



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 4 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

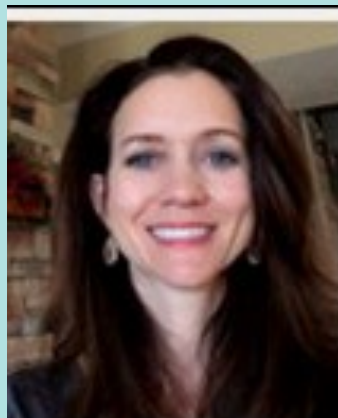
## May 2023

### Message from Kelly

*Kelly Lafreniere*

*CAMGA President*

Hello fellow gardeners I hope everyone is out and enjoying this beautiful weather and labeling your plants for the plant sale. It's right around the corner on May 6th and should be a great event for us all!



I attended the MG Conference in Tuscaloosa, and enjoyed ALL of the speakers, especially Felder Rushing who spoke on the difference of being a Gardener and being a horticulturalist, as usual he did not disappoint and was very entertaining. He spoke about letting go and just enjoy gardening in a less calculated way.

Earth Day was a huge success this past April 15. We educated a lot of people on plants and our Master Gardener organization. Hopefully we recruited some future master gardeners!

Please sign up to work Community Market. It's a lot of fun and our next Community Market will be Thursday, May 4th in downtown Wetumpka.

I also want to remind everybody you can plug-in to the Governor Mansion Gardens every Monday with Jane from 8 to 11. You can help Maria every Wednesday from 8 to 11 at the Lanark Gardens and Mary in the Learning Gardens every Thursday from 8 to 11 at the extension center.

These are all wonderful opportunities for us all to get together and spend time with one another. Take care and stay well.

*Love,  
Kelly*

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*Carol Pugh — Editor  
Garden Buzzzzz  
Newsletter*



# Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

## May Garden Tips

### Fruits and Nuts

- Continue spray program.
- Keep grass from around trees and strawberries.  
Peaches and apples can still be budded.

### Shrubs

- Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks.  
Do not spray with horticultural oils when the temperature is above 85 degrees F.

### Lawns

- Start new lawns from seed.
- Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769 to learn more about seasonal fertilizer use and proper mowing. Overfertilizing and overwatering lead to lawn problems.
- Wait until warm-season lawns are fully green before applying any fertilizers.
- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing
- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, and zoysiagrass (or wait until after dethatching).  
Dethatch warm-season lawns if needed. Check thatch layer, as in April. Water and fertilize after dethatching (1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

### Roses

- Spray or dust for insects and diseases.
- Fertilize monthly according to a soil test.
- Plant container-grown plants in flower.  
Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

### Annuals and Perennials

- Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce.
- Watch for insects on day lilies. Bulbs
- Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted.
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs.  
Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

### Miscellaneous

- Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done.  
Monitor new landscape plantings of shrubs, trees, and turf. To establish healthy root systems, prevent them from drying out and water deeply.

### Vegetable Seeds

- **Whole state:** Continue plantings of all April seeds across the state.
- **Central and North:** Add okra and southern peas to your garden.

### Vegetable Transplants

- **Whole state:** Continue plantings of April transplant crops.
- **Central and North:** Plant certified sweet potato slips.

# CAMGA Minutes

## April 18, 2023

### First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary



Sandy presented feature speaker, CAMGA intern Rebecca Riley at 10:00 am. Rebecca will be coordinating with Anida Wishnietsky to utilize photos members take at events CAMGA is involved in. Rebecca recommended selecting the large size option when sharing photos. Please send pictures to the e-mail account [CAMGApics@gmail.com](mailto:CAMGApics@gmail.com), but also don't forget to email some to Jane Mobley for inclusion in the yearbook.

Regarding use of SignUp Genius, Rebecca recommended if the event is for the public, create a Facebook event. If the information is for CAMGA members only use SignUp Genius. Rebecca will gladly help anyone that needs additional coaching with this highly effective means of communication. Presentation concluded at 10:30 a.m.

# # # # #

Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Nineteen members signed the attendance sheet. The March meeting minutes were published in the Garden Buzz, so Betty made a motion to accept the minutes and motion was seconded by Sherri.

Mallory's son is doing better post snake bite. Lois Pribulick is continuing her recovery at home. The donation to the American Diabetes Association in memory of Lynda Edward's son has been accepted. Best wishes and prayers for all these folks and any others.

Sandy says the first 2023 Wetumpka Community Market will be May 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet to volunteer. She has planned a tour of Young's Plant Farm for Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is located near Auburn so participants will need to meet at the extension early that morning in order to carpool. A SignUp Genius list will be generated.

Cindy reports that the next council meeting is on May 4<sup>th</sup>. CAMGA membership cards are available. These can be worth 10% off when shown at various garden stores. Jane shared that more people from the community are coming to the Lunch & Learn and staying around afterward to ask questions. Sherri has received dues payments from 76 members.

## CAMGA April 18, 2023 Minutes (Continued)

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

### Treasurer's Financial Report

Beginning Balance (March 21, 2023)	\$21,749.67	
TOTAL INCOME	136.00	
EXPENSES	<u>-653.81</u>	
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE .....</b>		<b>21,231.86</b>

Robin had more details about the plant sale. There are still plenty of flyers available for distribution. Set up on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> starts at 8 am. All plants must be appropriately labeled before unloading.

The necessary information is plant name, sun/shade, perennial/ annual, size of plant at maturity, color of bloom if applicable. Four volunteers are needed to set up each booth's canopy. When all booths are set up these volunteers can then head for their respective work sites. Mary will oversee tours and talks scheduled for the plant sale.

There will be designated parking for volunteers. All volunteers are requested to wear their CAMGA red aprons.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20

Old Business: 0

New Business: 0

***Minutes respectfully submitted by,***

***Sheila Radford, Secretary***



## CAMGA Library News

### May 2023

By: Dee Turberville

#### Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden; Grow, Harvest & Arrange Stunning Seasonal Blooms, by Erin Benzakein with Julie Chai

With this striking guide, winner of the American Horticultural Society's 2018 Book Award, you can grow the flower garden of your dreams. Equal parts instruction and photographic inspiration, *Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden* invites you into Erin Benzakein's bloom-filled world. You'll find easy-to-follow steps for planting, cultivating, and harvesting more than 175 varieties of flowers including cottage garden favorites, new hybrids as well as heirloom varieties. From how to keep massive plants upright to keeping specific flowers alive longer in vases, there are also sections on greenery and companion vegetables.



“One of the leading voices in the farmer-florist movement, Erin is a tireless advocate for locally-grown flowers. Here she has put together an indispensable four-season growing guide that will inspire you to sow your own cutting garden – whether you plant one row or hundreds.” – Melissa Ozawa, garden editor, Martha Stewart Living. Browsing this book on my patio one afternoon, I was held captive by the photos and tips for making and preserving stunning arrangements. Happy growing!





## Governor's Mansion Report For April 2023

By: Amanda Borden



On 6 April, we hosted the CCMGA intern class to the Mansion for a welcome and introduction to what we do. We trimmed azaleas and recycled some vigorous Black and Blue Salvia. We have welcomed several of those interns to work regularly with us on Mondays. With this additional help, we cleaned up a lot of winter damage. We had a banner number of 96 volunteer hours this month; that does not include drive time but does include talking time.

We have weeded, trimmed, planted, and laid fresh pine straw in the Governor's Mansion, Hill House, and the Finley House.

Our volunteers this month were Sue Berry, Amanda Borden, Linda Cater, Ben Coker, Ann Colvin, Ann Hamill, Jane McCarthy, Ann Mountcastle, Cheryl McKiernan, Kathy Quinn, Alicia Robertson, Charlene Thomas, and Robin Snyder.

Thanks to all.





## Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

### For April 2023

By: Amanda Borden





## CAMGA Projects Minutes April 11, 2023 By: Terry Chambliss

The meeting was held at Rhona's house. After admiring her gardens and beautiful bonsai creations, we met inside. Those present were Jane Mobley, Darlene Dixon, Rebecca Ridley, Michelle Sharpton, Rhona Watson and Terry Chambliss.

Rhona gave an update on the memorial brick project. The patio has been completed and she is working with the brick company for the color and size of the bricks for engraving.

There are 10 people signed up for Earth Day on April 15th.

Our continued participation in the Community Market was discussed. There is a marked decrease in interest among the members and the public. It was decided to do it again on May 4th in order to promote the plant sale and intern class and make a decision as to continued participation after that.

Lanark Work Day was scheduled on Wednesday, May 17th from 8:30am-12:00pm.

Fertilizing and pruning the Presbyterian Church roses was scheduled on June 7th and August 23rd from 9-11:00am. Jane will purchase the fertilizer.

A Propagation Workshop at Extension was scheduled on June 15th from 8-11:00am. The participants will be propagating plants for themselves. Pots and soil will be available.

The Make & Take project will be on August 16th from 10:00am-12:00pm. Rebecca and Michelle will lead the workshop on lighted fairy wreathes. This will be practice for the Senior Project scheduled on October 20th from 9:30-11:30am.

The plant swap among members was scheduled during the CAMGA meeting on September 19th, however It was later pointed out that we have a guest speaker for the day. It was changed to the meeting in October at Lanark.

The remaining projects will be scheduled at a later date. Those include returning to Dr. Mitchell's house to cut the air layered camellias, the scarecrow, Christmas ornaments and sachet bags.

***Respectively Submitted by,***

***Terry Chambliss***





## Learning Garden Report

April 2023

By: Mary McCroan

### The reconstruction of our Learning Garden is continuing:

- Our 2nd fence (of four) is close to completion and is looking as good as the first. Meticulous work by Jason Mattox, Darlene Dixon, Virginia Pruitt, Deb Kelso, Terry Chambliss and Candy Jones have assured that it will be straight, square and visually appealing as well as functional. Remaining work: the two shorter end fences, pergolas over the two gates, and moving one of the irrigation manifolds that is in the way of the new construction.
- Cheryl Fitzgerald, Bill Quails, Candy Jones and Terry Chambliss all worked on the new “keyhole” beds.
- Terry Chambliss arranged for delivery of some super-soil to fill up the new beds.
- We are working on a garden design to best use our new space to illustrate concepts and techniques for visiting gardeners.
- Amanda Borden designed and planted four beds to show use of rotation of crops in home gardens. And more recently, she is incorporating companion planting (such as basil and marigolds) around tomatoes.
- Some of the new beds will be used to group culinary herbs in one area.
- Deb Kelso is creating a design that will showcase herbs that were historically used medicinally by Native Americans and early settlers in times when modern medicines had not yet been invented and the nearest doctor might be a three days away by horseback.
- Jane Mobley has planted a few more plants for the pollinators in the Butterfly Garden.

Our spring/pre-sale workday was 24 April 2023. Participants included Terry Chambliss, Connie Willis, Jason Mattox, Ricky Hatcher, Rozanne Braswell, Rhona Watson, Sandy Rosamond, Mary McCroan, Darlene Dixon, Jane Mobley, and Virginia Pruitt. It was a smaller turnout than previous Spring cleanup days around the Extension, but I’ve noticed that post COVID participation in community activities is still far below pre-COVID levels.

We repaired the shed, removed some damaged elements from the pergola, built a little more fence, did some painting, killed some ants, and generally picked up and cleaned up around the gardens. The “wild” blackberry patch got some alien trees and bushes pruned out of it. And the frost damaged figs were trimmed up.

Super kudos to Virginia Pruitt. There was less to do on the workday because in early April, she almost single handedly turned the jungle that had formed in front of the Extension back into a garden.

Many of the plants that were propagated nurtured by the Learning Garden team over the winter are looking good. The pink yarrow is blooming and looking particularly attractive. Hopefully all will sell well. On the other hand, in spite of toasting the turmeric in the greenhouse for a month, I only have a few pots with baby shoots. Turmeric really likes to stay asleep until mid-June.

Regards to all, Mary McCroan, 334-312-0679, [mary1@mccroan.com](mailto:mary1@mccroan.com)



## Spotlight on Volunteers — April 2023

**By: Terry Chambliss**

- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, seven Master Gardeners met at Dr. Mitchell's house in Auburn for air layering his camellias. Those included Rebecca Ridley, Sherri Davidson, Rhona Watson, Debbie Kelso, Jane Mobley, Darlene Dixon and Cathy Wiggins. They will return in the fall to pot the cuttings. These will be for the plant sale in a couple of years.
- Those participating on Earth Day in Wetumpka on April 15<sup>th</sup> were Cheryl Fitzgerald, Darlene Dixon, Kelly LaFreniere, Sandy Rosamond, Rebecca Ridley, Rhona Watson, Jane Mobley, Sherri Davidson, Michelle Sharpton, Sheila Radford and Terry Chambliss. The leftover plants were taken to Extension for the plant sale.

## April Master Gardener Activities

### 2023 AMGA Conference attendees



From left to right is Carol Rattan, Norma, Busby, Kelly Lafreniere, Jesse Miles, Rhonda Miles, Marianne Hatcher second row is Barbara Wallace, Andy Wallace, Ricky Hatcher

**Pictures from the lecture and presenter Patrick Thompson on native azaleas.** He spoke on native azaleas. These are some of the War eagle Azaleas. He also spoke on the Oconee azaleas.





# May 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.	2	3 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	4 Learning Garden 7-10 a.m.  First Thursday Community Market, Wetumpka, 4-7 p.m.	5 Plant Sale Set-Up at Extension Office, 8 a.m.	6 MG Plant Sale at Extension Office 8 a.m.
7	8 Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.	9 Lunch & Learn 12-1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church	10 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	11 Learning Garden 7-10 a.m.	12	13
14 	15 Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.	16 CAMGA Monthly Meeting, 10-12 noon. First Presby- terian Church	17 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	18 Learning Garden 7-10 a.m.	19	20
21	22 Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.	23	24 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.	25 Learning Garden 7-10 a.m.	26	27
28	29 Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.	30	31 Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.			