendors were invited. Thanks to Sherri Davidson, Treasurer, for being instrumental in getting “Square” for CAMGA’s first use for the Plant Sale. This allowed buyers to make purchases with their credit card that resulted in more money spent. The Square has also been an asset for payment of dues for 2023.

Thanks to Mary McCroan, Learning Gardens Chair for obtaining a \$2,500 grant to update CAMGA’s Learning Gardens.

Thanks to the CAMGA faithful Board who all performed their task extremely well this year and attended Zoom meetings every month prior to the monthly meetings. This was a great advantage for me and I am forever grateful. It was a pleasure working with such professional volunteers.

I leave you in good hands with the new officers. Give them your support.

***Merry Christmas!***  
***Lynda Edwards***  
***CAMGA President 2021-2022***

***P.S. As I prepared the above message after midnight on Wednesday, the River Region area was under a Tornado Watch. I did not learn until Thursday evening that CAMGA member Jane Mobley’s home received a direct hit some three hours later. Please see notification sent earlier and pictures on her Facebook page.***



## Message from Mallory

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

### Growing Camellias

Did you know that the camellia is the state flower of Alabama? I find this most fitting as we can grow this evergreen flowering shrub quite easily and there are varieties that bloom 3 out of the 4 seasons (except summer) in our Alabama climate. Not only are they easy to grow in Alabama, but did you know that the sweet tea we southerners love to drink comes from the camellia genus, a relative of the camellias we have growing in our landscapes.



Each year you may notice there are more and more varieties of flower forms, new hybrids, seedlings, and hardier species. Even though we can have camellias flowering in Alabama September through March, not every variety of Camellia is suitable to our climate (Zone 7-8) in central Alabama so do your research on varieties before purchasing.

Some camellias can be grown in full sun, although most grow and produce better flowers in partial shade where the blooms and foliage are protected from sunburn. A site under pine trees is ideal as they provide filtered light year-round for growth, winter protection and natural mulch from the pine needles. Camellias do best in soils that are acid (pH 5.0 to 6.5) and do poorly in alkaline conditions (pH above 7.0). Camellias require only light pruning, if any, to remove dead wood and to thin inside limbs to increase air movement.

The best time to prune is after blooming and before new flower and vegetative buds form. As for problems on camellias, the most common is flower blight (also called petal blight) and tea scale. The flower blight is caused by a fungus that infects only the flower tissue of camellias and does not spread from flower to flower. It is characterized by brown spots on the petals that spread rapidly to engulf the whole bloom. Infected blooms fall to the ground where the fungus will overwinter until the following year. This fungus can lie dormant in the soil up to 4 years.

When warm and humid conditions occur, small, dime-sized, brownish-gray mushrooms form and produce the fungal spores that will infect the blooms. A community effort is needed to collect these mushrooms as the spores can be carried by wind for half a mile or more. It is prevalent and most active in humid areas when the temperatures range between 45 degrees F and 70 degrees F when the camellias are in bloom.

Tea Scale insects are the most significant pests of camellias. They pierce the leaves and twigs and suck out the plant juices. This stunts and weakens the camellia and hurts the appearance of the foliage. Yellow splotches appear on the upper side of the leaves, while the underside is covered with a cottony mass. For control of scales you can use Horticultural oil sprays which should be reapplied often and must make direct contact with the scales or you can use systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid which is an insecticide drench that is taken up by the roots and ingested when the scales feed on the leaves.

If you live in Alabama and do not already have a camellia growing in your yard, I encourage you to add one to your landscape. They can add beautiful color almost any time of the year.

**CAMGA Minutes**  
**November 15, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka**  
**By: Sheila Radford, Secretary**



Kelly introduced the featured speaker Don Armstrong, a retired USAF Colonel with a background in architecture. He has been a Master Gardener in the Autauga Association since 2016. Don gave a very interesting program entitled "Landscape Design and Yard Design" with some very useful handouts.

First of all: Think about what you want. Let your yard talk to you. Secondly, each county's court house has plats of exactly where property lines are. Use graph paper to draw up your plans. For an overall site plan use a scale of 1" = 10 ft or 2" = 20 ft. For individual garden bed plans use a scale of 1/4" = 1 ft. Utilize the garden hose to make an outline for individual plant beds.

Don recommended the book "The Southern Gardener's Book of Lists: The Best Plants for All Your Needs, Wants, and Whims" by Lois Trigg Chaplin.

Don is willing to schedule consultations and advise anyone interested in designing or redesigning their yard, but he does not do manual labor. He can be reached at 334-361-0273. Tours of his home garden are available upon request. He also donated a great many rooted cuttings of night blooming cereus to be given out as door prizes during the meeting.

Lynda Edwards called the meeting to order at 11:26 a.m. Thirty members signed the attendance sheet. Member Concerns: Mallory Kelley's Grandmother and Sheila Radford's Mother both passed away since CAMGA's last meeting. Katherine Whaley a Master Gardener with Autauga County also died recently. Prayers for these families are needed. Dee Turberville and Lois Pribulick are both having surgery and desire continued prayer for complete healing.

New Officers for 2023 were nominated by Cheryl Fitzgerald, Chair of the Nominating Committee. They are:

**Kelly LaFreniere- President**  
**Sheila Radford- Secretary**

**Sandy Rosamond- Vice President**  
**Sherri Davidson- Treasurer**

Since there were no nominations from the floor for any positions, Jane Mobley made the motion to accept these nominations as presented. It was seconded by Bonnie McCormick and approved by the membership with no objections.

An E-motion was made to Board members by Robin to approve Linda Cater and Anne Carr as the audit committee for the 2022 CAMGA finances. This was seconded by Sherri Davidson and accepted by the board members.

Lynda addressed the meeting and enumerated many significant events that have happened this past year. Lee Ann Marona, Awards Chair: Spoke about the awards program and the need for a new volunteer for the coming year. Michelle Sharpton volunteered to work with Lee Ann and take over these duties when Lee Ann moves.

Sheila Radford, Secretary: Made a motion to dispense with reading last month's minutes. They are available in the Garden Buzz. This motion was seconded by Betty Plaster and approved by the membership.

## CAMGA November 2022 Minutes Continued

### By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

Sherri Davidson, Treasurer: Spoke about the survey results. The most interest was shown to be in community gardens and in handicap accessible learning gardens. The second most interest was in expanding the existing Learning Gardens. The program Grow More, Give More came in third. It is significant to note that only 29% of the CAMGA members filled out and returned this survey. In order to do any activities CAMGA needs consistent, dedicated workers.

#### Treasurer's Report Oct 18-Nov 14 2022 by Sherri Davidson

Beginning Balance	\$22,545.95
Total Income	1,098.00
Total Expenses	-103.79

<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$23,664.16</b>
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The November Financial report will be filed for audit.

Robin Snyder, Hostess: Will be sending sign-up emails asking for assistance setting up for the Christmas Party, serving food, preparing food, and clean up. There will also be an email for attendance and how many guest members are bringing.

Betty Plaster and Sheila Radford have agreed to co-chair hospitality with Robin next year. Cheryl Fitzgerald will co-chair with Robin the intern program. There will be a plant sale committee meeting in January immediately following the CAMGA meeting on the 17th.

Jane Mobley will Co-chair the Lunch & Learn program for 2023. She would like to have members start signing up to bring light refreshments to these classes throughout the year.

Sandy Rosamond, Projects Chair: Is excited about the Dickens Christmas event in downtown Wetumpka on Friday Dec 2nd and Saturday Dec 3rd from 5-8 pm. Master Gardener volunteers will be handing out herbal sachets and CAMGA information.

Mary McCroan, Learning Gardens Chair: Brought some hops, daikon radishes, and swiss chard grown in the Learning Gardens. Hops usually grow best in the north and north eastern states. They make a very relaxing tea taken at bedtime. Use one flower per cup of hot water. Daikon radishes are very tasty and make a very satisfying dish sauteed with onion, swiss chard stems, and the chard leaves.

Mary noted that the Learning Gardens actually see a lot of activity that most people aren't aware of. The Extension regularly brings groups of children to experience the gardens as well as receiving numerous visitors during plant sales. Apparently there have been questions raised involving the grant that was received. Katrina with ACES really stepped up to expedite this grant. It was awarded specifically for use improving the Learning Gardens. The monies go back to Auburn if not used for this purpose. The timeline to utilize this funding is approximately one year.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Sheila Radford, Secretary*



## **Projects Meeting Minutes/Sachet Workshop November 8, 2022 By: Terry Chambliss**



Those present were Sandy Rosamond, Iva Haynie, Dee Turberville, Michelle Sharpton, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Jane Mobley, Connie Willis, Darlene Dixon, Kelly Lafreniere, Sandy Mikashus, and Terry Chambliss.

Sandy shared that scheduling future workshops on some weekends will allow those that work an opportunity to participate. The last workshop on a Sunday afternoon was well attended.

Sandy reported there are a lot volunteers signed up for the ornament workshop scheduled on November 9th.

Past projects were discussed. Sandy would like our next scarecrow to be made out of plastic flower pots. She already has the pattern.

Darlene Dixon suggested we promote intern participation more at the plant swap and to exclude the interns from bringing a plant. She said some interns may not have plants to swap or may feel intimidated about bringing plants to share with seasoned master gardeners.

Sherry Davidson volunteered to make some labels advertising the plant sale for the back of the cards attached to the sachet bags to be given out at the Dickens Christmas event. Terry will contact her about that.

There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for the Dickens Christmas event on December 2nd and 3rd.

The sachet bags were stuffed and carded during the meeting. Jane will order some more lavender for the left over bags and fill them at her house. Terry will contact Candy about ordering more business cards.

Jane reported the Presbyterian Church requested assistance with pruning. She will let them know this is not the time of year to prune, but the roses will do okay with a light pruning. Kelly LaFreniere and Cheryl Fitzgerald volunteered to help Jane on November 21st at 10:00am.

In anticipation of the Mardi gras parade, it was suggested we need more favors to distribute to the crowds. Toomeys in Mobile has the best prices, however shipping is costly

Projects will not meet in December.

Submitted by,  
Terry Chambliss



## Governor's Mansion Report November 2022 By: Amanda Borden



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion spent November crafting ornaments and decorating the Hill House for the Holiday Candlelight Tours, scheduled for December 12th and 19th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.





# Governor's Mansion Report November 2022 (Continued) By: Amanda Borden





## SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

November 2022

By: Judy May



Members who brought food to the November meeting were Iva Haynie, Bonnie McCormick, Mary McCroan, Robin Snyder and one member who didn't sign up and we didn't get her name.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Jane Mobley, Cheryl Fitzgerald, and Kelly LaFreniere did some pruning at the Presbyterian Church.

November 9<sup>th</sup> Lynda Edwards, Paul Fitzgerald, Betty Plaster, Sheila Radford, Linda Jennings, Bonnie McCormick, Darlene Dixon, Michelle Sharpton, Rhonda Miles, Iva Haynie, Jane Mobley, Cathy Whigham and Anne Carr met and made 166 ornaments that will be enjoyed at the Presbyterian Church and at the Charles Dickens Christmas and in the Fellowship Hall where we have our meetings at the Presbyterian Church.



# December 2022 Featured Member: Terese Paglione

Hello I am Teresa Paglione, Archaeologist. I am single and since my dad was Air Force, I don't really have a home town. I enjoy most all outside hobbies. I took the Master Gardener course after being encouraged by Dr. Charles Mitchell, Professor Emeritus at Auburn and Tia Gonzalez in Lee County. Archaeology, history and a little bird watching are interests of mind.

After 24 years working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, I retired five years ago. At that time, I lived in Opelika.

I still work part time and volunteer in archaeology with Old Cahawba State Archaeological Park, the University of West Alabama and Fort Toulouse.

Previously I worked for Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia and the Georgia Department of Transportation, but as a contract archaeologist I worked in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and even Rhode Island (on 400 year old farms)!

When I bought my house in Opelika 28 years ago, there was nothing-- so I added a few domestic azaleas and then rooted cuttings to grow others. I also bought native azaleas from Master Gardeners in Lee County at their sale events.

I had a good friend who was in the Daffodil Society in Atlanta and bought heirloom daffodils from them to line my driveway. Now I have bought Mom and Dad's house, so Mom could stay here in Elmore County -- and literally have to start all over. Most of the yard is shaded with hardwoods, but that works for native azaleas.

I took the Master Gardener class, or rather signed up after retiring and then Covid hit so everything was delayed. Eventually, I took the class by zoom, but tried to make it to outdoor field trips. I like working in flower and veggie gardens. Love native azaleas.

Something you may not know: I am Past President of Alabama Archaeological Society, present AAS Newsletter Editor and Vice President of Lee County Historical Society (five years after moving to Elmore County), and they/we have large gardens with veggies, ornamental, herbs, etc. that Auburn/Opelika Lee County Master Gardeners take care of.

# Upcoming Fruit Workshop

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

## Fruit Production Workshop

December 6, 2022

9:00AM-11:00AM

Hayneville, AL

Hayneville Multipurpose  
Senior Center

215 Tuskeena Street  
Hayneville, AL 36040



### Topics Include:

- ♦ Variety Selection
- ♦ Disease Management
- ♦ Insect Management
- ♦ Training Practices

This is a free event.



[www.aces.edu](http://www.aces.edu)

### Registration Link:

[Fruit Production Workshop -  
Alabama Cooperative  
Extension System \(aces.edu\)](#)

Or register by contacting the  
Lowndes County Extension  
Office

334-548-2315

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.



# DECEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Learning Gardens, Extension Office 8-12 noon	2 Dickens Christmas downtown Wetumpka 5-8 p.m.	3 Dickens Christmas downtown Wetumpka 5-8 p.m.
4 Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.	5	6 CAMGA Christmas Party, First Presbyterian Church, 10-12 noon	7 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	8 Learning Gardens, Extension Office 8-12 noon	9	10
11 Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.  Governor's Man- sion Candlelight Tours 5:30-7:30 p.m.	12	13 <b>Lunch And Learn Program Cancelled</b>  <b>No Projects Meeting</b>	14 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	15 Learning Gardens, Extension Office 8-12 noon	16	17
18 Mansion Gardens 9-11 a.m.  Governor's Man- sion Candlelight Tours 5:30-7:30 p.m.	19	20	21 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	22 Learning Gardens, Extension Office 8-12 noon	23	24
25 	26	27	28 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	29 Learning Gardens, Extension Office 8-12 noon	30	31