



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 1 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## January 2024

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



*Hello fellow Master Gardeners!*

*I hope you had a joyful and wonderful Christmas with your families, and you're ready for 2024.*

*We had a great year in 2023, we accomplished many things as an organization such as graduating and gaining four new Elmore County interns.*

*We participated in many projects and community events such as Lunch and Learn, Mardi Gras parade, CAMGA plant sale, Community Market, senior project, Dickens Christmas, propagation workshop, Earth Day and had a beautiful dedication ceremony for our new Tribute Garden located at the Extension center.*

*We are currently working on becoming a 501(c)3 which will be extremely valuable to CAMGA in many ways! I just want to thank everybody who volunteered and participated in all capacities this past year. Your dedication to CAMGA and participation is appreciated so very much. I'm looking forward to 2024!*

*Our first meeting of the new year will be on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and will be held at the [EXTENSION center](#). Bring a plant or an item if you would like to swap and thank you for all those who volunteered to bring food.*

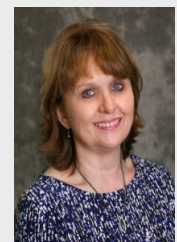
*Thanks for all you do!*

*Kelly*

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## Happy New Year



*Carol Pugh — Editor  
Garden Buzzzzz  
Newsletter*



# Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley  
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

## January Gardening Calendar

### Fruits and Nuts

Set out apples, peaches, pears, and grapes. Start grafting pecans. Prune dormant trees.

### Shrubs

Plant shrubs and trees, including broadleaf, narrow leaf, and deciduous.

Graft camellias in south Alabama. Apply an ultrafine horticultural oil spray to all deciduous shrubs to help with control of insects and diseases. Spray when weather is on warming trend.

### Lawns

Soil test and add limestone as recommended. Apply pre-emergent herbicides if forgotten in September and if spring weeds were a concern last year.

### Roses

Visit nurseries and garden centers to select varieties. Plant roses. Consider old fashioned, disease tolerant cultivars.

### Annuals and Perennials

Plant hardy annuals

### Bulbs

Late plantings of Dutch bulbs will flower if planted now. Plant lilies of all types, except Madonna.

Check stored bulbs and discard rotten ones. Make indoor plantings of amaryllis, callas, and gloxinias.

### Miscellaneous

Prune winter-damaged limbs. Give house plants a bath in lukewarm water to remove dust.

To keep poinsettias that have finished flowering, turn pots on their sides and let them dry completely.

Cut them back lightly. Keep in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees.

### Vegetable Seed:

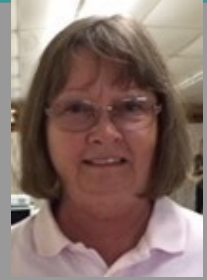
**South:** Plant hardy vegetables and root crops (garden peas, radishes, mustard, spinach, turnips). Start cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, and Swiss chard seeds in cold frames.

### Vegetable Transplants:

**South and Central AL:** Plant asparagus in late January.

**Central AL:** Plant cabbage and cauliflower transplants. Wait until the end of January to plant Swiss chard, mustard, transplants, and onion sets.

**CAMGA Minutes**  
**December 5, 2023**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka**  
**By: Sheila Radford, Secretary**



Thirty-six members signed the attendance sheets. Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:00. The minutes for last month's meeting were approved by the members.

The officers for 2024 were sworn in by Lynda Edwards.

Kelly LaFreniere will continue as President, Jason Mattox is the new Vice-President, and Sherri Davidson will continue to serve as Treasurer.

Michelle Sharpton was not able to attend this meeting. She will be sworn in as the new Secretary at the January meeting. Lynda, Sandy, Terry, and Sheila were acknowledged for their volunteer work this year.

Rhona briefly went over the CAMGA incorporation and 501c3 tax status. This plan was given unanimous approval from the CAMGA membership.

Kelly, Jason, and Sherri will sign the letter of incorporation and have it notarized after the meeting. \$250.00 will be budgeted to present to the lawyer that has agreed to handle the legal work "pro bono".

Robin introduced the couple that allowed last year's interns to work in their yard last year. It was an invaluable learning experience for this class.

The business meeting concluded at 10:30.

Old business: 0

New business: 0

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



## CAMGA Library News

### January 2024

By: Dee Turberville

### CAMGA Library Acquisitions for 2023

Libib online database (Subscription) \$60.00

Working the Dirt; an Anthology of Southern Poets (Misc./Poetry) \$6.80

Floret Farm's Cut Flower Garden; Grow, Harvest, Arrange...(Flowers) \$25.36

The Pollinator Victory Garden; Win the War on Pollinator Decline (Pollinators) \$23.66

The Life Cycles of Butterflies; From Egg to Maturity (Pollinators) \$15.80

Common Native Bees of Eastern United States (Pollinators) \$9.25

A Woman's Garden; Grow Beautiful Plants & Make Useful...(Garden Projects) \$13.08

Moon Garden: A Guide to Creating an Evening Oasis (Specialty Gardens) \$19.99

The Seasonal Gardener; Creating Planting Combinations (Specialty Gardens) \$40.56

Garden Ponds, Fountains & Waterfalls for Your Home (Landscape/Design) \$22.58

Landscaping with Stone; Create Patios, Walkways...(Landscape/Design) — Donation

**A REMINDER:** Use the *Libib* database to browse the collection. Go to the *camga.net* website and click on the *Links* category to find this online library of titles. No password is needed. Utilize the *Search Icon* to select titles you are interested in, i.e., type in "pollinators." Titles that include that word will be listed for you. The physical collection of 363 books is located within the ACES extension office, the room designated for the CAMGA Library shelving and Helpline desk.



**"Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." -- Marcel Proust**





## Governor's Mansion Report For December 2023



In the 10 years that the Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group has been working on the landscape at the Governor's Mansion, we have accrued over 8,900 hours of volunteer time (not including drive time). Great team work!



Alicia deadheading pansies in container



Group after workday December 11th



Kathy pruning roses backyard



Group on Mansion Steps



Robin, Kathy, and Sue deadheading pansies



## Dickens Christmas Article

**By: Rebecca Ridley**  
**Projects Committee Chairman**

On December 15, 2023, CAMGA members dressed as Victorian southern belles, joining the Wetumpka community as they ushered in the happiest time of the year! Participants included Mary McCroan, Sherri Davidson, Darlene Dixon, and Rebecca Ridley. The event was very well attended, and we engaged well over 150 people.

As in years past, the herbal sachets were a big hit with attendees, even children asked for their own delightfully scented treasures as a memento of the magical night. I'm sure we can all agree that engaging children is the very best way to ensure the future of our organization!

We received so many compliments on our costumes, and the little ones enjoyed carefully touching Mrs. Rebecca's ticklish feathers. As always, Darlene was in full character, as she engaged families and provided information on the plant sale and the helpline. Mary, always garden chic, was very elegant in her red velvet caroler's outfit, as she greeted families and provided information on the Learning Garden and plant sale. Sherri kept everyone on task and suggested that we walk as a group to make a larger impact--her advice was spot on.

Together, we handed out all of the herbal sachets with plant sale information and numerous helpline bookmarks. If you haven't participated in this event, please consider doing so, it is so much fun and everyone is in good spirits. It is truly an uplifting experience. Finally, I'd like to thank all of our members that worked hard to put together the herbal sachets, they were the hit of the event!



*Dickens Christmas –  
Sherri Davidson, Darlene  
Dixon, and Rebecca Ridley.*



*Rebecca Ridley, Darlene  
Dixon, and Mary McCroan*



**Central Alabama  
Master Gardeners Association**

# Lunch & Learn 2024

2nd TUESDAY of EVERY Month

12:00-1:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092



**BRING A SACK LUNCH**

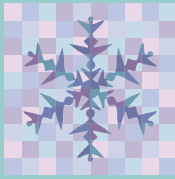
**FREE PROGRAM**

**DRINKS PROVIDED**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>9 January</b>    | Disaster Preparedness with Alabama Weather<br><i>Alvin King, Director for Disaster Preparedness &amp; Response</i> |
| <b>13 February</b>  | Valentines Roses<br><i>Joseph Wood, Master Rosarian</i>  |
| <b>12 March</b>     | Square Foot Gardening this Spring<br><i>Henry Lucas, Capital City Master Gardeners</i>                             |
| <b>9 April</b>      | Heirloom, Antique & Pass Along Plants<br><i>Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist &amp; MG</i>                             |
| <b>14 May</b>       | Ways to Use Unusual Plants<br><i>Rhona Watson, Advanced Master Gardener</i>  |
| <b>11 June</b>      | Moonlight Gardens<br><i>Diane Fortner, Lee County Master Gardeners</i>   |
| <b>9 July</b>       | Melons, Melons, Watermelons!<br><i>Dani Carroll, Horticulturist, ACES</i>  |
| <b>13 August</b>    | Planting a Fall Vegetable Container Garden<br><i>Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES</i>                          |
| <b>10 September</b> | Plants off the Beaten Path- Summer & Fall Bloomers<br><i>Robin Snyder, Elmore County Master Gardeners</i>          |
| <b>8 October</b>    | Strawberries now for Spring<br>*Strawberry Transplants for Sale!<br><i>David Lawrence, Horticulturist, ACES</i>    |
| <b>12 November</b>  | Trees with Great Fall Color & How Fall Foliage is Made!<br><i>Beau Brodbeck, Certified Arborist, ACES</i>          |
| <b>10 December</b>  | Growing & Forcing Winter Bulbs to Bloom<br><i>Karen Webber, Horticulturist and MG</i>                              |



For more information, please contact the  
Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301  
[www.aces.edu/elmore](http://www.aces.edu/elmore)



# January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 	2	3 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	4 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	5	6
7	8 <i>Projects Meeting 10 a.m. at Extension Office</i>  <i>Governor's Mansion Workday, 9-11 a.m.</i>	9 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn, First Presbyterian Church at 10 a.m. "Disaster Preparedness With AL Weather" program</i>	10 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	11 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	12	13
14	8 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday, 9-11 a.m.</i>	16 (New Location) <i>CAMGA Monthly meeting at the Extension Auditorium at 10 a.m.</i>	17 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	18 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	19	20
21	22 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday, 9-11 a.m.</i>	23	24 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	25 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>	26	27
28	29 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday, 9-11 a.m.</i>	30	31 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>			