



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 30 Issue 2 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

February 2021

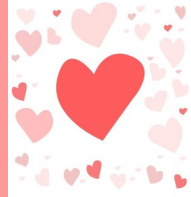


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Message from Lynda

CAMGA President



Your CAMGA Board has been very active in planning our new year. The Chairs are in place with the exception of the Project's Chair and I am happy to report that all are active and giving their valuable time in behalf of CAMGA. I appreciate your patience and encourage your participation in our Zoom meeting until the weather allows us to meet outside.

The Bylaw Committee is preparing to bring amended bylaws for your approval as soon as possible. Please look for an email prior to the February 16, 2021 Zoom Meeting with the proposed bylaws. If you have bylaw questions prior to our meeting, please address to anyone on this committee: Amanda Borden, Chair, Anne Carr, Janet Lewis or myself. There will be an opportunity to ask question when these bylaws are presented in the February Zoom Meeting. However, it would certainly be easier to ask your questions now rather than waiting. We want you to know why any changes were necessary.



Happy February!!



CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
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Message from Lynda (Continued)



Hopefully the Budget Committee will be finalizing a budget for your approval in that same meeting. It will be a simple budget to take us from March 1, 2021 through December 21, 2021. Next year our budget should be more complete with previous budget and proposed budget shown together for comparison. Thanks to all the Chairs who submitted their budget request by the January 31, 2021 deadline.

Leslie had an excellent program for us in January highlighting our On Going Community Opportunities. Presentations by Maria Pacheco from Lanark, Amanda Borden, Friends of the Governor's Mansion, Lee Borden, Stubborn Old Gardeners and Mary McCroan, CAMGA'S Learning Gardens were very enlightening. Mallory also had a part on the program and talked about the new look to the service hours report system and reminded everyone that Zoom meeting attendance hours are counted the same as regular meetings.

Please consider volunteering with these ongoing opportunities. There are sufficient opportunities to satisfy the requirements to maintain active Master Gardener status. February's program will be given by Dani Carroll, Regional Extension Agent for Lee County. Her topic is: Grow Your Own Wild Flowers.

The link for our Zoom room is printed below. If any committee or group would like to reserve our dedicated Zoom room, please contact me and I will confirm a reservation for you. It's an easy way to communicate with a group until we can be together in person. I hope to see you soon.

Lynda Edwards, President
Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

CAMGA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 — 9:00 AM (Board meeting)
10:00 AM (regular meeting)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/88248604942>

Connect using Computer/Device audio if possible.

Or Telephone: Meeting ID: 882 4860 4942

Dial: +1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

or +1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)



Message from Mallory

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

Virtual Alabama Extension — “Horticulture Happenings”

All programs are Central Standard Time, free and everyone is welcome!

“Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards” Series: Every Wednesday 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration

Link: www.auburn.zoom.us/j/82398811386

<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaSmartYardsAlabamaExtension>

At Home Beekeeping Series: Last Tuesday of Every Month 6:30p.m.-7:30p.m. (Begins January 26th)

Registration Link: <https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

Back to Basics Gardening Series: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Begins February 10th)

Registration Link: <http://www.aces.edu/go/B2Bzoom>

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/lawn-garden-urban/urban-green-back-2-basics-wednesdays-webinar-series/>

Eco Friendly Fridays~ Environmental Education Series:

Last Friday of Every Month 12:00p.m.- 1:00 p.m.

www.aces.edu/go/EcoFriendlyFridays

Alabama Garden Walk Series: 1st and 3rd Fridays 12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m. (Begins February 19th) Regis-

tration Link: www.aces.edu/go/GardenWalk

Raising Trees Series: Thursday’s 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/raising-trees-webinar-series/>

Alabama Garden Chat Wednesdays TBA

(Begins in April)

ForestHer Webinar Series: 2nd Tuesday’s of Every Month 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/foresther-workshops/>

2021 Natural Resources Webinar Series: Wednesday’s 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m. (see the link for the dates

scheduled) <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/natural-resources-webinar-series/>

Alabama Virtual Farm Tours: (Biweekly from March-Oct at 5:00p.m.- 6:00p.m. Stay informed or watch on

<https://www.facebook.com/>

AlabamaExtensionCommercialHorticulture

Commercial Horticulture Monthly Webinar Seminars, last Monday of each month: [https://](https://auburn.zoom.us/j/590217859)

auburn.zoom.us/j/590217859

or watch Livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaExtensionCommercialHorticulture>

Monthly agenda is posted on <http://www.aces.edu/anr/beginningfarms/webinars.php>

‘Q&A Friday!’ interactive shows: (Fridays from March-Oct 11:30a.m. to 12:30p.m.). Stay informed or

watch on <https://www.facebook.com/>

*For more information, please contact your local county office for more information & the ACES calendar of events for even more available educational programs on interest www.aces.edu/calendar. For Commercial Horticulture events, use the Farming Basics Phone App to access social media pages & webinar recordings.



CAMGA Minutes January 19, 2021 By: Betty Plaster, Secretary

President Lynda Edwards called the CAMGA January Zoom meeting to order and introduced Vice President Leslie Bingham to begin the program.

January Program - Reporting Hours and Volunteer Opportunities:

Mallory Kelly reported a new look to the service hour report system. Please report your service hours monthly and give a short description of your volunteer or education hours. If you have trouble entering hours on the new system please contact the Network Chair, Anida Wishnietsky. It takes 25 volunteer or educational hours per year to be an active member. Remember, Zoom meetings can count toward CEU hours. Mallory reported that she will be sending a list to members in the next few days that list 16 new free virtual programs that can count towards educational hours. The update on Covid rules state meetings can be held indoors if social distancing is practiced and masks are worn. Work in gardens can continue if social distancing is practiced and masks are worn.

AMGA lifetime membership dues are currently \$100 and will soon be \$150. If you pay the lifetime dues amount you will no longer have to pay state dues.

Spring Master Gardener Intern classes will start in February based out of the Autauga County Extension office. The classes will be virtual and include garden tours. Presently two people from Elmore County have registered. Hopefully Lunch and Learn meetings can return in the spring and can be held outdoors. Mallory is researching this possibility.

Leslie Bingham discussed how important volunteer hours are to the community and introduced the following people to discuss places where Master Gardeners can volunteer:

- **Maria Pacheco, Advanced Master Gardener with Lanark Gardens at Alabama Wildlife Federation** - Normal volunteer day is Wednesday 8:00am to 11:00am but Maria can schedule you to work other days if you call her. All types of garden activities are available to volunteers. When working at Lanark be sure to wear long pants year round, closed toe shoes, bring gloves and clippers, and layer your clothing during the cold months.
- **Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener, and Learning Garden Chair** - If you are interested in volunteering at the CAMGA Learning Gardens please contact Mary at mary1@mccroan.com and she will add you to her list of volunteers and send you updates on garden projects. Mary would like the gardens to be used to educate the public on gardening. Upcoming projects will be updating the signage and repairing several raised beds. If you like, you can have your own raised bed in the garden for plants, flowers, or produce. You are expected to take care of the raised bed. The Learning Garden volunteer day is Thursday 8:00am – noon. Times vary based on weather conditions.
- **Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardener**, discussed volunteering at The Governor's Mansion. According to Amanda there are projects to be done year-round. Twice a year volunteers at the Mansion ask for assistance from all gardeners to relocate plants and prune. The regular work day at the Mansion is Monday 9:00am to noon. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing when working in the garden. Bring water, hand tools, gloves, and weeding tools. Also please contact Amanda (205 821 0554) on Friday if you plan to work on Monday. You will need to enter the Mansion from Finley Street and park near the guard house. Jane McCarthy, Advanced Master Gardener, started the volunteer program at the Mansion in 2013.



CAMGA Minutes Continued

January 2021

By: Betty Plaster, Secretary



Lee Borden, Advanced Master Gardener, produces The Stubborn Old Gardner videos for CAMGA. Presently, there are 10 videos on the website and some of these videos have had as many as 67,000 viewings. If you have a horticultural project in your garden or at your home and you would like to make a video, Lee will be glad to assist you. He can film the project as well as assist you in how to prep for the video. Please contact Lee (334 421 0229) if you would like more information or have an idea for a new video.

Vice President's Report - By: Leslie Bingham — Leslie is looking forward to our Zoom meetings and will hopefully be able to plan outdoor programs with weather permitting. She announced the following program schedule for the next three months:

February - Dani Carroll, Regional Extension Agent, Topic: Growing Wildflowers

1. March - Dr. Charles Mitchell, Auburn University, Topic: Garden Tillage
2. April - Montgomery Botanical Gardens Tour, Downtown Montgomery

Membership Care

Lynda announced the following member concerns:

- Cathy Whigham - Death of her husband Russell
- Mary McCroan - Death of her mother in law
- William Frye - Receiving a second round of chemo for cancer
- Shelia Radford - Recovering from shoulder surgery

If you have membership concerns please share these with Lee Ann Marona (850-255-8565).

President's Report - By: Lynda Edwards

As soon as weather permits, plans are to move CAMGA meetings outdoors. If you have suggestion sites, please let Lynda know. Suggestions received include Jackson Lake in Millbrook and Fort Toulouse in Wetumpka. Lynda thinks it possible to meet outside near the Learning Gardens on the Extension Service grounds; meeting in the barn on Queen Ann Road might be a possibility.

Bylaw Committee: This has been the most active committee to date. This committee is Chaired by Amanda Borden and includes Anne Carr, Janet Lewis and Lynda as committee members. It has been over 10 years since the Bylaws were last updated. The goal is to have bylaws completed by the February meeting so the membership can vote to approve as soon as possible. It could be as late as March before an actual vote is taken. It has been a tremendous task and Lynda thanked those members of the bylaw committee for their dedication.

Board Changes: The Bylaw Committee has identified the need to reduce the number of Board members. The present bylaws state that all Chairs are considered a Board member. Over the past ten years as the organization grew and more and more chairs and co-chairs were added there are over 20 Chairs plus the four elected officers that comprise the Executive Board. Most Master Gardener Organizations have an Education Chair and a Membership Chair. CAMGA does not but would like to add. A Telephone Chair/Committee was another identified need. This would increase the Board to above 30 members. Ten to 15 members would be a manageable size for this organization.



CAMGA Minutes Continued January 2021 By: Betty Plaster, Secretary

The following is a breakdown of Chairs and Coordinators :

Membership Chair — Lee Ann Marona

Membership Directory Coordinator — Cathy Whigham

Membership Care Coordinator —

Reach for the Stars Coordinator — Lee Ann Marona

Spotlight on Volunteers Coordinator — Judy May

Hospitality Coordinator — Robin Snyder

Telephone Committee — TBA

Education Chair - Candace Jones

Lunch and Learn Coordinators — Charlotte Hall and Sandi Adkison

Advanced Master Gardener Coordinator —

Helpline Coordinator — Mary Ann Hatcher

Intern Class Coordinator — Robin Snyder

Librarian Coordinator — Dee Turberville

Seminars/Workshop Coordinator — TBA

Network Chair — Anida Wishnietsky

Website Coordinator — Anida Wishnietsky, (Lee Borden, Assistant)

Newsletter Coordinator — Carol Pugh

Pathways Reporter — Iva Haynie

Projects Chair — (Open)

Short Term Projects

Fundraiser Coordinator (including Plant Sale) — Robin Snyder

Publicity Chair - Deann Stone

Historian/Photographer Chair — Jane Mobley

Learning Gardens Chair — Mary McCroan

Past President — Sandy Rosamond

Elected Positions:

President — Lynda Edwards

Vice President — Leslie Bingham

Secretary — Betty Plaster

Treasurer — Deb Kelso

Advisory Council Representative — Cheryl Fitzgerald (Linda McQueen, Assistant)

CAMGA Minutes Continued

January 2021

By: Betty Plaster, Secretary



The 2021 Executive Board will consist of 13 members plus Mallory. Members are expected to attend all Board Meetings.

Membership Directory: Will be delayed until the Bylaws are approved. The 2020 Membership Directory and Information Guide includes all members since there was no Intern Class in 2020.

Application for Grant: Was submitted to AMGA last week. It will be several months before the grant is announced. Lynda thanked Lee and Amanda Borden for submitting the necessary paperwork with help from Mallory and Mary Ann Hatcher.

Zoom Meetings: Mallory has given each Master Gardener Association their own designated Zoom Room. The one printed in the Garden Buzz is for CAMGA members' use. Any Chair may use. Text or call Lynda Edwards to reserve a date and time.

Budget Committee: Deb Kelso, Treasurer will chair and the elected officers will serve as the budget committee for this year. Plans are to have a budget for membership approval at the February meeting for the period March through December 2021. Since there wasn't a printed budget, this one will be simple. Next year's budget will show this year's budget compared to a proposed budget for 2022.

Secretary's Report - By: Betty Plaster

Betty moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes, Betty moved to accept the minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report - By: Deb Kelso (Given by Lynda Edwards)

December beginning balance \$6,384.05
Income for December \$554.00
December Expenses \$757.86
Ending balance for December \$6,180.19

There were no questions. The Treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Membership Chair Report - By: Lee Ann Marona

Announced the need for a Membership Care Coordinator and a Coordinator for the Telephone Committee. Please contact Lee Ann if you are interested in either of these positions.

Reach for the Stars

Total number of CAMGA volunteers recording hours in 2020: 59
Total number of volunteer hours in 2020: 4,030
Total number of education hours in 2020: 1,204
Total recorded hours: 5,234



CAMGA Minutes Continued

January 2021

By: Betty Plaster, Secretary

Bronze Star award winners (100+ lifetime hours) — Jane Duke, Linda Jennings

Silver Star award winners (300+ lifetime hours) — Earnie Edwards

Gold Star award winners (500+ lifetime hours) — Dee Turberville, Linda Jarznecki, Carol Pugh

Advanced Gold Badge (1000+ lifetime hours) — Deborah Kelso, Robin Snyder

Advanced Platinum Badge (2000+ lifetime hours) — Charlotte Hall

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award Nominee — Candy Jones – 3,847 hours

Top Hours of the Year Award Nominee — Candy Jones – 560 hours

December Robin Award — Terry Chambliss

Advisory Council Representative- Cheryl Fitzgerald

(Report given by Lynda) 2021 AMGA annual meeting to be held in Anniston has been canceled.

Proposed Community Garden Project - By: Terry Chambliss

Terry updated the membership on the progress of the proposed Community Garden. At the present, there has been no news of garden spots available in Millbrook and Wetumpka. However, Wetumpka City Council Representative

of District 2 is interested in this project and asks our committee to please be patient. Please contact Terry (334- 207-6644) if you would like to join the Community Garden Committee and if you know of a location for the Community Garden.

Old Business - Jane Mobley, Historian/Photographer, announced that the 2020 CAMGA History Book would be in CAMGA library by Thursday, January 21, 2021. The book will reflect the Covid challenges experienced this past year. As you work on projects and volunteer please send Jane pictures of your activities to be used in the 2021 history book.

New Business - None

Announcements/Closing Remarks: Lynda asked membership for patience. If the changes being made fail to improve the organization, it can be changed at the end of the year. She asked everyone to give the changes a chance to work. The first few months of any year with new officers and new board may seem a little rough, especially during a Pandemic. Sandy Rosamond, Past President was the first CAMGA President to lead the organization during a pandemic. She did an excellent job of bringing us through a crazy year. We all learned to adapt by having Zoom Meetings. In 2021 we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. We see millions getting vaccinated for Covid-19 so we know this won't last forever. 2020 provided us with more personal time to work in our gardens at home. I encourage you to use any downtime to educate yourself, obtain all the CEUs you want or need via the Internet. Mallory shares many opportunities through ACES. You can obtain all the required CEUs and hours to meet your volunteer obligations without leaving your home. Take advantage of it.

The next monthly meeting will be February 16, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectively Submitted
Betty Plaster, Secretary



CAMGA Library News February 2021 By: Dee Turberville

Don't Throw It, GROW IT! *68 Windowsill Plants from Kitchen Scraps* By Deborah Peterson and Millicent Selsam

Deborah Peterson begins her book with, “Almost every unprocessed fruit or vegetable can be grown into a decorative house plant.” Former president of the American Pit Gardening Society, Peterson offers growing instructions for 68 plants divided into four broad categories: kitchen vegetables, fruits and nuts, herbs and spices, and more exotic plants from ethnic markets. The book is a quick reference with retro type illustrations. It is a fun read for an avid gardener looking for a winter project or a mother/grandparent/educator encouraging children to appreciate the wonder of plants. It took me back to the days of growing a sweet potato vine for a school science project, watching the rebirth of a celery stalk on my kitchen windowsill, and the excitement of my grandson, who had planted the pit of an avocado in my raised garden bed, as he waited and watched for the sprout to emerge.



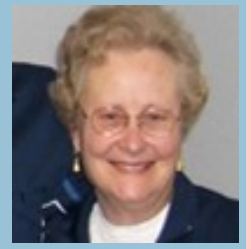
This entertaining small book offers up more suggestions other than sprouting avocados, but also covers carrot tops, garbanzo beans, peanuts, jicama, lemongrass, ginger, persimmon, coriander, tropical guava, radishes and many more – pits, roots, shoots, tubers and seeds – all kitchen magic!

“When I give a pit talk, I always bring a large bowl of mixed fruits and vegetables. I tell the audience that within the bowl there are annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, and vines that will grow! There are wonderful surprises in store for you as you use this book. Grab a friend (co- author Millicent Selsam) and make a ‘pit stop!’ But remember: Always buy two of each – one to grow and one to eat.” -- Deborah Peterson

SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS

January 2021

By: Judy May



The CAMGA volunteers at the Governor’s mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Robin Snyder and Jane McCarthy.

Helping Maria at Lanark this month were Carla McCune, Cheryl Fitzpatrick and Leslie Bingham who helped her plant new roses, dig up old roses, Stokes Asters and transplant them, trim bushes, hand weed beds, finish planting annuals, clear out messy areas, plant new hollies, paint pots, turn compost, rake pine straw and put it in the garden beds. Thank you ladies! Things are looking sharp and it’s thanks to all your hard work!

On January 13th, Mary McCroan, Deborah Kelso and Terry Chambliss visited Eat South to learn about community gardening in Montgomery.



Orchard Pruning Workshop

Blueberry, Muscadine, Fig, Plum, Peach, Apple, Pear

Friday, February 12, 2021

LOCATION:
Smith Home Orchard
2228 County Road 40 West
Billingslev, AL

TIME:
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
*We will social distance
& wear a mask!

QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION:
Autauga Extension Office
334.361.7273



This Program is FREE!
Please contact the Autauga County Office to let us know you plan to attend.

This is a HANDS-ON Program!
Bring your hand pruners and loppers and be ready to practice your new skills.





Governor's Mansion Report January 2021 By: Amanda Borden



The winter weather in January prevented our getting outside to work except for two days. We made the most of it when it was nice, and the last workday of the month felt positively spring-like!

We weeded and trimmed in the Herb Garden, deadheaded the pansies and snapdragons right outside the gate, pruned the pomegranate, and cut back lantana. We look forward to much more pruning in February, and if you want to learn how to do roses, now is your chance.

Come join us on any Monday. Start time is 9 AM. Please let Jane McCarthy (334-221-9936) know in advance to get you on the Mansion security list. Please bring your favorite tools to include clippers, loppers, gloves, a mask, and water.



Governor's Mansion Report Continued

January 2021

By: Amanda Borden





Message from Leslie Bingham Vice President — CAMGA

Greetings Everyone,

My name is Leslie Bingham and I am honored to serve as this year's vice president for CAMGA. I am responsible for scheduling our program speakers for our monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 and also the field trips we will take throughout the upcoming year. Granted, Covid has made our meeting time a challenge but please join in on zoom and benefit from the wonderful topics you'll be able to learn about in the coming year.

A little about me: I moved to Millbrook 5 1/2 years ago from Jackson, Mississippi. I live with my husband, Blair, of 36 years. We have two daughters who reside in Jackson.

One of the first things I did upon moving to Alabama was to become a master gardener. I was in the class of 2015, and it is by far one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. I have learned so much, made many friends, and enjoyed gardening like I never have before. I spend my volunteering hours mainly at Lanark with the wise and wonderful Maria Pachecho!

My favorite gardening experiences include growing flowers—(zinnias and dahlias are my favorites), but I always have fresh herbs going and always “try” my hand at a few summer vegetables!

My goal is to have something blooming 12 months out of the year! This month my ***Kiss Me at the Gate***, a fragrant Chinese honeysuckle -*Lonicera fragrantissima* (for you real gardeners) is making me smile!

Seeing **YOU** at our monthly CAMGA meetings will make me smile as well! So, see you zooming, for now on the 16th of February!



Reach for the Stars Report By: Lee Ann Marona

2020 Volunteer “Reach for the Stars” Awards

CAMGA Totals:

57 Certified volunteers posting hours

4,030 Volunteer hours

1,204 Education hours

5,234 Combined total volunteer and education hours

AMGA Award Nominees from CAMGA:

Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award

Candy Jones – 3,847 Lifetime volunteer hours

Top Hours of the Year Award

Candy Jones – 560 volunteer hours for 2020

Reach for the Stars Advanced Badge Recipients:

Platinum name badge (2000+)

Charlotte Hall – 2000.75 lifetime hours

Gold name badge (1000+)

Deborah Kelso – 1,328 lifetime hours

Robin Snyder – 1,074 lifetime hours

Reach for the Stars (Star Pin) Award Recipients

Gold Star (500+ hours)

Linda Jarzyniecki, Carol Pugh, and Dee Turberville

Silver Star (300+ hours)

Earnie Edwards

Bronze Star

Jane Duke and Linda Jennings

Honorable mention:

Judy May reached 3,003 lifetime hours joining our other 3000+ members:

Candy Jones, Lee Borden, Jane Mobley, Mary Long, and Amanda Borden

Thank you for all you do to make our community and world a better more beautiful place!





What's going on at Lanark?

By: Maria Pacheco

We're working on several big projects at Lanark. I'll tell you about a few of them to give you an idea of what we do and why it's so great when you can help us! If you would like to help, please call me at **334-657-9414** and I'll schedule you. We are **OPEN** for volunteers, I just need to make sure you're coming on a day when I'm working outside. So please call me. I'll find **SOMETHING** for you to do, I promise!

We have 40 different species of Heirloom roses and since we have 2 of each in some places, we have a total of 50 roses in the Lanark Gardens. I'm determined to rejuvenate the older ones and get the younger ones off to a great start. That means we'll be pruning, anchoring, feeding, transplanting to new locations, and working with all 50 roses over the next few months and continuing on into the next year so that in the next few years all of our roses will be putting on a spectacular show.

For the last two years, We've been digging up our paperwhites, daffodils, spider lilies, and Roman hyacinths and spreading them around. Our front driveway now has over 2 thousand more clumps of paperwhite Narcissus, 2 thousand different varieties of daffodils, 3 thousand spider lilies divided and retransplanted, and over one thousand of the blue Roman Hyacinths divided and transplanted as well. I have a mixture of over 4,000 bulbs dug up by Verizon volunteers just before we had to close, due to COVID back in March. They are still waiting to be planted! And we need to feed all of the bulbs, which are scattered all around the 40 acres of gardens that I'm responsible for, and they number in the hundreds of thousands. (I am NOT exaggerating!) We will be working on getting that done by the end of March.

We have over a thousand Mop-head Hydrangeas growing around the Catfish pond and we need to clean out the debris from 3 major storms this year, clean out any dead wood and feed all of them. We will be working on that up until Mid- April this year.

Also, due to COVID, I'm not holding the annual Plants and Pollinators this year. I am relying on supplementing my garden budget by announcing that I will sell healthy Lanark plants for a very fair price during the week-days from now on. But you must call first to make sure that I am here. The rest of the office staff do not have anything to do with the gardens and cannot answer your questions, so please call me! I will be glad for any help with selling preparations.- We may have the Hydrangea Fest in June, I'm still waiting for approval and will let you know.

Also, because I'm not having the big Plants and Pollinators plant sale which proceeds benefit the gardens, I am starting a lot of the plants this year from seed. I have searched for an unusual variety of seeds to grow and will love to have help starting the seed flats. One of the perks of volunteering out here, at Lanark, is that I'm always very grateful for any help that I receive and have lots of plants that I love to share with volunteers.

We are always pruning bushes, small trees, removing vines, hand weeding, and foraging around the 350+ acres here at Lanark for plants that may be growing on the trails and will soon be walked on or removed, so we save them and either plant them in the gardens or sell them. A few examples of foraging plants are the winter fern, Indian bloodroot, and Wild Ginger. It's always fun to go out on the trails in a golf cart and see what we can find. A month or so ago we found 25 gorgeous Japanese maples in full color growing freely in a swampy area, where they would eventually die, so we rescued them!

Please call me and let me know when you're available to work with us, enjoy the beautiful outdoors, and have a lot of fun!

*Thank you,
Maria*

**Maria Pacheco
Lanark Gardens
Grounds Specialist/ Tour Coordinator
334-657-9414**



Lifetime Membership News

By: Lee Ann Marona

Membership Chair - AMGA Lifetime Membership News

When you pay your \$20 membership dues each fall, \$12 of the fee goes directly to CAMGA, and \$10 goes to the Alabama Master Gardener Association (AMGA), our state Master Gardener association. Neither local nor state dues have increased in many years, and your membership dollars are well spent supporting the lean but essential operating budgets of each organization.

AMGA offers each member the opportunity to buy a one-time Lifetime Membership. When you buy an AMGA Lifetime Membership, you never again pay the state portion of the dues when you renew your membership in the fall, and you only pay the local \$12 fee. Prior to this year, the AMGA Lifetime Membership fee was \$100, but, the Lifetime Membership fee has increased to \$150. We have been given a grace period through the end of February to submit Lifetime Memberships to the state.

IF you are interested in upgrading to a Lifetime Membership at the old rate (and if you paid your \$10 state dues last fall) you may, for a limited time, upgrade for \$90 additional dollars. If you only paid local dues in the fall, the Lifetime Membership fee would be \$100.00. (If you are not sure if you paid the state fee or not, please check with Lee Ann or Anida.) If you are interested in upgrading, please do the following:

Make your \$90.00 or \$100.00 check payable directly to “AMGA”.
Please do NOT make your check payable to “CAMGA”.

Mail payment to:

Lee Ann Marona
292 Magnolia Ridge
Millbrook, AL 36054

Envelopes must be postmarked by February 17, the day following our next meeting in order to ensure the checks reach AMGA on time.