



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 2 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

February 2023

Message from Kelly

Kelly Lafreniere
CAMGA President



Hello fellow Master Gardeners and happy February. This has been quite a cold winter for us and I am ready for spring!

Daylight savings time begins March 12th and the first day of spring will soon follow on March 20th.

I'm excited to peruse all of the different seed catalogs and see all of the new plant inventory at our local garden stores. It's never too soon to start gardening and February is a good month for many things such as seeding or planting cool crops again such as carrots, Swiss chard, radishes, lettuce and broccoli. You can find a whole list of garden activities for February at the Extension website called Alabama Garden's Calendar. It's a fantastic resource!

Don't forget to send your pictures and event title with a short little sentence to Carol for the Garden Buzz and also Jane for the scrapbook/yearbook.

I'm looking forward to the Mardi Gras parade in Wetumpka on February 18th starting at 1 p.m. and the Master Gardener Mardi Gras float!!

It should be a lot of fun! I hope all of you will attend.

Stay warm and see you February 21st at our next CAMGA meeting.

Kelly

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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor



Message from Mallory

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

Amaryllis

Amaryllis is a popular gift you will see in the garden center in the fall through Christmas. If you purchased or received one of these bulbs, I hope you had success and it has bloomed for you and now you may be asking what should I do next?



Amaryllis are very simple to grow and will rebloom year after year if taken care of properly. You can continue to care for the bulb in the container with the care listed below or in central Alabama amaryllis can be planted outdoors.

If planting outdoors, be sure to plant in an area with at least half a day of full sun and in soil with really good drainage. When you get ready to plant the bulb make sure the neck and shoulders of the bulb are showing and check on it throughout the season to make sure mulch doesn't cover it. You should water the bulbs weekly and fertilize once a month.

All spring and summer you are growing healthy foliage and this foliage is sending energy to the bulb, which is storing up the food it needs to bloom next year. Once September or October rolls around it is now ok to go in and cut back the foliage all the way down to the neck of the bulb. This is the case whether it is in your pot indoors or outside in the ground. If it is still indoors in the container, in September you should stop watering the bulb and let the soil dry, then move it to a cool dark place.

Outdoors we can not control the amount of rainfall, but the plant should begin to go dormant on its own and no more water or fertilizer is needed until it begins to break dormancy in early spring. For the indoor container keep in mind that once you take it out of its dormant location you should expect it to flower in about eight weeks. Indoors we call this "forcing" the bulb as you are tricking the bulb to make it think it is early spring in your home to produce a flower show.

Usually this is done around November when you place the container in a sunny window and the ideal temperature is 60°F. If it is too warm in your home the foliage will be very elongated. Remember to rotate the container as the foliage and flower stalks will want to grow towards the sun. While the flower stalk is growing, feed with a complete liquid fertilizer every 2-3 weeks.

Amaryllis make a great cut flower as well so even if the plant gets too elongated and begins to tip over indoors, cut the bloom and place it in a vase of water. The bloom will continue to open up over time and the flowers will last 2-3 weeks. Then the same process begins again for another year.

If the bulb has grown in size where it is too big for the pot the time to transfer it to a new container is in September when you let the soil dry out and cut back all the foliage. Any offsets may be left on the mother bulb to produce a clump, or, at the time of repotting, they may be pulled off with a portion of root attached to develop new bulbs of the same variety. Handle offsets in the same manner as the mother bulb. They will bloom the second or third season.

CAMGA Minutes
January 17, 2023
First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka
By: Sheila Radford, Secretary



As the first order of business, Kelly LaFreniere was sworn in as the 2023 CAMGA President. There was no featured speaker available, so various chairs had the opportunity to talk about their groups.

Jane Mobley is doing an admirable job on the CAMGA yearbooks, and the 2022 one is available now for anyone to look at. They are kept in the Extension library. Anytime any members attend an event, please take pictures and email them to Jane for inclusion in the yearbooks.

Vice President Sandy Rosamond spoke about volunteer opportunities. The Help Line needs volunteers. The incoming class of interns will be required to work the Help Line as part of their training, but Mary Ann needs help before then.

Rick Ohlson has decided to continue going to the Millbrook Farmers Market to represent CAMGA periodically.

Jane McCarthy and a group of master gardeners meet every Monday to work at the Governor's Mansion gardens. She can offer more information on that work in progress.

Dee Turberville was unable to write a book review for December. She would welcome anyone wanting to write a review of any book in the Extension's library to please do so.

Maria Pacheco at Lanark always is appreciative of volunteers.

Lee Borden welcomes anyone to co-create a gardening related video with him. These are then made available for viewing CAMGA.net site Stubborn Old Gardener.

Sandy wants suggestions on fun things members can do as a group. Perhaps meeting at a restaurant instead of always meeting at the church. Visiting some of the many botanical garden, as well as the Transformational Garden and Arboretum at Auburn would be fun trips.

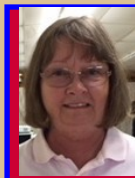
Project Committee Chairs Rhona and Terry suggested utilizing SignUpGenius.com to replace the use signup sheets at the monthly meetings for members to participate in workshops and other activities. This is the same way Robin sends out requests for refreshments for events. They have something planned for every month except July.

A garden path or plaza of brick pavers that could be engraved in memory of deceased members or in honor of others has been proposed for consideration. Guidelines will have to be thoughtfully set up to determine eligibility. Autauga County charges \$50.00 for an engraved brick. Rhona has gotten an engraving quote of \$17.00.

Kelly called the business meeting to order at 11:18. Thirty members signed the attendance sheet.

CAMGA offers condolences to Sherri and her family. Her father-in-law passed away recently.

Judy May will no longer be writing the "Spotlight on Volunteers". Thank you, Judy, for writing this article for the Garden Buzz for fifteen years.



CAMGA Minutes Continued
January 17, 2023
By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

Each committee may submit their volunteer information to Carol Pugh at cpugh@elmore.rr.com for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

Anida reminded everyone that to send information to other members just to reply to the email and she will send it out.

The Membership Directory Coordinator position is vacant. Remember that the publication of the directory is directly tied to membership.

The Membership Care Coordinator position needs filling as well. The duties entail sending thank you cards, condolence cards, get well cards etc.

Sandy shared information about some programs planned for the year.

- The Wetumpka Mardi Gras Parade is Saturday February 18th.
- Decorating the CAMGA float will occur Friday the 17th at the Extension barn from 9 a.m. –3 p.m.
- April's monthly meeting will take place at Don Armstrong's home.
- A plant swap for members will take place at the June meeting.
- Back Yard Ponds will be the subject of one speaker, and Gardening for Wildlife will be the topic for another meeting.

Robin moved that reading of the minutes from last month's meeting be dispensed with. They are available in the Garden Buzz. Terry seconded this motion.

Sherri did not have a treasurer's report available at this meeting. The 2022 audit will be presented in February.

SQUARE is available for anyone to pay annual dues. Budget requests must be re-sent to Sherri. There is a current balance of \$23,466.30 in the CAMGA account. So far 37 members have paid their annual dues for CAMGA and AMGA.

Cindy Augustine plans to attend 2023's first council meeting in a few weeks.

Robin reminded members that the plant sale is Saturday May 6th at the Extension facility. This is CAMGA's best opportunity to draw the public's attention to the Master Gardener program. There is a big pile of peat moss available at the Extension office for members to use in preparing plants to sell. Terry will have soil available at this same location in the next couple of weeks.

The AMGA annual conference is April 3-5 this year. It will be held at the Bryant Conference Center, 240 Paul W. Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa AL. Early registration of \$160.00 ends Jan. 31, 2023

Old business: None

New business: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

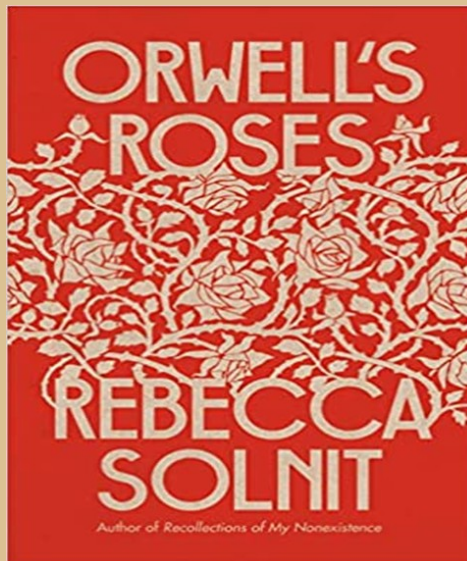
Sheila Radford, Secretary



CAMGA Library News February 2023 By: Dee Turberville

Orwell's Roses, by Rebecca Solnit

Did you know that George Orwell (a pen name), the author of Nineteen Eighty-Four and one of the greatest political writers of our time, was also an avid gardener? In 1936, Eric Blair planted roses in the garden of a small, rented country cottage in Wallington, an English village in Hertfordshire. He is best known for his literary criticisms of totalitarianism. After studying his writings, and out of curiosity, Rebecca Solnit travelled to Orwell's home in Wallington to see his beloved roses. She pondered his love of the natural landscape and gardening, evident in his work, and in the process, she discovered aspects of his character that not only changes her image of him but also reveals a few flaws.



There are so many tangents and unexpected connections in Orwell's Roses, related to gardening and political topics, that it difficult to put this book into a category. It is and it isn't a biography of Orwell. It is a well written diversion of his favorite leisure activities as they relate to political issues, i.e., Solnit's chapter on the poor treatment of workers in the Columbia industrialized rose farms, a condition of human suffering and injustice she feels Orwell, too, would have denounced. In other chapters, she reveals some of the prejudices he held onto during his era – i.e., he did not admire women writers. However, Solnit is fascinated with Orwell's softer side: "his love of toads, vegetable gardening, the English Countryside, the taste of tea, and the pleasures of a good book." One of the joys of reading Orwell's Roses is its unexpected turns from one subject to the next.

Heller McAlpin from the LA Times states in her review, "Solnit's rambling book should appeal to the green-fingered and the politically committed alike."



Governor's Mansion Report For January 2023 By: Amanda Borden



During January, we planted pansies and ivy and refreshed the Lion pot containers and beds after the brutal cold. Then we hit the Herb Garden: weeding, trimming, and planning for the future.



Upcoming Workshops February 2023

Bringing in the Birds

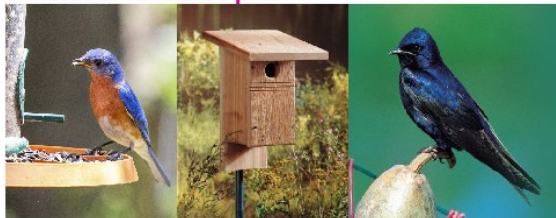
Song Birds, Hummingbirds, Bluebirds, Purple Martins

Hosted by
Alabama Cooperative Extension &
Capital City Master Gardeners Association

**Wednesday
February 15th 2023**

Grace Episcopal Church
906 Pike Road
Pike Road, Alabama

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



For more information, contact the Montgomery County
Extension office at 334-270-4133.

**Cost is \$35 per person- Includes (Lunch- assorted
sandwiches, chips, cookie & a Bluebird Box w/ Pole)**

**Bring Eye Protection, Hammer & Phillips Head Screwdriver for assembly*

Pre-Registration and Payment is required by scanning the QR

Code or accessing this link:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/3141>



Registration Deadline: **Wednesday, February 8th**



Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Fruit Pruning Workshop

**FEBRUARY 24, 2023
10:00AM-12:00PM**

Come join us in the orchard for a
hands-on demonstration as we
learn about pruning various fruit
crops. Bring your pruners and
come ready to learn.



This is a free event.

**2228 COUNTY ROAD 40
BILLINGSLEY, AL 36006**



**To register, please contact the Autauga County
Extension Office at (334) 361-7273**

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.



Spring 2023 Community Garden Expo



The Spring 2023 Community Garden Expo will
feature exciting activities and exhibits by vendors
and Alabama Extension staff. It's also a great time
to network with other gardeners and potential
community garden organizers in the region.

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023
from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT**

**Birmingham Botanical
Gardens Lecture Hall,**

2612 Lane Park Road Birmingham, AL 35223

Questions?

Bethany: 205.612.9524
bethany@aces.edu
Rudy: 256.425.8683
rudy001@aces.edu



Topics will include:

- Why start a community garden, and who should be involved?
- Dollars: funding, budgeting, and sustainability
- The rules: zoning, liability protection, and by-laws
- The big picture: siting (sun, water, grade, access, outbuildings)
- Site preparation (bed design, soil testing, amendment, infrastructure)
- Plant selection and installation
- Maintenance: fertilization, pest, and disease management

Registration

Lunch and snacks will be provided. Admission is \$10.
Pre-registration is required to attend.
Register online with the QR code or at
www.aces.edu/go/3133



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2023 Lunch & Learn Programs

Capital City Master Gardeners Association

LUNCH & LEARN 2023

1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12:00-1:00 P.M.

FREE PROGRAMS

Montgomery Cultural Arts Center

1018 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104

4 January **Intro. to the Montgomery Botanical Gardens**
Cathy Maddox, CCMGA

1 February **Camellia ~ Our State Flower**
*Pre-Register for Hands-on Grafting at 1pm
Call 334-270-4133 (Limit 2 - \$10 Each)
Dr. Charles Mitchell, Retired AU Professor

1 March **Azaleas for Alabama Gardens**
David Doggett, Advanced Master Gardener

5 April **Square Foot Gardening**
Henry Lucas, CCMGA

3 May **Propagating Your Plants**
Rhona Watson, Advanced Master Gardener

7 June **Bugs In & Around the Home**
Dani Carroll, Horticulturist, ACES

5 July **Sprouts & Greens in Small Containers**
Sue Brasel, CAMGA

2 August **Fall Vegetable Gardening**
Mike Forster, CCMGA

6 September **HELP MY GRASS!**
Dr. David Han, Turf Specialist, AU Professor

4 October **Trees for Montgomery Prairie Soils**
Russell Stringer, Montgomery City Arborist

1 November **Planting Bulbs & Tubers for
Next Year's Bloomers**
Karen Weber, Horticulturist & MG

6 December **Christmas Wreaths & Garlands from Nature**
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES



For more information, contact

Montgomery County Extension Office (334) 270-4133

BRING A SACK LUNCH

DRINKS PROVIDED

Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association

LUNCH & LEARN 2023

2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12:00-1:00 P.M.

FREE PROGRAMS

First Presbyterian Church

100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092

10 January **Growing & Repotting Orchids**
Judy May, CAMGA

14 February **Chickens ~ Nature's Garden Art**
Janell Diggs, CCMGA

14 March **Annual Flower Beds for Every Season**
Karen Weber, Horticulturist & MG

11 April **Tips for Successful Tomatoes**
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES

9 May **"Outside the Box" Plants**
Robin Snyder, CAMGA

13 June **Irrigate my Melting Plants**
Mary McCroan, Advanced MG

11 July **Attracting & Raising Butterflies**
Soyna Moore, ACGMA

8 August **Cabbage, Lettuce, Kale & MORE!**
Lucy Edwards, Horticulturist, ACES

12 September **Chainsaw Safety & Tree Pruning Techniques**
Dr. Beau Brodbeck, Certified Arborist, ACES

10 October **Compost it!**
Rose McCauley & Paula Seamon,
Advanced Master Gardeners

14 November **Every Garden Needs BLUEBERRIES!**
David Lawrence, Horticulturist, ACES

12 December **Winter Hummingbirds**
Fred Bassett, President of Hummingbird
Research



For more information contact

Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301

BRING A SACK LUNCH

TEA & WATER PROVIDED

Autauga County Master Gardeners Association

LUNCH & LEARN 2023

3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

12:00-1:00 P.M.

FREE PROGRAMS

Trinity United Methodist Church

610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville 36066

18 January **Backyard Birding**
Tyson Farmer, Wild Birds Unlimited

15 February **Grow in Grow Bags**
Glenn Huovinen, Advanced Master Gardener

15 March **Zinnias for your Garden**
Dani Carroll, Horticulturist, ACES

19 April **Update on Dogwoods**
Dr. Jim Jacobi, Plant Pathologist &
Certified Arborist, ACES

17 May **New Bugs Buzzing**
Dr. Meredith Shrader, Extension Entomologist, AU

21 June **Solving Your Tomato Problems**
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES

19 July **Rainbarrels**
Rhonda Britton, Horticulturist, ACES

16 August **Preparing Winter Gardens**
Henry Lucas, CCMGA

20 September **Herbs & Vinegars**
Debbie Bouteller, Advanced Master Gardener

18 October **Poisonous Plants**
Brian Brown, Horticulturist, ACES

15 November **Moonlight Gardens**
Diane Fortner, LCMGA

20 December **Hydroponics**
Cathy Brooks, ACGMA



For more information, contact

Autauga County Extension Office (334) 361-7273

BRING A SACK LUNCH

DRINKS PROVIDED

February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1 Lanark
Gardens
Workday
8-11 a.m.

2
Learning Gar-
dens Workday
at the Exten-
sion Office
8-12 noon

3

4

5

6
Governor's
Mansion
Gardens Work-
day 9-11 a.m.

7

8 Lanark
Gardens
Workday
8-11 a.m.

9
Learning Gar-
dens Workday at
the Extension
Office 8-12
noon

10 Candy &
Seed Swopping
for Madri Gras
Parade
9:30- 11:30 Ext.
Auditorium

11

12

13
Governor's
Mansion
Gardens Work-
day 9-11 a.m.

14 
Happy
Valentines Day!
Lunch & Learn
12-1 p.m. First
Presbyterian
Church
Wetumpka

15
Lanark
Gardens
Workday
8-11 a.m.

16
Learning
Gardens
Workday at
the Extension
Office
8-12 noon

17 Decorate
Madri Gras Float
at Extension Office
9-3 p.m. Food will
be served. Contact
Sandy Rosamond or
Terry Chambliss for
more info.

18
Wetumpka Madri
Gras Parade.
Volunteers are
needed! Contact
Sandy Rosamond
or Terry Cham-
bliss for informa-
tion

19

20
Governor's
Mansion
Gardens Work-
day 9-11 a.m.

21 CAMGA
Monthly Meeting
10-12 noon. First
Presbyterian
Church, Wetumpka

22
Lanark
Gardens
Workday
8-11 a.m.

23
Learning Gar-
dens Workday
at the Exten-
sion Office
8-12 noon

24

25

26

27
Governor's
Mansion
Gardens Work-
day 9-11 a.m.

28