



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 31 Issue 1 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

January 2022



Message from Lynda
Lynda Edwards, President
CAMGA President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Stay Positive! 2022 will be a better year. You have time to add "Attend All CAMGA Monthly Meeting" to your New Year's Resolutions.

I am happy to announce that we have received a special gift this year. Pastor Jonathan Yarborough and the membership at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka have made available their beautifully remodeled Fellowship Hall for CAMGA's monthly meetings. This will allow social distancing that is not possible at our Extension Center on Queen Ann Road. It also provides peace of mind to me and the officers who scrambled some last year in finding a venue for our meetings. Thanks again to the Mulder Memorial United Methodist Church for opening their doors to us for several of those meetings. Our Lunch and Learn Meetings will also be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 100 W. Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092.

We have some big events on our Calendar this year and being restricted by Covid is not on our calendar. CAMGA is co-hosting with Capitol City Master Gardeners the 2022 Annual Conference for Alabama Master Gardeners' Association at the Embassy Suites in Montgomery on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the first week of May. Many hours of planning have already taken place but it's not too late for you to help. Please see Candace Jones or Sandy Rosamond, Conference Co-Chairs or me, Facilities Co-Chair and we can find a place for you to volunteer. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.



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CAMGA Garden Buzzzz
Carol Pugh — Editor

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



On Saturday, May 7, 2022, same week as the Conference, will be CAMGA'S annual Plant Sale. We are moving forward in having a public plant sale on a much larger scale. Since it will be at the Extension Center on Queen Ann Road, we have visions of educational tours of our Learning Gardens, mini education workshops of interest to gardeners, vendors present and much more. Both of these events in May can be revenue opportunities. Our Plant Sale has been our main fundraiser to support our budget in past years. Please set aside that first week of May. It will be very busy for CAMGA.

The 2022 Committees and Chairs will be announced at the January 18, 2022 Meeting. A special invitation is extended to our Interns to attend this meeting. You will hear various speakers tell of the monthly volunteer opportunities in place for you to serve. January is also our Awards month and Lee Ann will be presenting awards for previous year.

Our Auditors will receive the Treasurer's books no later than January 15, 2022 and will have their audit report presented at the February meeting.

I am prayerful that 2022 will allow us to make some group trips and bring back a couple of visits to members' gardens. There will be more on this topic later as Kelly LaFreniere plans our programs for the year.

Be safe!

Lynda Edwards, President
Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

**Please send articles for the Garden Buzz Newsletter to
Carol Pugh at:**

cpugh@elmore.rr.com

Phone number: 334-207-9370

Thank you!!



Message from Mallory

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

What to do with those Holiday Plants?

The poinsettia is one of the most popular holiday plants along with the Christmas cactus. As the holiday season ends and the poinsettias start to lose their leaves and the Christmas cactus loses its blooms people often ask the question what to do now?

Too many poinsettias are seen in dumpsters and sitting out by the road side ready for trash pick up. With a little work and some special attention the poinsettia can be kept for the following year. This is sometimes hard to accomplish due to our low degree of light intensity, but if you are willing to give it a try, here are the steps to bring your poinsettia into a healthy life just in time for next year's holiday season.

When the bracts (colored leaves) begin to turn and fall from your plant, cut the plant back leaving 4 to 6 buds and keep in a sunny window or greenhouse if you have one and continue to water and fertilize regularly. By the end of May you should see vigorous new growth appearing. The poinsettia will begin to set buds and produce flowers as the nights become longer. In October, you should move the plant into complete darkness for 14 continuous hours and in the day allow 6-8 hours of bright sunlight. Continue this cycle for 8-10 weeks and your poinsettia will develop a colorful display of holiday blooms just in time for the holiday season.

If the process of salvaging your poinsettia seems too demanding, a compost pile is always a great alternative. Poinsettias are not much of a financial burden and buying a new one the following year will contribute greatly in supporting our growers.

While the poinsettia remains the most popular holiday plant, a healthy Christmas cactus in full bloom is always a beautiful sight. To keep your Christmas cactus blooming longer keep it in a well-lit, cool area, but once these blooms are gone many are left with the questions, what now? The best advice we can give you is neglect. Only a little extra care will bring it back to full bloom next year.

Watering seems to be the source of most problems with the Christmas cactus. The plant is a tropical type plant, but is not quite as drought tolerant as the name implies. Water thoroughly when the top half of the soil in the pot feels dry to the touch. Well-drained soil is a must for Christmas cactus and should be repotted every 2-3 years. A commercially packaged potting mix for succulent plants or a mixture of two parts potting soil with one part clean sand or vermiculite will work great. Pruning your cactus should be done after blooming and will encourage branching. The sections pruned out can easily be rooted in moist vermiculite to propagate new plants.

Much like the poinsettia, the Christmas cactus blooms according to the change in day length and light intensity. Too much direct light during the summer months can turn the leaves a bit red and cause them to look burned and become limp. Follow the same light pattern instructions as the poinsettia beginning in October and you will have a beautiful blooming cactus just in time for Christmas.

For more information on Poinsettias: [Alabama Cooperative Extension System - \(aces.edu\)](http://aces.edu)

For more information on Christmas Cactus <http://hort.purdue.edu/ext/cactusFAQs.html>

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/christmas_cactus.html



CAMGA Minutes
December 7, 2021
Betty Plaster, Secretary
First Presbyterian Church
Wetumpka, AL

President Lynda Edwards welcomed members and guests to our annual Christmas party.

Member Concerns:

- William and Freda Fry as William battles cancer.
- Lois Pribulick will be having another leg surgery soon.
- Ricky Hatcher was in the Emergency Room on Monday.
- Sherri Lynn Davidson's sister is in the hospital battling Covid.
- Sandy Rosamond's son recently had a heart attack.



Secretary's Report by Betty Plaster: Betty moved to accept the November minutes and dispense with the reading of the November minutes since they were printed in the Garden Buzz and distributed to all members. Leslie Bingham seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report by Carol Rattan

November Beginning Balance	\$8,601.25
November Income	\$315.00
November Expenditures	\$20.00
Ending Balance for November.....	\$8,896.25

Old Business by President Lynda Edwards:

Lynda announced that Cathy Whigham and Carol Pugh would serve as auditors for the 2021 Treasurer's book. A report of the audit will be given at the January 2022 monthly member meeting.

Lynda thanked Sandy Rosamond for decorating the Christmas tree in the church fellowship hall with CAMGA natural Christmas ornaments.

New Membership Directory Report by Carol Rattan:

Carol announced that new member pictures would be made today at the party for the 2022 Membership Directory. Carol asked all Committee Chairmen to review job descriptions to verify any changes that may have occurred.

Mallory Kelly Report:

Mallory thanked the CAMGA Board members for the service given this past year and reminded everyone to continue to reach out to members who have not been attending meetings. Members were encouraged to attend the Christmas tour at the Governor's Mansion this month to see the beautiful decorations made by Master Gardeners.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Betty Plaster, Secretary

Mallory recognized and thanked Carol Pugh for her work with CAMGA. Carol will retire December 17, 2021, with 41 years of service with Elmore County Extension.

CAMGA Lunch and Learn 2022 will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka starting January 11, 2022.

Mallory thanked Mary Ann Hatcher for her continued help with the Master Gardener Helpline.

Rick Olson entertained the group with Christmas songs which were delightful!

Membership Report by Lee Ann Marona:

Lee Ann presented the Robin Award to Carol Pugh.

Mallory Kelly installed the 2022 CAMGA Officers:

President -- Lynda Edwards
Vice President -- Kelly LaFreniere
Secretary -- Sheila Radford
Treasurer -- Sherri Lynn Davidson

Robin Snyder organized a delicious lunch. Robin and Bionca Lindsey coordinated holiday activities for the gathering that put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

***Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Plaster, Secretary***



CAMGA Library News December 2021 By: Dee Turberville

CAMGA Library Acquisitions for 2021

Libib online database, a subscription — \$56.14

The Darling Dahlias and the Confederate Rose, a mystery — \$4.82

The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree, a mystery — \$4.10

Leave Only Footprints: My Acadia-To-Zion Journey Through Every National Park, a memoir — \$19.49

Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard, nonfiction — \$20.41

A Funny Year in the Garden, a paperback of cartoons — \$16.95

The Resilient Gardener: Food Reliance in Uncertain Times, nonfiction — \$27.55

Emily Dickinson's Gardening Life: The Plants and Places That Inspired The Iconic Poet, 2nd edition, hardcover, a memorial — \$26.45

Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden, nonfiction — \$22.85

Demco library supplies \$29.87

A REMINDER: Use the “**Libib**” online database with keyword search box to browse the entire CAMGA collection. Access it by clicking the Libib link within the CAMGA.net website. No password is needed. Start the New Year with a good book on spring planting!



Governor's Mansion Report December 2021 By: Amanda Borden



Robin has decorating skills, no matter what she says.



Robin Snyder, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, Jane McCarthy, Beth Wicker, and Amanda Borden are happy volunteers...



Hydrangeas galore.



...Until they hear they have to replace the greenery again!

Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)
December 2021
By: Amanda Borden



The volunteers are treated to an evening reception at the Mansion.

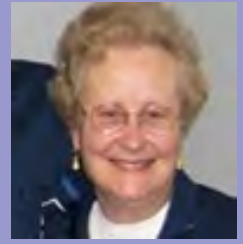


*Last minute detailing... Ann Hamill,
Robin Snyder, and Jane McCarthy.*

SPOTLIGHT On VOLUNTEERS

December 2021

By: Judy May



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion this month were Amanda Borden, Susan Carmichael, Linda Cater, Anne Carr, Peggy Funk, Ann Hamill, Bionca Lindsey, Jane McCarthy, Soyna Moore, Kathy Quinn, Mirinda Tatum, Marina Vorontasova and her daughter Anastasia.

On December 3rd and 4th, several of our ladies, dressed in Victorian attire, handed out herb scented sachet bags and promotional materials at the Dickens Christmas event in downtown Wetumpka. The event was well attended. The promotional materials included helpline bookmarks and flyers on Lunch and Learn and the upcoming Master Gardener class in February. Those joining in the fun were Kelly LaFreniere, Rhonda Miles, Norma Parker, Sandra Rosamond, Cheryl Fitzgerald and her granddaughter Lily and Terry Chambliss.

As we end this year, Lee Ann Marona wants to acknowledge the work of all those on the Membership Team: Robin Snyder, our Hospitality Chair who goes above and beyond month after month to serve refreshments at meetings as well as for orchestrating and cooking for the holiday party; Cathy Whigham for her many years of service producing the CAMGA directory, Judy May for her monthly "Garden Buzz" column that recognizes members volunteer efforts, the Phone Tree team who have made hundreds of contacts this year as an outreach during this pandemic; Leslie Bingham, Cheryl Christian, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Marjorie Hannah, Janet Lewis, Judy May, Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Betty Plaster, Sandy Rosamond and Rhona Watson. Thanks to all of you.

Mary Ann Hatcher worked the Helpline by herself this month.





Learning Garden By: Mary McCroan



We call it the Learning Garden because we want to try stuff and see what works. Almost two years ago as COVID and early spring weeds were taking hold at the same time, we put out cardboard around the roses in front of the Extension Office. It wasn't terribly attractive, but it did suppress the weeds and no one was coming to the office anyway.

This year I'm sourcing some free, large pieces of cardboard and covering it with pine needles raked from my driveway. It's not the cleanest pine straw, but the price is right and it

looks better than naked cardboard. And putting out cardboard and pine straw is more fun than pulling weeds.

Sandra Bowen last spring planted a Jerusalem Artichoke plant, also known as Sunchoke. Bill Quails dug up the roots which had filled up a 3x3 bed. I took them home and cooked them. Both roasting and boiled/mashed were tasty. However, although I will neither confirm or deny that their nickname of "fartichokes" is well deserved, I advise you to eat them in moderation



About a week ago, some thunderstorms rolled though, and although most folks in the local area didn't have high winds, at my father's apartment (just a few hundred yards from the Extension Office) it almost blew the front door in. Damage at the gardens was two trellises blown over. The large, 12 foot long trellis was still loaded with vines because we were hoping for the luffas to dry and so offered a lot of wind resistance. Also, although the lumber was treated, it was not rated for direct ground contact and had partially rotted. The next day, Bill Quails, Candy and Randy Jones, Terry Chambliss and myself came out to evaluate the situation.



Learning Garden (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



In a few hours the crew, took apart the trellis, removed the old vines, cut off the rotted wood, and reinstalled the trellis. Of course the wood is still not rated for ground contact, but it should last another four years. Pictures reveal a building technique that looks remarkably like a road crew with one working and three watching. We even attempted to peel some still green luffas. Which didn't work well. Next year we will plant the luffas earlier so they will dry on the vine before the first freeze.

We are still learning lessons in the new chicken house turned green house. One lesson is that in heavy rains the connection of the heater to the extension cord gets wet enough to flip the switch on the GFCI outlet. Fortunately it wasn't too cold before the issue was noticed. And an easy fix is to lift the connection point off the ground.



The green house was very handy when our Angel Trumpet pots sprouted earlier than normal with the warm temps we've had. And easy way to propagate Angel Trumpet is to cut sections of stem before the first freeze, and put them in a pot with some soil. Or directly in the ground for that matter. Usually they will sprout in late Feb and only need occasional protection from cold temps. This year, since they are up already, I've moved them into the greenhouse where they will have to spend the rest of winter.

Back in the garden area, winter veg is doing great with cabbages and broccoli almost ready to harvest. These plants have really enjoyed our warmer than normal fall weather.



Master Gardener Class 2022



Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program

Do you love plants? Do you enjoy volunteering your time? Then you are a great candidate for Master Gardener Intern Training! You do not have to be a garden expert. Simply come with a desire to learn and grow!

2022 Spring Session: February 3rd - May 5th
Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM &
1:00-2:30 PM

Early-bird discount of \$150 to MG Interns who register between Nov. 3 and Dec. 19. Registrations received after Dec. 19 will then increase to full price of \$200. Spring MG Intern registration will close on Jan. 23. Training classes will begin on Feb. 3, 2022.

ONLINE REGISTRATION:
<https://www.aces.edu/go/2022springMGclass>

Extension
Volunteers



Alabama
Master
Gardeners
aces.edu

**Central Alabama
Master Gardeners Association
Lunch & Learn 2022**

**2nd TUESDAY of EVERY Month
12:00-1:00 pm**



First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092



BRING A SACK LUNCH FREE PROGRAM DRINKS PROVIDED

- 11 January** Camellias of Alabama
Dr. Charles Mitchell, Retired Professor, Auburn University
- 8 February** Succulents Info and SALE!
Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & MG
- 8 March** All About Azaleas
Shane Harris, ACES Tallapoosa, CEC
- 12 April** Gardening with Climate Change
Lee and Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardeners
- 10 May** Facts and Myths About Food
Dr. Rudy Pacumbaba, Horticulturist, ACES
- 14 June** Good Garden Thugs
Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist and MG
- 12 July** Making Kambucha From Your Garden For Your Gut
Debbie Kelso, Elmore County Master Gardener
- 9 August** Crape Myrtle Bark Scale in Alabama
Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES
- 13 September** Pumpkinology!
Hayes Jackson, Horticulturist, ACES
- 11 October** Mushroom Mania-Take a Grow Log Home
*Call to reserve a log (334-567-6301)
Rhonda Britton, Horticulturist, ACES
- 8 November** Ancient Grains & Sour Dough Bread Making
Mary McCroan and Debbie Kelso, Elmore County Master Gardeners
- 13 December** Crafts at Christmas
Central Alabama Master Gardeners



For more information, please contact the
Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301
www.aces.edu/elmore

With Deepest Sympathy



We express deepest sympathy to Freda Fry (CAMGA member) for the loss of her husband William, who was a CAMGA member. William was a member of the 2016 Master Gardener Class.

We also express deepest sympathy to Jane Duke, CAMGA member, for the loss of her son.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Happy New Year!!</i>
2	3 <i>Governor's Mansion Garden 9—11 a.m.</i>	4	5 <i>Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.</i>	6 <i>Learning Garden Workday 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Extension Of-</i>	7	8
9	10 <i>Governor's Mansion Garden 9—11 a.m.</i>	11 <i>Projects Meeting, Extension Office Auditorium 9:30-11:30 a.m.</i> <i>Lunch and Learn 12 p.m. First Presbyterian Church Wetumpka.</i>	12 <i>Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.</i>	13 <i>Learning Garden Workday 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Extension Office</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>Governor's Mansion Garden 9—11 a.m.</i> <i>Zoom Board Meeting at 2 p.m.</i>	18 <i>CAMGA Meeting First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 10 a.m.</i>	19 <i>Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.</i>	20 <i>Learning Garden Workday 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Extension Of-</i>	21	22
23	24 <i>Governor's Mansion Garden 9—11 a.m.</i>	25	26 <i>Lanark Gardens With Maria 8-11 a.m.</i>	27 <i>Learning Garden Workday 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. Extension Of-</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>Governor's Mansion Garden 9—11 a.m.</i>					