



GARDEN BUZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 10 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

October 2023

Message from Kelly
Kelly Lafreniere
CAMGA President



Hello fellow gardeners!

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying this cooler weather that has rolled around. If you haven't already, it's a good time to think about our winter gardens and planting items such as beets, carrots, parsley, spinach, collards, onions, or just new trees, bulbs and shrubs. Mulching is extremely important as well in these next colder months.

Being that it's October it's also time to present the 2024 CAMGA slate of officers. We will do this formally at our October meeting at Lanark. It will be a wonderful meeting with Maria. We always look forward to her talks. Please remember to bring a Plant for our plant swap which is always fun!

We will take nominations from the floor prior to voting but currently this is our 2024 slate of officers:

- President- Kelly Lafreniere
- Vice president- Jason Mattox
- Secretary-VACANT
- Treasure-Sherri Davidson
- Advisory Council Rep-Cindy Augustine with the alternate being Rhonda Miles
- Education, Hospitality, Plant Sale- Robin Snyder
- Historian/photographer-Vacant
- Networks- Anita Wishnietsky

- Learning Gardens – Mary McCroan
- Membership- Vacant
- Projects– Rhona Watson and Rebecca Ridley
- Publicity- Darlene Dixon (Branyon)

Thank you so much for all those who have served on the board, who have stepped up and for those continuing to be officers.

We are still in need of a secretary, so please consider serving CAMGA in this capacity. The work is very important, but not overly burdensome.

We look forward to seeing you at Lanark at our next meeting on **October 17th**.

Kelly

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Carol Pugh – Editor
Garden Buzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

October Garden Calendar

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area.
Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape
- Water when needed.
- Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom.
Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns

- Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

Roses

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
- New rose catalogs will be coming in.
Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

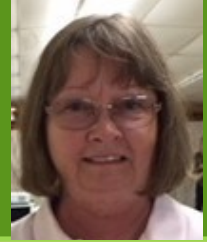
Annuals and Perennials

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
- List desirable varieties of mums.
Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

Bulbs

- Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus.
Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

CAMGA Minutes September 2023 First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka



Sandy introduced the speaker, Kristen McCord. Kristen is a wildlife biologist working with the Alabama Wildlife Federation at Lanark. She spoke on “How to Create a Backyard Habitat”.

The business meeting was called to order by Kelly at 11:15. Twenty-four members signed the attendance report. CAMGA dues for 2024 need to be paid by Dec. 5, 2023

Cindy passed out directories that are just names, phone numbers, and addresses. In January or so she hopes to have full fledged directories to hand out.

There are two establishments willing to use the CAMGA logo on whatever items members want to buy. Jenkins Graphic Designs has created a flash drive for this previously approved logo. This company’s owner prefers to make orders in large quantities, and there is an approximately 3 weeks turn around to receive merchandise. CAMGA is paying \$100.00 to him for the exclusive rights to this design, and it will be kept in CAMGA’s possession. The “Its Personal” shop in Wetumpka can be used for small individual orders by going directly to the business. Terry is creating an order form for members to use. A motion was made to accept this decision and seconded, and CAMGA members agreed unanimously.

Sherri has reimbursement checks to distribute to members. Membership dues can be paid by Square or by check.

The plant swap will be held at Lanark after the October CAMGA meeting. Sandy is working on arranging a tour of the Roof Top Garden at Auburn University.

Jane will no longer be doing Lunch & Learns. Someone needs to take charge of this important program. Additional volunteers are also needed to bring refreshments and help set things up. Mallory is not scheduling speakers until someone commits to heading up this project. There is a need for a new historian/photographer also. This position includes preparing the CAMGA yearbook.

Robin spoke about the \$200,000.00 pledge that AMGA, on behalf of all Master Gardner associations in the state, has made for the privilege of naming the major pathway at the Transformation Gardens at Auburn University. The CAMGA Board voted on September 18th to bring the membership a proposal to donate \$1000.00 toward fulfilling this pledge. After some debate at the members meeting, it was decided to donate \$1000.00 now and revisit this at another time to perhaps donate more money. Rhonda made a motion that this plan be accepted, and Sandy seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. There was no dissent.

Rhona reminded members that the Senior Project is scheduled for Oct. 20th at Cedarwood Community Church Senior Center. October 30th is the Octoberfest in downtown Wetumpka. November 17th the dedication for the Tribute Garden at the extension from 10 am to 12 pm. Robin is creating a Tribute Garden Book and requests that individuals who purchased a brick write a short description of their honorees and include a photograph if possible.

Old Business: None
New Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00

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



September 2023 Volunteer Report

By: Terry Chambliss

A rose pruning workshop at the Presbyterian Church was organized by Jane Mobley. It was held on August 30th. Those who participated were Kelly LaFreniere, Dee Turberville, Mary McCroan, Jason Mattox, Jane Mobley and interns Lidia Mitchum, Lesley Wilkerson and Casie McGinn.

Our organization participated at the Community Market in Wetumpka on September 7th. Those who volunteered were Darlene Dixon, Rebecca Ridley, Kelly LaFreniere, Sherri Davidson and Casie McGinn.

Master Gardener Replacement Name Badges

Master Gardeners can now order own name badge yourself at any point during the year, (effective immediately). However, you should allow up to 3 weeks after each order date to receive your badge.

Form: MGs fill out the order form: <https://www.aces.edu/go/badges> (**REPLACEMENT BADGES ONLY**)

1. **Payment:** Once the form is submitted, you will be redirected to the payment portal in the ACES store. The cost for a replacement badge is \$10.

Delivery: MGs receive your badge in your mailbox!



CAMGA Library News

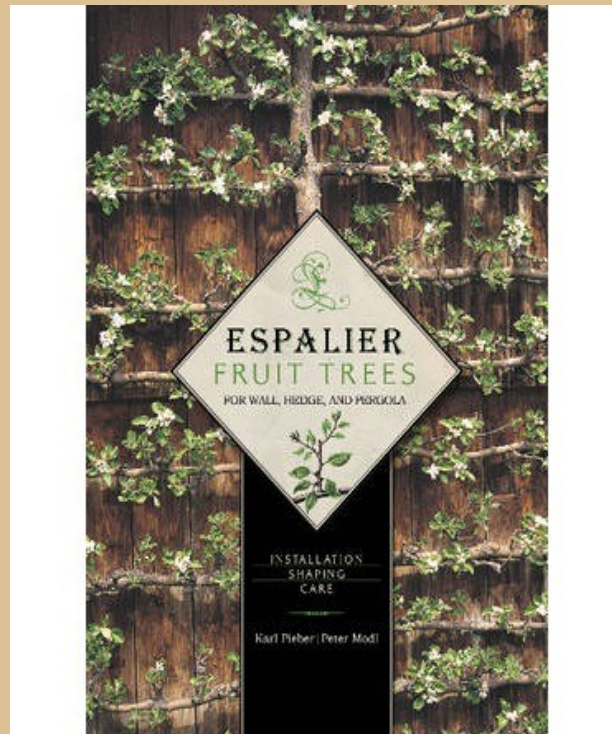
October 2023

By: Dee Turberville

Espalier Fruit Tree for Wall, Hedge and Pergola

By Karl Pieber and Peter Modd

Espalier as a technique seems to have started with the ancient Romans. Other records show this technique dates back to ancient Egypt, where hieroglyphs of espaliered fig trees have been found in tombs constructed around 1400 B.C. Espalier is the art of pruning and training a tree or shrub to grow flat against a support, thus creating a living sculpture. Espalier was used to create outdoor “walls” in Europe during the Middle Ages and was also planted in interior courtyard walls to prevent late frost bud-kill and to save space. By training fruit trees and shrubs to grow in controlled shapes, two goals are accomplished – improved appearance and increased productivity. Espalier fruit trees can offer privacy, weather protection, and decoration, as well as an abundant harvest.



All types of trellises, including wall-covering cordons and free-standing pergolas are featured in this college-like reference book. Published in 2014, when few specialty books on the topic were available, Karl Pieber and Peter Modl provide ambitious gardeners with construction tips, a list of tools and materials required plus invaluable information of the planting of different fruit species, their growth and shaping. Prior knowledge of pruning techniques is helpful before diving into the topic. *Espalier Fruit Trees for Wall, Hedge and Pergola* will not appeal to many gardeners but for those who like an artistic challenge, to those who want to grow fruit in a narrow space or create easy picking with no ladder needed, and, to those who wish to be the envy of their neighbors -- it is a good resource!



Governor's Mansion Report For September 2023

By: Amanda Borden



Volunteers at the Governor's Mansion in September were Amanda Borden, Sue Berry, Anne Carr, Ann Colvin, Linda Cater, Ann Hamill, Jane McCarthy, Cheryl McKiernan, Darwin Prewitt, Kathy Quinn, Alicia Robertson, and Robin Snyder. The Hill House has been closed for repairs all year, and this month we finally got a chance to work safely in the beds. We weeded, pine-strawed, and removed poison ivy and rotunda holly. In the back yard, we weeded (lots of torpedo grass), lightly trimmed camellias, and reminded the wax myrtles who was the boss. In the Herb Garden, we watered, weeded and pine-strawed...normal September tasks.



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued) For September 2023

By: Amanda Borden





CAMGA September 2023 Projects Minutes

By: Terry Chambliss

The Projects Committee met on September 12, 2023. Those in attendance were Jason Mattox, Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond, Michelle Sharpton, Jane Mobley, Rebecca Ridley, Rhona Watson and Terry Chambliss.

The dedication brick project was discussed. A dedication ceremony has been scheduled on Friday, November 10th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Rhona will send out a notification to save the date since it is a holiday weekend. Jason volunteered to make the invitations. Some will be by mail and others electronically. By agreement, the area will be named the Tribute Garden. Potted plants will be used the day of the ceremony with plantings to follow. Rhona suggested an oak leaf hydrangea and a Japanese maple to begin with. Rhona arranged for John Bull, a talented local musician to provide some background music. His fee will be half of what he normally charges. Robin suggested the expense be taken out of the hospitality budget. His microphone will be useful during the ceremony itself. Robin suggested that a write up be done on each of the names and kept in a binder for future additions. She will contact all of those that purchased bricks about doing their write up.

In Darlene Dixon's absence, an update was provided by those who assisted with the Community Market this month. It was reported that literature was distributed and a good many contacts were made to promote the organization.

Michelle talked with Maryanne Barrett at the Senior Center regarding the senior project. Ms. Barrett will post a signup sheet with October 9th being the cut off for the October 20th project. Michelle provided a detailed inventory list for 15 people including the items on hand, those that needed to be purchased, and the additional cost. The project will be within budget.

Some of the elements of the wreaths will be pre-attached. This will be done at the next projects meeting. Those that attended the practice make and take will be invited to this meeting to assist.

Oktoberfest, on September 30th, is from 11:00am until 8:00pm. It was suggested that we participate in shifts from 11-3:00, 2-5:00 and 4-8:00. A table will be set up with literature and plants for sale. A minimum of two per shift is needed. Rebecca will request volunteers with the Sign up Genius. Rhona will handle the labels and pricing of the plants.

Rhona will request volunteers to meet at Dr. Mitchell's home in Auburn on October 13th to cut the camellias that were air layered in the spring. The cuttings will be potted at Extension later. Pots and soil will be available.

Rhona will remind members about the plant swap that will be during the October CAMGA meeting on October 17th at Lanark.

Rhona will request members to be drying aromatic herbs for the sachet bags for the Dickens's Christmas event.

Sandy has not heard if the City of Wetumpka will be doing scarecrows this year. Sandy has the scarecrow but requested some black crows to decorate the fence. She will work on obtaining the birds if the event will be held.

The Dickens Christmas event will be discussed at the next meeting.

There was no new business.

***Submitted by,
Terry Chambliss***

“Getting to Know” the 2023 Master Gardener Class Interns

Over the next several months the eleven Master Gardener Interns will be featured in the Garden Buzz Newsletter. Please welcome our interns to the Master Gardener Program when you see them.

Darlene Blumentritt

Darlene lives in Prattville and is from Texas. She enjoys vegetable and flower gardening. She was inspired by her Father’s backyard gardens while growing up. She would like to learn more about plants and meet other gardeners.



Deborah Brooks

Deborah is from Prattville. She loves nature and works from home. She enjoys flowers, herbs and organic gardening. She wants to learn more about gardening and be available to help others.



Michael Camire

Michael lives in Prattville and is from Maine. He enjoys raised bed and container gardening and flowers, herbs and vegetable gardening. He wants to learn how to garden correctly.



Upcoming Workshop

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Strawberry Production Meeting

November 8, 2023
9:00AM-2:00PM

Jemison Municipal Complex
14 Padgett Lane
Jemison, AL 35085



Registration Link

<https://www.aces.edu/event/strawberry-production-meeting-2/>
or contact the Chilton County Extension Office
205-280-6268

This is a free event.
Lunch Provided



Please register by
November 3, 2023.

www.aces.edu

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Everyone is welcome! Please let us know if you have accessibility needs.

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	3	4 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	5 Learning Garden at Extension Office 7-10 a.m. First Thursday Wetumpka Com. Market 4-7 p.m.	6	7
8	9 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	10 Projects Meeting at Ext. Auditorium 10 — 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.	11 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	12 Learning Garden at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	13 Cutting and Potting Camellias 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	14
15	16 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	17 CAMGA Meeting & Annual Plant Swap at Lanark, 10-12 noon. (Bring a plant) for plant swap	18 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	19 Learning Garden at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	20 Senior Project at Cedarwood Community Church Sr. Center 8:30 —11:30 a.m.	21
22	23 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	24	25 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	26 Learning Garden at Extension Office 7-10 a.m.	27	28
29	30 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	31				