



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 9 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

September 2023

Message from Kelly Kelly Lafreniere CAMGA President



Hello fellow Gardeners, I hope everyone is doing well and your plants survived the heat dome we all experienced last week.

My gardens and courtyard are alive and well and only slightly traumatized. I know we're all looking forward to cooler weather.

I wanted to congratulate our four new Master Gardeners! We are so proud of them and so thankful for them. They will be such an asset to our organization. If you see them, please tell them congratulations and welcome!!

They are Darlene Dixon (277 hours), Jason Mattox (107 hours), Renae Pemberton (59 hours) and Rebecca Ridley (188 hours)!! Congratulations to them for making it through the classes!

I want to welcome our four Elmore County interns: David Heffelfinger, Casie McGinn, Lidia Mitchum and Lesley Wilkinson.

If you see them, please talk to them and encourage them to join you in Master Gardener activities. I know they too will be an asset to our organization when they graduate next year and we are excited to have them.

We have six interns from Autauga County and they are Darlene Blumentritt, Debra Brooks, Michael Camire, Julie Freeland, Tim Freeland, and Thomas Miller. We also have one intern from Montgomery County, Consuelo Bradley.

A big thank you to Robin, Mallory, Cheryl, and Sherri and Sam for all you do to organize the intern class. It's much appreciated. Thank you everyone for all you do, this organization wouldn't exist without everyone stepping up to keep our organization thriving.

Thank you,
Kelly

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Carol Pugh – Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

September Garden Tips

Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease.
- Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease, or freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

Lawns

- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply preemergent herbicides.
- Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

Annuals and Perennials

- Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these.
- Divide old clumps of perennials.
- Plant peonies.

Bulbs

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build a compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.

Vegetable Seeds

- **Central and North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.

Vegetable Transplants

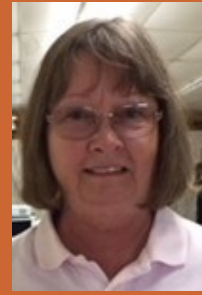
- **Whole state:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets.

CAMGA Minutes

August 15, 2023

First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka

By: Sheila Radford, Secretary



Sandy introduced the featured speaker, Suzanne Sikes. Suzanne has been a Master Gardener since 2005, and she spoke about biophilic design. Biophilia is defined as the inherent human inclination to affiliate with nature. Biophilic design incorporates natural materials, natural light, vegetation, nature views, and other experiences of the natural world into the modern built environment. Suzanne mentioned meadowscapes which are areas that induce people to stop and linger a while. Well-designed atriums help reduce blood pressure and suppress cortisol, thereby potentially lowering stress.

Examples of cities that incorporate biophilic principles are San Antonio, Texas, and Fairhope, Alabama.

“Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning” by Timothy Beatly, “People and Nature in the Modern World” by Stephen R. Kellert are some books that Suzanne recommended and “Meadowscaping” by Lisa Millbrand is an article in YARDZEN. Suzanne completed her presentation at 10:50 a.m.

#

Anthony Yarbrough, a Master Gardener from Autauga County since 2009, also spoke to the CAMGA membership ahead of the business meeting. Anthony was in the first class of interns that Mallory Kelley taught. He did a brief presentation regarding the Transformation Garden at Auburn University. The Alabama Master Gardener Association has pledged to raise \$200,000 for this undertaking. For this donation AMGA has received the right to name the main throughfare in the completed Transformation Garden. The TG aspires to develop new, better methods to improve worldwide agriculture. It will provide outdoor classrooms and hands on experience for a wide variety of students with interests ranging from culinary arts, botany, agriculture, hydroponics, and beyond. This is a vast project. The rooftop garden portion is completed. Tours can be arranged.

Donations from associations toward fulfilling the pledge can be made as a lump sum or extended over a period of up to 5 years. Individuals wishing to donate may make checks payable to AMGA for Transformation Garden.

Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:20. Twenty-eight people signed the attendance record including two of the four new interns from Elmore County. Welcome Deborah Brooks and David Heffelefinger! Approval for the minutes from the July meeting was recommended by Cheryl, seconded by Bonnie, and approved by voice vote.

Linda Edwards is doing okay. She’s busy “getting her house in order”. Please continue praying for her and her family.

August 15, 2023 CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Betty Plaster and Anne Carr are serving as the nominating committee. They will be asking members to step up and volunteer for the board positions of secretary and vice president for two-year terms.

Sherri reported that there was no expenditures or income reported since the July meeting. It is time to collect the yearly dues. Checks for \$25.00 need to be payable to CAMGA, and Sherri will be able to accept credit card payments at the next several meetings. For members to be included in next year's directory, dues must be in by December 5th.

Cindy plans to do a short directory with just names, addresses, and phone numbers for now. After the first of the year there will be a full directory.

Cindy attended the AMGA advisory council meeting on August 1st. She related that the 2024 AMGA annual conference is to be sponsored by Baldwin County in Daphne from April 22-24. Autauga County is scheduled to be the host of the conference in 2025.

The Master Gardener Service Report will undergo changes effective January 2024. These changes are being implemented to give ACES more information on how master gardeners accumulate hours, and to make the service report easier to use, thereby encouraging members to log their hours. Beginning this December 15th AMGA will coordinate a statewide graduation ceremony for interns. This ceremony will be held in Auburn.

\$73,385.65 of the \$200,000 AMGA pledge for the Transformation Garden at Auburn University has been raised. Suggestions for the name of the pathway are currently being accepted.

Robin needs volunteers to furnish sandwiches and dips for the September 14th intern class. It will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. She expects that 20-25 people will attend.

Mallory extended her thanks for CAMGA's involvement in the recent intern graduation ceremony held in Autaugaville, and for the Board's participation in providing lunch for the new interns' first class in Wetumpka the next day.

Mary reported that the new and improved Learning Gardens construction phase is completed for now, and it's time to concentrate more on growing. Anyone who hasn't been to the Learning Garden recently needs to stop by.

The engraved bricks have arrived and are in place at the Extension office. A simple ceremony is being planned to commemorate those who are being remembered and honored. The date set for this dedication is Friday, November 10th, Veterans Day.

The plant swap will take place on October 17th at the CAMGA meeting at Lanark. Individuals **DON'T** have to bring plants in order to participate!

Old Business: 0

New Business: 0

Meeting adjourned was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Sheila Radford, Secretary



CAMGA Library News

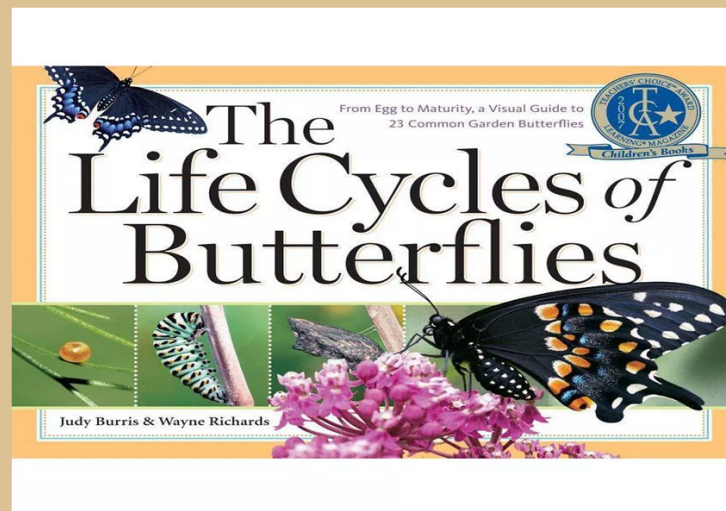
August 2023

By: Dee Turberville

The Life Cycles of Butterflies; From Egg to Maturity, A Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies By Judy Burris & Wayne Richards

There is something almost magical about butterflies. For anyone who has ever watched and marveled at a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, *The Life Cycles of Butterflies* is a treasure chest of amazing butterfly transformations. The photography by naturalists, Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, a sister-brother team, is outstanding, over 400 full-color, up-close images. They have spent many years observing, raising, and photographing these beautiful creatures within their own northern Kentucky backyards.

From the Black Swallowtail to the Monarch, the Question Mark to the Painted Lady, each butterfly is shown from start to maturity, with sequential photographs of the egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and emerging butterfly. Additional detail shots highlight caterpillar behavior, changes in the chrysalis as the wings emerge, open and closed wing shots, and the color variations between the male and female butterflies. Chapter 3 includes specific host plants for each butterfly and the top nectar flowers for butterfly habitat gardening.



The Life Cycles of Butterflies has won two of Learning Magazine's Teacher's Choice Awards. This book is not just for children; it also appeals to teachers, families, wildlife enthusiasts and pollinator gardeners. "Butterflies touch the hearts of young and old alike. And if one actually lands on you, somehow you feel honored, as if you were singled out as an especially trustworthy companion." -- Judy Burris



Governor's Mansion Report For August 2023

By: Amanda Borden



During August, we had Finley House clean up with weeding, trimming, and planning for next year. We pulled torpedo grass again...and again...and again! We worked in the Serenity Garden, back yard, and side yard. We watered all annuals and containers...and took one Monday off!



*Linda, Robin, Kathy,
and Sue weeding*



*Weeding and trimming in the
side yard adjacent to the pool*

2023 Autauga/Elmore County Master Gardener Graduation Class Congratulations!



Master Gardener Intern Graduates from Elmore County:

Renee Pemberton, Darlene Dixon,
Jason Mattox, and Rebecca Ridley

Congratulations!!

Make and Take Workshop Report

By: Michelle Sharpton

Master Gardeners gathered at the Extension Office on August 16 for our annual Make and Take workshop.

Twelve participants made beautiful fairy wreaths made from natural oranges and lemon slices, natural sticks and bark, plastic nursery pots, fairy string lights, moss, dried flowers, miniature figurines, floral picks, and a lot of hot glue on a grapevine wreath. The class instruction was led by Rebecca Ridley; Michelle Sharpton and Sherri Davidson were helpers.

The participants were Jane Mobley, Darlene Dixon, Rhonda Miles, Sandy Rosamond, Anne Carr, Sheila Radford, Rhona Watson, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Cindy Augustine, Kelly LaFreniere, and Mary McCroan.

Pictures from the event can be found on the CAMGA Facebook and Instagram page.

The fairy wreath is what we will be making with the folks at Senior Center in Wetumpka on October 20 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Volunteers to help that day will be needed and appreciated.

Report on Engraved Bricks at Extension Office

By: Rhona Watson



Jason Mattox, Darlene Dixon and I completed installing all the engraved bricks on Friday, August 25th.

It came out great, thanks to everyone who helped, and bought a brick.

We got fifty-two (52) bricks, which includes, all of our members who are deceased, tributes to current members, and many heartfelt tributes for family and friends.

Go by the Extension Office and check it out. It is in front of the shade garden.



Upcoming Meeting

Fall Vegetable Container Gardening Workshop
Tuesday, September 19th — 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Pike Road Agriculture, Recreation and Performing Arts Park
6281 Trotman Road
Montgomery, AL 36116

Join the Ag & Stewardship Club on Tuesday, September 19th for Vegetable Container Gardening Workshop to learn all the tips and tricks on how to have a bountiful vegetable harvest this fall! Mallory Kelley, Alabama Extension Regional Agent & Horticulturist, will guide attendees through choosing the right container, the correct soil mix needed, fertilizers for plant success, and what vegetables are to be planted in each season. Participants will get to choose from a variety of vegetable plants and seeds and assemble them into a container that will help maximize garden space! This event is presented in partnership with the Pike Road Ag & Stewardship Club and the Montgomery County branch of The Alabama Cooperative Extension System

This workshop costs \$25, and all materials will be provided!
Registration is required.

[Click here to register now!](#) — (Ctrl Click)

If you have any questions about registering or general questions about the Ag & stewardship program, please feel more than welcome to reach out by emailing jarnold@pikeroad.us or by calling my direct office number at 334-495-4126.

We are excited to partner with the Montgomery County branch of The Alabama Cooperative Extension System to offer this unique, creative, and fun Ag & Stewardship workshop opportunity for the Pike Road community and cannot wait to see everyone on September 19th!



SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Happy Labor Day</i> Governor's Mansions Workday 8-11 a.m.	5	6 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	7 Master Gardener Intern Class —First Presbyterian Church 10-2 p.m. Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 7-10 a.m. First Thursday Community Market	8	9
10	11 Governor's Mansions Workday 8-11 a.m.	12 Projects Meeting, Extension Office 10-11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church — 12-1	13 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	14 Master Gardener Intern Class —First Presbyterian Church 10-2 p.m. Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	15	16
17	18 Governor's Mansions Workday 8-11 a.m.	19 CAMGA Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 10-12 noon	20 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	21 Master Gardener Intern Class —First Presbyterian Church 10-2 p.m. Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	22	23
24	25 Governor's Mansions Workday 8-11 a.m.	26	27 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	28 Master Gardener Intern Class —First Presbyterian Church 10-2 p.m. Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	29	30