



GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 4 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

April 2024

MESSAGE FROM KELLY

KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA PRESIDENT



Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,
I hope everyone is doing well and you had a Happy Easter! This is one of my favorite times of the year when the Azaleas are in bloom and our sleeping perennials start awakening with warmer weather creating a colorful and beautiful landscape filling us with joy and happiness.

Even the smells of fresh cut grass and the warm sunshine on our face elicits excitement and a sense of urgency to spend time in our gardens and yards as nature had intended. I am thankful we live in the South with it's warm days and longer growing season.

I'm excited to say we're getting very close to becoming a 501 (c)3! I want to thank our committee and especially our committee chair Rhona Watson for all she has done to make this happen. It has been an adventure for sure!

I want to thank Cheryl Fitzgerald for stepping up to take the Membership Care position and ALL OF YOU who work so hard to make CAMGA so great! Thank you again.

If you haven't had a chance, please sign up for our field trip our VP Jason Mattox has put together for us at the Auburn Transformation gardens, Rane Culinary Center, the Vertical Aquaponics Garden and Davis Arboretum on April 30th. We have 27 signed up so far and I'm looking forward to all of us being together and seeing these magnificent gardens, just down the road from us!!

See Robin Snider to sign up for the plant sale on Saturday May 4th. It's always fun and she does such a great job organizing everything.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on April 16th where Bionca Lindsey will talk about Happy Hostas! She will keep you entertained!

Happy Gardening!
Kelly

Table of Contents:

Message from Kelly.....	1
Message from Mallory.....	2-3
Learning Garden Gazebo Repair...	4
CAMGA Minutes.....	5-7
Library News.....	8
Mansion Report	9-10
Spring Plant Sale Flyer.....	11
Learning Garden.....	12-14
April Calendar.....	15



Carol Pugh — Editor
Garden Buzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

Herbaceous Perennials

Herbaceous perennials are common favorites in any garden or landscape. They require little maintenance and, unlike annual plants, will bloom for two or more years. Perennials also come in an array of colors, giving gardeners more options to add color to their landscapes. The following information will help gardeners grow healthy perennials all year long.

Popular perennials grown in Alabama include the following:

- Black-eyed susan
- Purple coneflower
- Sedum
- Peony
- Bearded iris
- Daylily
- Salvia
- Coreopsis
- Hosta
- Phlox
- False indigo (Baptisia)
- Aster
- Russian sage

These perennials will die back in the winter, while their roots, clumps of stems, or buds will survive just underneath the soil surface. New shoots will appear in the spring. Some perennials are short lived, lasting only two to three years, while others will last longer. No matter the perennial a gardener chooses, understanding the basic gardening practices—such as adequate watering, soil, and sun conditions, regional planting recommendations, and fertilizing—will help the plants thrive.

Soil Testing — Prior to installing new plantings, growers should conduct a soil test. Soil condition is an important factor in growing healthy plants. Plants need water, air, and nutrients to grow. A soil test will provide vital information on the pH and fertility of the location. Perennials generally thrive in soil with a pH acidity balance of 6.0 to 7.0. Adding soil amendments, such as nutrients, are based upon the results of a soil test.

A grower may need to amend their soil regularly since plants and rainwater may deplete nutrients from the soil. Over time, a gardener will get to know their garden or landscape soil better.

Planting Conditions — After determining the condition of the soil in a garden or landscape, choose perennials based on regional location and garden design. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed the [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map](#) to help gardeners determine what plants are more likely to thrive in their area based on Temperature and sunlight. Observe the plant site to see how the sun moves across the ground from morning to dusk. This will help to determine whether plants will need shade, partial, or full sun. In addition, consider how tall the plant grows based on garden design. Taller perennials should be placed in the back rows of a garden so that shorter plants can take full advantage of the sun. Taller plants may have to be staked in early spring to allow plants to grow through or around them. Some perennials make good border plants along walkways, while others serve as vibrant focal points around shade trees or as attractions for butterflies or humming birds.

As plants grow, consider dividing them to give them more room. The best time to divide perennials depends on the region. In cold regions, early spring is usually the best time. In warmer and hot climates with mild winters and hot summers, fall may be a better time to divide plants. Make sure the plant looks healthy and that they have four to six weeks to root before the ground freezes.

Message from Mallory (Continued)
Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,
Gardens, & Home Pests

Adequate Watering — Just as plants need sun and room to grow, they also need water. New plantings require deep, regular watering to prevent drying out, so be sure to soak the soil. Establishing a good root system during the first year's growth is important for the plant's continued health and vigor. Longer duration and less frequent watering times promote deep strong root systems. Water also allows fertilizers to dissolve in the soil which is better for plant growth.

Fertilizing — A soil test will determine any initial fertilization requirements. Most perennials do not need frequent fertilization. Over fertilizing flowering perennials will produce excessive vegetative growth and few flowers. Fertilizers with lower formulations are sufficient unless otherwise indicated by a periodic soil test.

Seasonal Care

The following is a list of actions to take for seasonal care of perennial plants:

Spring

- Test the soil.
- Cut back tall ornamental grasses.
- Remove winter protection gradually.
- Weed, mulch, and clear edges.
- Thin and divide plants.
- Pinch plants back.
- Prepare stakes and support cages in late spring.

Summer

- Weed and water as necessary.
- Pinch and deadhead plants.
- Cut back where necessary.
- Stake taller plants.

Fall

- Weed and water as necessary.
- Deadhead plants.
- Divide and move plants.
- Cut back where necessary.

Winter

- Weed and water as necessary.
- Add 2 to 3 inches of mulch to plant site.
- Winterize the planting bed after the frost.

Conclusion —Because of their variety and vibrant blooms, perennials are a longtime favorite plant choice for gardens and landscapes. With little maintenance in nutrient-rich soil, perennials can be enjoyed in any garden or landscape for several years. Visit www.aces.edu for more information on gardening.



Repair of the Satellite Gazebo at the Extension Office By: Mary McCroan

The Satellite Gazebo is a pretty neat demonstration of repurposing materials in the garden. It was originally constructed about fifteen years ago. Recently the wood floor became unsafe because of rotting wood. The membership approved funds for repairs.

The plan — Remove and replace rotted wood (none of the framing was worth saving)

- Build new rails and balusters

- Remove diseased roses

- Build raised beds isolated from any disease spores in the ground so climbing roses can be replanted

- Dig up the large amaryllis. Replant some bulbs in pots to decorate each side of the pergola and offer others for sale

At the time this was written, the rotten wood has been removed, the roses and amaryllis dug, and the framing replaced. Great work from all involved. So far the construction team has included Deb Kelso and her husband Steve, Candy Jones, Darlene Dixon, Jason Mattox and Cheryl Fitzgerald



CAMGA Minutes
March 19, 2024
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Michelle Sharpton



Today the CAMGA members welcomed Dr. Chip East (eastwil@aces.edu), Regional Extension Agent for Clay County, AL. The presentation was about "Perfecting Pecans." The secret to pecan production is "Maintain healthy foliage to increase carbohydrate reserves." Scab is a major disease of pecan trees and planting a scab resistant variety is one way to increase your success in pecan production. A wealth of information can be found on the ACES website as well as www.alabamapecangrowers.com.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Kelly LaFreniere at 11:20 A.M. 29 Members signed the roster today for attendance.

Kelly asked for a motion to accept February's Minutes report to record. Candy Jones made the motion. Sheila Radford seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to accept the minutes to record. Member Concerns: None voiced for this month.

CAMGA recognizes Cheryl Fitzgerald as our new Membership Care Coordinator. Robin Snyder reminded the membership to consider the privacy of someone before sharing any private or medical information. Permission from an individual may be needed before sharing.

President's Report: Kelly LaFreniere welcomed our interns, Melissa Watts from Montgomery County and David Heffelfinger from Elmore County to our meeting today. Please remember to take your wallet sized CAMGA business cards for advertising. Thank you to Andy Wallace and Lee Borden for volunteering to conduct the yearly audit. The Transformation Garden Path name has been selected and is now called "The Alabama Master Gardener Trail". Kelly reminds the membership that we are at the 6-month mark where the membership needs to revisit the conversation of donating any additional money to the Transformation Gardens. Any additional money would go to scholarship funds since the goal for the Transformation Garden has been met. After member discussion, no additional money will be donated at this time. The CAMGA bulletin board has new pictures and notices for you to view and add to as you want. Feel free to bring pictures to put on the board!

Vice President's Report: Jason Mattox has a slide presentation for Upcoming Field Trips. A sign-up genius will be circulated soon for these events. First up is the Auburn Transformation Garden & Vertical Aquaponics Garden, Rooftop Garden at Rane Culinary Center on April 30th. Arrive at the Transformation Garden NLT 10:30 a.m. The Tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. Additional information will soon be provided in the sign-up genius. Contact Jason Mattox (334) 300-8200 for more information.

Stay tuned for more field trip announcements including a dahlia class in Anniston!

Treasurer's Report: Sherri Davidson said the audit is now complete. She will be working diligently to catch up and get the reimbursements to members as soon as possible. There will be a template budget forthcoming as well. She states the need for an Assistant Treasurer to learn the books. With the 501 (c)3, there are plans to purchase a laptop, QuickBooks, and other software to integrate seamlessly and user-friendly. This would be a great time to teach a new Assistant. Anyone interested, please see Sherri for details. The audit committee member, Andy Wallace, reports the audit is completed. He states Sherri has done a great and thorough job with the books. Andy stated, "All is in good standing."

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

Elmore County Extension Office

By: Michelle Sharpton

Advisory Council Representative, Cindy Augustine, invited members to attend the monthly meeting that is open to all members on the 1st Tuesday of the months February, May, August, and November, at 10:00 a.m. at Petals from the Past. Membership Directories are still available. Please sign after picking up your copy.

Lunch and Learn Coordinator, Sandy Rosamond, was thrilled to report to the membership that 50 people signed the roster at the last Lunch and Learn! Sandy has brought sign-up sheets for volunteers to sign up as greeters and to bring snacks to this event. Sandy also distributed the Schedule for Lunch and Learn. Robin Snyder shares there will be a raffle at the next Lunch and Learn where you can buy raffle tickets for \$3.00. The item that will be raffled is a soft cloth cart. The money collected goes towards the purchase of the prize as well as future prizes. Sandy spoke about the upcoming Plant Sale. So far, she has 7-8 vendors signed up for the event. She is looking for someone who is a Birdhouse Builder. Please let Sandy know if you know someone who would possibly be interested in being a vendor at our Plant Sale.

Rhonda Watson spoke to the membership about the motions that need to be voted on today. Rhonda Watson made a motion to accept The Joint Meeting of Membership of CAMGA and CAMGA, Inc., Item (1): "The committee moved that all the assets, liabilities and memberships of the unincorporated association, CAMGA be transferred to the new corporation, CAMGA, Inc." The motion was seconded by Bonnie McCormick. The membership voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Watson then made a motion to accept The Joint Meeting of Membership of CAMGA and CAMGA, Inc., Item (2): "The committee moved that CAMGA be dissolved effective upon the distribution and acceptance of the assets, liabilities, and memberships by CAMGA, Inc." The motion was seconded by Sherri Davidson and Mary McCroan. The membership voted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brick Orders are being taken now through the end of this month. Contact Rhonda Watson for more information or if you would like to place an order.

Network Chair, Anida Wishnietsky, spoke with the membership about the MOU. Anida has also provided a sign-up sheet for any CAMGA member to sign if they would like Anida to manually enter the approval of MOU for them on the new service reporting website.

Membership Chair, Robin Snyder, reminded members of upcoming Plant Sale May 4th. Pick up flyers on the table to distribute in our community. Carts/Wagons and plant trays are needed to load plants for customers. Label all plants before drop-off. Remember to make the label and writing waterproof in the event of rain. Robin has also created a new Volunteer Sign-In Sheet for use at CAMGA events. This new form will be available on the CAMGA.net website soon.

The Learning Gardens Chair, Mary McCroan, brought a large, sweet potato and carrots from the learning gardens today. Carrots should be planted thick and thinned all year long to produce bountiful carrots. Education Chair, Candace Jones, has set a goal to have more public workshops this year. So far, there are four scheduled, one for each season of the year. The first will be April 3rd and will be about Water Gardens. Call the Extension office to register. The second workshop is in June and is a collaboration with the Projects Committee and will be on Propagation. All events are free and open to the public.

CAMGA Minutes (Continued)
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Michelle Sharpton

Projects Committee Co-Chair, Rhona Watson reminded everyone to watch the YouTube Channel, Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc. (@CAMGA Inc) that has been created by Rebecca Ridley with Rhona speaking about starting seeds indoors. Earth Day is April 27th 9am-1pm at the Wetumpka Farmer's Market. Please feel free to come. There will be a plant swap and lots of fun.

Hospitality Chair, Rhonda Miles, thanks Iva Haynie, Martha Rodgers, Dee Turberville, Barbara Wallace, Sheila Radford, Melissa Watts, Candy Jones, and Bonnie McCormick for providing our food for today. A sign-up sheet has been generated for next month's snacks.

Old Business: 0

New Business: 0

Meeting Adjourned 12:27 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Michelle Sharpton, Secretary



CAMGA Library News

April 2024

By: Dee Turberville

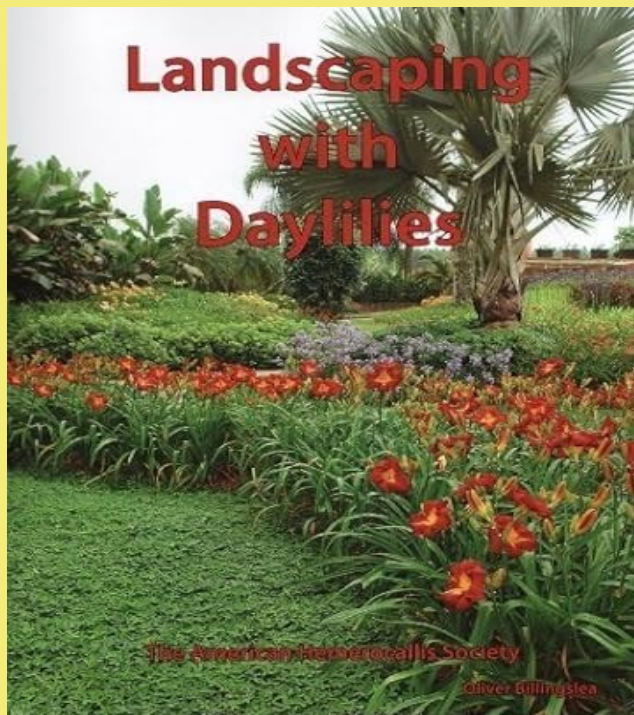
Landscaping with Daylilies

By Oliver Billingslea

Given in Memory of Sue Robertson, CAMGA Class 2000, President 2007-2008

In 1753 the Swedish naturalist, Linnaeus, gave the daylily its accepted general name which was derived from two Greek words, *hemera* (a day) and *kallos* (beauty). Linnaeus called the genus "Hemerocallis" in relation to its short-lived flowers, although the plants offer a succession of blooms for several weeks. Today there are over 90,000 registered cultivars!

And you can pass hours looking at images of registered daylily cultivars on the American Hemerocallis Society Website within their online database at <https://daylilies.org>. "Alpenglow Magic" (Rich, 2024) is the latest cultivar shown below.



Landscaping with Daylilies is a comprehensive guide for the use of daylilies in the garden written by Oliver Billingslea, a longtime member of the American Hemerocallis Society. It is a beautiful and informative book with 336 pages and 721 color photographs by more than 100 members of the AHS. This comprehensive work includes chapters on daylily history, daylily care, historic and modern daylilies. Other chapters cover the use of perennials as companion plants and landscaping with daylilies in different areas of the United States and internationally. You can also learn how to acquire, hybridize, and register daylilies. It is a book for the general gardener as well as for those devoted to daylilies -- as Sue Robertson was.



Governor's Mansion Report March 2024

By: Amanda Borden



We trimmed roses at the Mansion, weeded the landscape beds at the Downtown YMCA, trimmed a few camellias, hosted the Montgomery Master Gardener new interns to a rose pruning workshop, weeded at the Mansion, and finally renewal pruned a boxwood hedge that was blocking the security cameras.

Jane instructs on proper rose pruning technique



Anne, Robin, Kathy, Sue trimming crepe myrtle

Ann Coker & Donna Manson prune roses



Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)

March 2024

By: Amanda Borden

Rose Pruning Workshop with CCMGA Interns



First Row: Ebony Martin, Robin Snyder, Melanie Newman, Amy Cook, Mary Ann Dryer, Sherry McGilberry.
Second Row: Linda Cater, Neal Higgins, Jane McCarthy, Ann Montcastle Coker, Donna Manson, Melissa Ward.
Third Row: Sue Berry, Amy Sanchez, Jane Ficquette, Cheryl Doss, Jim Wirshing.



Group after workday March 25th

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association



Spring Plant Sale

with local vendors



Saturday May 4th

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM



Elmore County Extension

340 Queen Ann Road, Wetumpka

**Great prices and plant selection...herbs, vegetables,
annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, succulents, house**



Learning Garden Report

March 2024

By: Mary McCroan



Spring is looking good in the Learning Gardens at the Extension Office. As usual, the Lorepetalum and Coral Honeysuckle are competing for the WOW award with their stunning spring blooms. The last freeze took a little of the luster off the Lorepetalum, but the Honeysuckle was unfazed. We will prune the Lorepetalum by close to 50% so that office can get a little light in the window as soon as we are done enjoying the flowers.



The butterfly garden is also starting to show its stuff and will really peak in April and May. We were happy to see lots of blueberry blooms this year--so far it looks like untimely freezes will not be an issue this year. Yay!



A new feature to the Learning Gardens being created by Deb Kelso is a demonstration of the plants used during the Civil War. Because of blockades, Confederate Doctors had to depend on native herbs many of which will be included in this area. Plants used for textiles and culinary uses are also included. We will be including labels for each plant similar to those currently installed for culinary herbs at the east end of the gardens.

Learning Garden Report (Continued)

March 2024

By: Mary McCroan

We were sad to see the large Natchez Crepe Myrtle come down to fix the Septic System, and less important, but still a loss was the bed of Confederate Violets that were torn up.

Well, as most of you know, violets are tough, tough, tough. We picked up some torn up landscape fabric, and there they were. Some are still growing in the old location, some are now growing in the lawn, and we potted up about twenty pots for the Plant Sale. Confederate Violets are a variation of common violets and supposedly got their name because the grayish color reminded somebody of the grey uniforms worn by Confederate Soldiers.



We also spent some time in March “up potting” small coleus and Cuban Oregano that we’d grown from stem cuttings last fall, so they may grown bigger before the plant sale. And we potted Confederate Rose and Elderberry that had been rooted in water.

On the east side of the garden is a new wildflower bed. There were a couple beds not in use, and some donated wild flower seeds. So with no expectations, we sowed the seeds in late winter and are really pleased with the result. With any luck, we will see additional varieties flower as spring and summer progress.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

March 2024

By: Mary McCroan



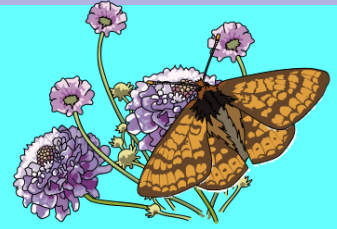
We have continued to tweak the fenced part of the gardens. The old shade bed was rotted in places and we decided didn't look great in the front of the garden. So we dismantled it with so small effort involving pry bars where screws refused to unscrew.

There may have been a little blood spilled here and there. Then we rebuilt them with wood donated by Mary's father-in-law (thanks to Kenneth McCroan), to the same dimensions as other beds in that row. A smaller shade bed was constructed in the back corner and the turmeric relocated there. Turmeric is one of the plants Auburn has done trials on for a crop for small Alabama farms and we wanted to continue to demo it as a plant that can be successfully grown as a perennial in our area.

We got all the beds filled with decent garden soil thanks to Terry fetching several yards of super soil with her truck and trailer.

And then we had one more idea. To "borrow" the unused 16 foot cattle panel that Extension had stashed and bend it to turn one of our garden gates into the perfect climbing surface for the planned hops bines (another crop studied at Auburn). Katrina likes it there and is going to let us keep it. We like it too, and plan to buy one more for the other garden gate.

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.	2	3 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	4 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 Extension Office	5	6
7	8 Governor's Mannsion Work- day 8-11 a.m. Projects Commit- tee Meeting, Extension Office, 10 a.m.	9 Lunch & Learn, First Presbyte- rian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 <i>Program: Heir- loom, Antique & Pass Along Plants</i>	10 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	11 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 Extension Office	12	13
14	15 Governor's Man- sion Workday 8-11 a.m.	16 CAMGA Meeting Extension Office 10-12 noon	17 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	18 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 Extension Office	19	20
21	22 Governor's Mannsion Work- day 8-11 a.m. State AMGA Meeting see AMGA Website	23	24 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	25 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 Extension Office	26	27 Earth Day Plant Swap, Wetumpka Farmers Market 9 am- 1 p.m.
28	29 Governor's Mann- sion Workday 8-11 a.m.	30				