



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## July 2023

**Message from Kelly**  
**Kelly Lafreniere**  
**CAMGA President**



We were all saddened to learn of Earnie Edwards passing.

It's never easy to lose a fellow Master Gardener. He will be missed dearly.

Lynda, his wife has been through so much these past few years. Please remember her and her family in your prayers.

Earnie became a Master Gardener in 2016 and had many other accomplishments through out his life. He was an amazing man and a loving family man.

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Fourth of July. Remember to hydrate and work outside in early morning and late afternoon.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our July 18th meeting. Debbie Kelso will be our presenter. I'm excited!

*Take Care,*  
*Kelly*



**Carol Pugh – Editor**  
**Garden Buzzzzz**  
**Newsletter**

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## Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

### Ambrosia Beetles Attacking Small Trees

The Granulate Ambrosia beetles have been causing quite a stir in home landscapes over the past few weeks. The influx this year I believe is due to the winter cold damage and hard late spring frost we had this year to so many of our landscape trees. This beetle was introduced into the United States in the early 1970's in South Carolina and has since spread throughout the southeast and as far north as Maryland. This tiny beetle is a pest of woody ornamentals, fruit, and nut trees and can cause significant damage in nursery, landscape, and orchard settings.



Granulate ambrosia beetles emerge in early spring and attack thin barked, deciduous trees. Tree species most commonly reported with damage are dogwood, redbud, maple, ornamental cherry, Japanese maple, and crape myrtle. Other reported hosts include pecan, peach, plum, persimmon, golden rain tree, sweet gum, Shumard oak, Chinese elm, magnolia, fig, hydrangea and azalea.

Young trees and small branches of mature trees are where these beetles attack. Female beetles bore into the trunks and branches

(1-4 inches in diameter) and excavate galleries in the wood. In addition to boring damage, female beetles inoculate trees with ambrosia fungus, which can block xylem vessels and interfere with vascular transport. Infested plants often die from boring damage, ambrosia fungus, or infection by a secondary pathogen.

These beetles attack seemingly healthy trees as well as stressed or unhealthy trees. I believe the influx this year is due to trees under more stress than usual from damage due to the cole. Visible symptoms include wilted foliage and strands of boring dust protruding from small holes. Serious attacks that result in tree death usually occur during leafing-out stage.



## Message from Mallory (Continued)

Mallory Kelley

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

Infestations can be easily be identified by toothpick-like strands protruding up to 1.5 inches from the bark of the host plant. The strands of boring dust are produced by the female beetle as she excavates her gallery. The strands are fragile and are easily broken off by wind or rain leaving only pencil-lead sized holes. This being the case, your tree may be infected and you would not even know it until you start seeing the dieback of the foliage.

Preventative applications of pyrethroid insecticides can protect trees by preventing Granulate Ambrosia Beetles from excavating galleries. However, once beetles are inside trees they cannot be killed with insecticides and fungicides are ineffective against the ambrosia fungus. Thus, the timing of preventative insecticide applications is crucial to protect trees from damage by this pest. Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University Extension Entomologist says “recent research of the first flight of granulate ambrosia beetle in spring has found it occurs at almost exactly the same time as bradford pears beginning to bloom. This gives a clear sign to a homeowner of when they should apply the preventative sprays.”

If you notice the white strands protruding from the branches or main trunk of your trees or shrubs the plant parts should be removed and destroyed.

Sources: Dr. Charles Ray, Auburn University, Extension Entomologist.

North Carolina State University <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/trees/note111/note111.html>

**CAMGA Minutes**  
**June 20, 2023**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka**  
**By: Sheila Radford, Secretary**



Sandy presented the speaker, Rhona Watson. Rhona is a CAMGA member, and she graduated in the Master Gardener class of 2005. She clearly enjoys working with Japanese maples and stated that she “had a really good time putting this presentation together”. ‘Growing Japanese Maples’ is the title of today’s lecture. Rhona has 50 different types of Japanese maples at her home.

She stressed the importance of consistent watering. Too much water will kill a Japanese maple. Remember that their roots lie close to the surface of the soil and are easily damaged by weed whacker abuse and over fertilization. Use no fertilizer after the month of May.

Japanese maples come in a vast array of colors and forms, but they do not have flowers. Plant them high, meaning 1-2 inches above ground level. Take care not to bury the graft. References cited were the book “Japanese Maples” by Peter Gregory and the U Tube show “Mr. Maple”.

Rhona further suggests that smaller plants acclimate to a new location better than larger specimens do. Instead of immediately transplanting a new Japanese maple in the yard gardeners are advised to keep it in a pot filled with compost and pine bark for one year. This gives the proud owner time to reflect on the best permanent site for the new addition.

The best time to prune a Japanese maple is late February to early March. Rhona also mentioned that Japanese maples are frequently and successfully used to create Bonsai to be enjoyed out-of-doors as well.

Rhona’s presentation concluded at 10:52.

# # # # #

The business meeting began at 11:12. The May minutes were accepted after a motion by Bonnie McCormick was seconded. 25 CAMGA members signed in on the attendance sheets.

Please remember Lynda Edwards family in thoughts and prayers. Lynda’s husband Earnie passed away on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Kelly attended the Alabama Master Gardeners Association meeting in May. CAMGA will contribute to Auburn University Transformation Garden.

## CAMGA June 2023 Minutes (Continued)

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

The importance of keeping each member's service report current is very important. This information keeps the Master Gardener program going. Recorded hours are utilized in justifying the resources expended by ACES to train and continually educate master gardeners. A minimum of 25 volunteer or CEU hours must be recorded for each member every year.

Cindy continues to work on producing a directory for CAMGA.

Sherri presented the May financial report for May 16, 2023-June 19, 2023.

Beginning Balance May 16, 2023	\$22,980.72
Income	544.00
Expenses	<u>-367.50</u>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$23,157,22</b>

Suggestions have been made that CAMGA should hire a tax attorney to deal with potential issues, particularly questions about taxes on plant sale proceeds. Achieving 501C3 tax status would be extremely advantageous to CAMGA. It would improve the chances of receiving grants to benefit projects. The cost to acquire this status would be \$1000.

In order to be able to pay taxes CAMGA must charge taxes on items we sell at the annual plant sale. Mallory reminded members that when annual plant sales were smaller taxes weren't an issue. Now that plant sales are bringing in a lot more money the State of Alabama is becoming interested in "getting its share" of monies.

Rebecca and Michele have organized the annual senior project to be held on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be a workshop at the Extension office on August 16<sup>th</sup> to instruct volunteers on constructing a Fairy Garden Wreath. The workshop will also be counted as the Make and Take event for this year.

It's been proposed that members seek a way to share/swap plants with each other throughout the year via social media. This could lead to having a bigger variety of plants available to sell at the annual event.

Michele, on behalf of the Reach for the Stars program, presented Terry Chambliss and Rhonda Miles with platinum badges for their many hours of volunteerism with CAMGA.

Robin needs volunteers to help with the incoming intern class. There are opportunities to serve. Mentors for each intern are needed. Meals will need to be prepared for some of the classes. Volunteers will be needed that can go to the location selected for meals to set up and later clean up.

## CAMGA June 2023 Minutes (Continued)

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary

Sandy related that the field trip on June 7<sup>th</sup> was great. NemophilyNatives.com had lots of great plants at reasonable prices.

Jane reported that Lunch & Learn needs volunteers to bring refreshments in Oct., Nov., and December. The first shipment of four engraved bricks for the honorary brick way has been shipped and is now installed at the extension. A ceremony to celebrate and dedicate this monument will be arranged when the remaining 42 bricks are set in place probably sometime in October.

Mallory elaborated on the plans for the incoming intern class which starts August 10<sup>th</sup>. The first half of the classes will be in person followed by a Q&A zoom presentation. After lunch on those days there will be a live speaker. The last portion of classes will be conducted via zoom with interns getting lunch on their own. After lunch the interns will meet at pre-selected gardens with hands-on activities.

Old business: 0

New Business: 0

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

***Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Sheila Radford, Secretary***



## CAMGA Library News

July 2023

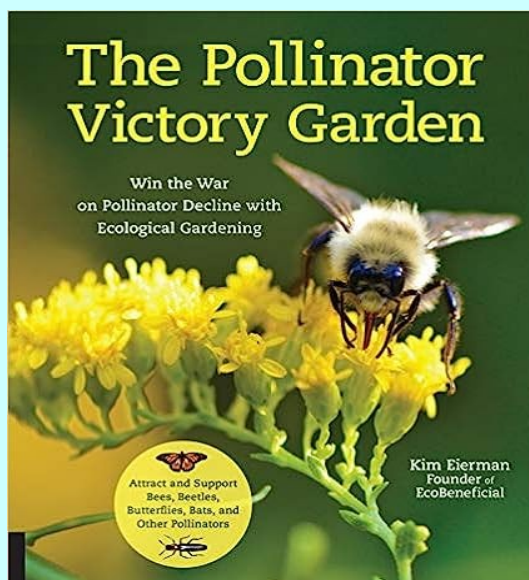
By: Dee Turberville

### The Pollinator Victory Garden

Win the War on Pollinator Decline with Ecological Gardening

By Kim Eierman

Founder of *EcoBeneficial.com*, Kim Eierman believes that the passion and urgency that inspired WWI and WWII Victory Gardens is needed today to meet another threat to our food supply and environment – the steep decline of pollinators. She offers practical solutions to attract and support bees, beetles, butterflies, bats and other pollinators (like nocturnal moths, hummingbirds, flies, and yes, wasps) for winning the war against the demise of these essential creatures. Enjoy the step-by-step instructions within these colorful pages for turning your landscape into a pollinator paradise.



I especially like the extensive appendices that are full of information: (1) Ten Tips for a Thriving Pollinator Victory Garden (2) Plants Lists, such a variety that include native shrubs, trees, perennials, whether early or late blooming, i.e., one category, “Native Flowering Plants for Hummingbirds” (3) Several Book Resources as well as Helpful Websites.

July 4<sup>th</sup> is upon us – **BEE Patriotic** – plan to start or support your own pollinator victory garden!



# Governor's Mansion Report For June 2023

By: Amanda Borden



At the Governor's Mansion, we watered, weeded, trimmed, deadheaded, applied pine straw, and renewal pruned a few rambunctious shrubs. We tried to finish before 11:00 a.m and work in the shade.





# Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

## For June 2023

By: Amanda Borden



## *In Deepest Sympathy*



*We express deepest sympathy and prayers to Master Gardener Lynda Edwards and family, for the loss of her husband, Earnie Edwards – fellow Master Gardener and friend.*

*Earnie was a member of the 2016 Master Gardener class and will be deeply missed.*



### **2023 ACES County Grassroots Needs Assessment**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System needs your help in planning programs that address Elmore County's needs. Please take a few minutes to complete this on line survey at the link below:

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

# Upcoming Meetings

## Fairy Wreath Make and Take Workshop

When: August 16, 2023 — 10 a.m. — Noon

Where: Elmore County Extension Office Kitchen/Classroom  
(Sign Up Will Close July 31)

Cost: **\$20 — (Due by August 8)**

Payment will be received by Rebecca Ridley or Michelle Sharpton at CAMGA Meetings or a check, made payable to CAMGA, can be mailed to:

**Rebecca Ridley**  
**410 Cabin Rd**  
**Wetumpka, AL 36093**



**July 18, 2023**

**8:30AM- 12:00 PM**

**First Baptist Church of Dadeville**

Registration & Pay:

<https://www.aces.edu/go/lawn-workshop>

Cost: \$5.00



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# July 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3 <i>Governor's Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	4  <i>Happy Fourth of July</i>	5 <i>Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	6 <i>Learning Gardens — Extension Office 7-10 a.m.</i> <i>1st Thursday Market We-tumpka Community Market 4-7 p.m.</i>	7	8
9	10 <i>Governor's Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	11 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn — First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.</i>	12 <i>Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	13 <i>Learning Gardens — Extension Office 7-10 a.m.</i>	14	15
16	17 <i>Governor's Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	18 <i>CAMGA Meeting, First Presbyterian Church 10-12 noon</i>	19 <i>Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	20 <i>Learning Gardens — Extension Office 7-10 a.m.</i>	21	22
23	24 <i>Governor's Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	25	26 <i>Lanark Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>	27 <i>Learning Gardens — Extension Office 7-10 a.m.</i>	28	29
30	31 <i>Governor's Mansion Gardens 8-11 a.m.</i>					