



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 32 Issue 11 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## November 2023

### Message from Kelly Kelly Lafreniere CAMGA President



Hello Fellow Gardeners!

Well, it's that time of year when it's starting to turn colder and we're wondering "what the heck am I going to do with all of my plants!"

Plants can handle a gradual drop in the temperature because they have time to acclimate. However, here in Alabama, we can sometimes experience four seasons in 24 hours!

If you don't have a greenhouse there are several ways to protect your plants such as using frost protective bags, row covering, canvas cloths, cardboard or my favorite, turning large plastic plant pots upside down and covering smaller plants in the ground. Mulching is great and keeping the soil watered can even help!

Moist ground soil retains more heat than dry soil so water once a week. Bring in container plants because they are more susceptible to cold injury since roots or above ground. Now is a good time to plant our cool vegetable crops but you can also plant pretty plants like poppies, Larkspur, pansies, snapdragon, and ornamental cabbage. Hopefully this winter will be a little milder than last winter.

I wanted to extend our condolences to Sheila Radford who lost her uncle last month, Please keep her family in your prayers.

**We will be moving back to the Extension office as of JANUARY 2024 just for our monthly CAMGA meetings.** We will continue to have our Christmas party, Lunch & Learn, and graduation at the Presbyterian Church.

I want to thank Michelle Sharpton for stepping up and taking the secretary position and we will install our new officers on December 5<sup>th</sup> at our Christmas party.

I look forward to seeing everybody at our next meeting on November 21 where Shannon Leonard will talk to us about backyard ponds.

*Stay warm,  
Kelly*

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*Carol Pugh – Editor  
Garden Buzzzzz  
Newsletter*



## Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley  
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

### *Purchase and Plant Spring Flowering Bulbs Now*

To have a beautiful array of flowering bulbs this spring, the time to purchase and plant bulbs is now.

Before purchasing your bulbs you first need to decide which ones are best for your landscape. Think about the, location and needed environment, colors and heights of the bulbs before purchasing. For this area of Alabama the most common bulbs available include tulips, hyacinths and daffodils, but other specialty bulbs that do well in this area you may consider include allium, crocus, galanthus, fritillaria and scillas.

Purchase bulbs from reputable sources and check them for health before purchasing. Check for firmness of the bulbs, do not purchase molded or crushed bulbs and buy early to get the best selections and healthiest bulbs available. Another consideration should be the size of the bulbs. The size is directly related to the size and number of flowers. Generally, the bigger the bulb the bigger the flower. Small nicks and loose skin don't affect development of the bulb. In fact, loose skin aids in inspecting for diseases, and encourages rooting. If necessary to store the bulbs before time of planting, keep the bulbs cool and store between 50-65 F.

The optimal planting time for most areas in Alabama is late October to late December. Bulbs perform best with a soil pH between 6-7. When preparing to plant, remember several things: Good drainage is essential for spring flowering bulbs. If your soil is mostly clay, mix in an organic material such as peat moss, compost or aged bark. Don't mix more than 50 percent organic material with the soil. If your soil is mostly sand, add an organic material to increase water- and nutrient-holding capacity.

Plant small-sized bulbs (one inch in height) 4 or 5 inches deep and a little deeper in sandy soils and space small bulbs an inch to 2 inches apart. For large bulbs (2 or more inches in height) plant them 4-6 inches deep and space larger bulbs 3 to 6 inches apart. Cover the bed with 2 to 3 inches of mulch. If the fall season is dry, make sure to water the area appropriately.

To fertilize your bulbs, it is best to take a soil sample to know for sure the pH of the soil and also what nutrients are lacking. However, bulbs can be grown successfully for a season or two by using a slow-release complete fertilizer. Incorporated the fertilizer into the soil at planting at a rate of one tablespoon per square foot.

And as an additional note, tulips are popular, but typically do not come back year after year blooming as our soil does not get cold enough in the winter to provide the proper chilling requirements. In this case you will need to dig them up after the foliage starts to die back in the summer and store in the refrigerator in a brown paper bag, not plastic, and plant again next fall. Often times planting in a container makes this process easier and more successful.

# CAMGA Minutes

## October 17, 2023

### Lanark – Millbrook, Alabama

#### (Minutes submitted and taken by Michelle Sharpton)

The speaker for this month was Maria, who gave a brief history of the land and gardens of Lanark and how the Master Gardeners became involved in its care.

At 10:45 A.M. Rhona started the plant swap. Those who brought plants had first pick followed by all in attendance. There were plenty of plants for everyone to take at least one home.

The business meeting was called to order at 11:25 by Kelly. 32 members signed the attendance report. As a reminder, CAMGA dues for 2024 will need to be paid by Dec. 5, 2023.

Minutes for September CAMGA meeting were approved by those in attendance after being put to a vote by Rhona.

Please keep Sheila Radford in your thoughts and prayers in her recent loss of a family member. A card was brought for present members to express condolences.

Corrections for September 2023 Minutes were voiced by Robyn. Corrections include the date for the Octoberfest: correct date was September 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, after donating the \$1000.00 to the Transformation Gardens at Auburn, the membership shall revisit the possibility of donating more money in 6 MONTHS as opposed to “some other time”.

A nominating Committee of Anne Carr and Betty Plaster was formed to ask members to fill the Secretary role for 2024. Michelle Sharpton has agreed to fulfill this role. Anne called for any other nominations for the 2024 officers. No other names were voiced.

The following nominated 2024 officers were presented to the CAMGA members:

President: Kelly LaFreniere, Vice President: Jason Mattox, Treasurer: Sherri Davidson, Secretary: Michelle Sharpton, Advisory Council Rep.: Cindy Augustine and Rhonda Miles as secondary, Education: Robyn Snyder, Historian: VACANT, Learning Gardens: Mary McCroan, Membership: VACANT, Network: Anida Wishnietsky, Projects: Rebecca Ridley, Lunch and Learn: Sandy Rosamond.

Nominated positions were called to a vote and all approved by CAMGA members unanimously.

Reminder that if you want anything with the CAMGA logo printed, please visit Jenkin’s Designs or It’s Personal for your order. If you order in bulk, there is a discount.

November 14<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn will feature “Every Garden Needs Blueberries!” David Lawrence, a horticulturalist and works with ACES will be our guest speaker.

Robyn reminded everyone to save the date for the annual Christmas Luncheon at the First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka AL, on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. She will need volunteers to help set up the day before and help provide entertainment. She may also contact some of you regarding the kitchen and food needs for the day.

Cindy Augustine wants everyone to check out the article she submitted representing Elmore County in the Pathways Newsletter. Thanks goes to Cindy who is currently working on our directory and is our Advisory Council Representative.

## October 2023 CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

A ZOOM meeting will be hosted by Kerri Smith on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> regarding changes that are being made to how we input our volunteer hours into the Service Report website starting January 2024. An email was sent to everyone who can attend. A recording of this information will be made available in the near future.

CAMGA has 4 interns this session. Casie McGinn and Lesley Wilkinson were present at this meeting. CAMGA members discussed the pros and cons of returning to the Extension office for CAMGA meetings starting in January 2024. After much conversation, members voiced that they missed the “connection” felt with the membership, gardens, library, and extension office. The problems with the kitchen were also discussed, and Robyn voiced she will not do food at the extension office because the kitchen is dirty. Rhona made a motion to approve the change in location of future CAMGA meetings in the Extension office and Bonnie seconded the motion. The vote was called with 2 opposing, 5 abstaining, and the rest of the present membership with an aye vote.

Rhona reminded everyone that Nov. 17 from 10 am-12 pm is the Tribute Garden Dedication, and invitations have been sent. Jason Mattox and his daughter created the beautiful invitations. Please RSVP to this special event.

Robyn is creating a lovely scrapbook for the Tribute Brick Dedication. Please write a small synopsis of the person you are dedicating the brick to along with a picture of the person ASAP so it may be in the scrapbook the day of the ceremony. The book will remain in the library for all to view.

The annual Senior Project led by Rebecca Ridley and Michelle Sharpton will be held at the Cedarwood Community Center in Wetumpka, AL, on Oct.20. The trip to Dr. Mitchell’s to gather the air-layered camellias was a huge success. 45 camellias were cut, and only 3 did not root. Sachet bags for the Dickens Christmas in will be made on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 at the Extension Office. Sign up for this is available.

**Sherri gave the Treasurer’s Report:**

<b>Starting Balance:</b>				\$21,557.30
<b>Income:</b>	\$	330.00	2024 membership dues	
		19.00	Marketplace ornaments	
<b>Total Income</b>				349.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$	99.99	Jenkins Logo	
		75.00	It’s Personal Logo	
		1,000.00	Transformation Garden	
		67.77	Hospitality	
		341.01	Intern Snacks	
		5.22	Square Fee	
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<u>1,588.99</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>				<b>\$20,317.31</b>

Sherri also said a committee will be discussing the feasibility of a 501C-3 and/or Incorporating. The committee plans to report back in December or January. Sherri will also be looking into the possible purchase of a laptop computer with QuickBooks. She will report back on price and budget concerns. Please have your committee budgets for the new year into Sherri ASAP. Please have reimbursable items on a separate receipt when turning in the reimbursements.

Old Business: None      New Business: None

Meeting Adjourned 12:23 P.M.

***Minutes submitted by,  
Michelle Sharpton***



## CAMGA Library News

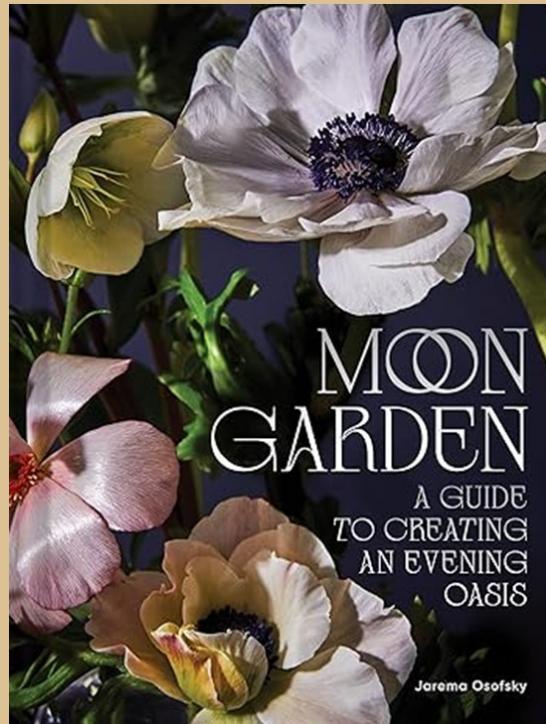
### November 2023

By: Dee Turberville

### Moon Garden: A Guide to Creating an Evening Oasis

By Jarema Osofsky

Moon gardens are green spaces that come alive at night, with plants that reflect moonlight, attract nocturnal creatures, and release scent after sundown. Though beautiful during the day, they're best experienced in the evenings – perfect for those who work nine-to-five and want to unwind in their garden after a long day. *Moon Garden* makes it easy to create a garden no matter where you live. It is especially helpful for creating an evening garden outside or inside, whether in the ground, on a balcony or even on a rooftop. For urban dwellers, it is a good resource for mystical indoor house plants and for all gardeners who enjoy creating containers or window boxes.



Author Jarema Osofsky is a Brooklyn-based landscape and interior plant designer. She works with her clients to create verdant gardens that offer meaningful, meditative, and ecologically sustainable connections to the natural world. She is continuing the interest in gardening with the moon in mind and is involved in biodynamic gardening, a method of gardening and farming in alignment with lunar phases and planetary cycles. A plus incentive, the visuals in the book also make it a lovely gift for yourself or for a gardening friend to display on a coffee table.





## Governor's Mansion Report For October 2023

By: Amanda Borden



In October, we worked in the Serenity Garden by weeding, watering, and severely trimming Confederate jasmine that was compromising the security fence and cameras. We renewal pruned Burford holly shrubs at the Finley Bungalow, in preparation for siding repair and painting. We planted almost 50 recycled perennials around the Finley Bungalow's picket fence, and we started the fall garden by planting pansies in the Mansion's front porch Lion Pots.

**We are in our winter working hours: Start time 9 a.m. Contact Jane McCarthy at (334-221-9936) if you want to join us.**





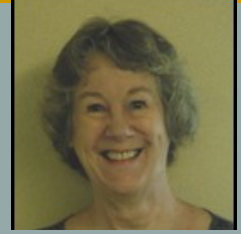
## Governor's Mansion Report For October 2023 (Continued)



# CAMGA Projects Minutes

## October 10, 2023

### By: Terry Chambliss



The Projects Committee met on 10/10/2023. Those present were Darlene Dixon, Robin Snyder, Sandy Rosamond, Michelle Sharpton, Rhona Watson and Terry Chambliss.

Robin will contact individuals to assist with the refreshments for the Brick Tribute Dedication on November 17th. She has all of the supplies for setting up the tables. She started on the book that will detail those present at the dedication, a general tribute and individual tributes to those who have a brick. Leslie Bingham as agreed to do the art work. Only a few write ups have been submitted so far.

Darlene provided an update on the Community Market that was held on October 5th. It was reported by others that the table was festive and will done. She estimated making about 25 contacts to promote the organization. Those participating were Kelly LaFreniere, Dee Turberville, David Hefflefinger and Darlene Dixon. The one on November 2nd will be the last for this year.

Michelle Sharpton reported that all of the supplies for the senior project have been purchased including 7 glue guns that can be used in the future. The supplies for 15 were within budget. She has been in contact with the Senior Center director and plans to go by there today to finalize the arrangements.

Rhona shared we did not participate in Oktoberfest because we were not registered and they did not have space for our table. She reminded the representative from Main Street we tried to make contact to register, but our calls were not returned.

Rhona feels any events involving the City should be under publicity. After much discussion, it was decided to keep it under Projects at this time.

Rhona reported there are 6 people signed up to cut and pot camellias on October 13th.

Maria Pacheco let us know the room we normally use at Lanark for our regular October meeting was not available, however she will set up tents for the meeting and plant swap in the garden.

The City of Wetumpka will not be displaying scarecrows this year.

The Sachet Bag workshop was scheduled on November 7th, from 10-11:30am. Rhona will remind members to be drying aromatic herbs. It was decided to do fewer bags this year due to a decline in public participation at the Dickens's Christmas event.

Lunch and Learn was discussed. No one has volunteered to be in charge to date. Mallory arranges for the speakers but someone is needed to make sure the equipment is in place for presentations, set out the signs and to arrange for refreshments. Rhona and Sandy both volunteered to handle it for 3 months each.

A storage shed was discussed. One is needed for the table, display racks, literature, tents, banners, crafts and other supplies for community events. Several members are storing items for CAMGA at their homes. Mary allows some of the equipment in the Learning Garden shed, but states there is not enough room for all of the supplies. Prices vary from \$45 up a month for a 5X10' unit to rent. A 6X8 shed would be approximately \$350 to buy with additional costs for the floor and shelves. Terry will check with Katrina Mitchell with Extension to see if one can be placed at Extension before bringing it up to the membership.



# Newtown Community Garden Receives Fall Container Vegetable Planting

Intern Consuelo Bradley and fellow MG interns and Master Gardeners built vegetable container beds in the Newtown Community Garden. Tiger Giving Day funds supported the fall vegetable planting for this food desert in the north edge of Montgomery County.





# Upcoming Meetings



*"Hive to Honey"*  
**LEARN  
EAT  
MAKE  
& SEE**

\$35.00 Registration

Questions:  
(334) 270-4133

SPACE IS LIMITED!

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Event Location: Grace Episcopal Church  
906 Pike Road  
Pike Road, AL 36064

To Register Mail Check  
Made to (CCMGA) to:  
Montgomery Extension  
6281 Trotman Rd.  
Montgomery, AL 36116

Come learn about the fascinating life of a honeybee, making honeybee products and how to plant for honeybees.

\*Honey Inspired lunch is included & Make & Take a Pollinator Watering Station

Honey and Bee Products will be sold by Wildly Blessed



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## RAINSCAPING & SMART YARDS WORKSHOP



**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Crump Senior Center  
1751 Cong W L Dickinson Dr.  
Montgomery, AL 36107



Free To Attend

Questions:  
(334) 270-4133

Learn how to design your landscape to collect rainwater for use in and around the home or garden

\*Enter to Win a Rain Barrels to be given away!



## ***“Getting to Know” The 2023 Master Gardener Class Interns***

**Julie Freeland — Julie is from Illinois. Her parents farmed and gardened. She and her husband Tim, enjoy gardening and want to learn more about gardening.**

**Julie enjoys vegetable and herb gardening.**



**Tim Freeland — Tim has lived all over the U.S. He wants to learn how to grow his own vegetables and obtain resources and contacts for gardening.**

**Tim enjoys in-ground gardening and growing deer food plots.**

**David Heffelfinger — David is from Pittsburgh, PA. He has lived in Central Alabama since he was nineteen. He enjoys landscaping and growing fruit and vegetable crops.**

**David wants to become more knowledgeable about gardening and learn how to better the soil. He enjoys growing vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruit (organic), and raised bed gardening.**







# NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	2 Learning Gardens at Ext. Office 8-12 noon	3	4
5	6 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	7 Sachet Bag Workday, Extension Office, 10:11:30 a.m.	8 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	9 Learning Gardens at Ext. Office 8-12 noon	10	11
12	13 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	14 Lunch & Learn, First Presbyterian Church 12—1 p.m.	15 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	16 Learning Gardens at Ext. Office 8-12 noon	17 Brick Dedication Ceremony, Extension Office 10 a.m.	18
19	20 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	21 CAMGA Monthly meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m.	22 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving!!</i>	24	25
26	27 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	28	29 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	30 Learning Gardens Ext. at Office 8-12 noon		