



# GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 5 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

## May 2024

### MESSAGE FROM KELLY

KELLY LAFRENIERE  
CAMGA PRESIDENT



Hello fellow gardeners! I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying time outside! I attended the AMGA state conference in Daphne along with a few of our other local Master Gardeners. They had great speakers such as Dr. John Bowen who spoke on Lifelong Gardening and Yvette Cutrer who spoke on Gardening with Soil Polymers, which was very interesting.

Earth Day was a success last week. We had a large turnout for the plant swap. We were able to educate and talk to a lot of people about gardening and our up coming MG Plant Sale which will be held Saturday May 4 at the Extension Center from 8-12!

Thank you to all of those who took the time to start plants from seeds or pot up plants and baby them until the plant sale. I know it's a lot of work! Thank you also all of those who worked on the gazebo in the Learning Garden! It looks great!

The Learning Gardens, the Master Gardener helpline/library room and the kitchen extension are looking great as they all are transforming and becoming more functional and beautiful.

L&L has had record turnouts these past few months with 40 to 50 attendees!! That's awesome!

I want to thank everyone who attended our field trip on April 30. We all toured the Vertical Gardens, Transformation garden, the Rooftop Garden and the Davis Arboretum. It was a fantastic day!

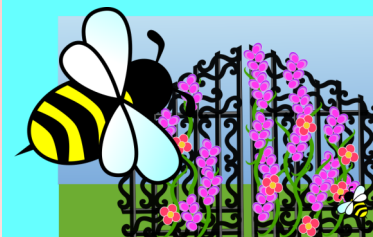
I look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting on May 21. Kerry Smith, our state Master Gardener program coordinator and Devonne Ellis our AMGA President will be joining us.

Check out all of the great [pictures](#) and lists of everyone from the conference, Earth Day, and our AU field trip and the Reach for the Stars recipients! Congratulations!

*Take care and happy gardening,  
Kelly*

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Carol Pugh — Editor  
Garden Buzzzz  
Newsletter



Alabama Master Gardener Association State Conference in Daphne, AL April 2024

Front row: Ricky Hatcher, Marianne Hatcher, Norma Busby, Rhonda Miles, Carol Rattan, Sandy Rosamond, Kelly Lafreniere Second row: Andy Wallace, Barbara Wallace, Jesse Miles, Cheryl Fitzgerald



2024 Earth Day – Kelly Lafreniere, Rhona Watson, Rebecca Ridley and Finn

Pictures below of field trip to Auburn University on April 30th when Master Gardeners toured the Vertical Gardens, Transformation gardens, Rooftop garden, and the Davis Arboretum





## **2023 Volunteer "Reach for the Stars" Awards**

### **AMGA Award Nominees from CAMGA:**

**Jean Lee Lifetime Hours Award:** Candace Jones 4,390.2 Lifetime Hours

**Top Hours of the Year Award:** Robin Snyder 445 Volunteer Hours

### **Reach for the Stars Advanced Badge & Star Recipients:**

**Platinum Badge:** Robin Snyder 2,353.75 Lifetime Hours

**Gold Badge:** Dee Turberville 1,017.65 Lifetime Hours

**Gold Badge:** Barbara Wallace 1,015.5 Lifetime Hours

### **Reach for the Stars (Star Pin) Award Recipients:**

#### **Silver Star (300-499 hours):**

Darlene Branyon 392.25 Lifetime Hours

Michelle Gentry-Sharpton 354 Lifetime Hours

Sharon Kochik 307.5 Lifetime Hours

Rebecca Ridley 371.5 Lifetime Hours

#### **Bronze Star (100-299 hours):**

David Heffelfinger 132 Lifetime Hours

Jason Mattox 154.5 Lifetime Hours

Sandra Mikashus 110.95 Lifetime Hours

**Congratulations Master Gardeners!!**

## **Lunch & Learn Program — Tuesday, May 14th**

**By: Sandy Rosamond**

Rhona Watson is going to teach us "**Ways to Use Unusual Plants**" at our next Lunch and Learn! (That title has my interest), on May 14. Everyone is invited to come and bring someone with you.

We meet at 12 noon --1pm in the First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka, the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

It is hosted by Master Gardeners that also donate door prizes, snacks, and greet our guest as they arrive. Thank you for your support.



## Message from Mallory

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

### Alabama Smart Yard Webinar Series

Join the Alabama Cooperative Extension System for the Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards webinar series. This online series is brought to you by the Extension Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests team. Throughout the year, the team will provide weekly, 30-minute segments on common gardening information, home pests, fruits, vegetables, wildlife, and much more.

Tune in Wednesdays

**When:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

**Where:** The webinars are presented through Zoom, an online video presentation format.

## Registration

Registration is required to attend this webinar series. The Zoom meeting number and link will be provided upon completion of the online registration. New to Zoom? [Visit the Zoom website](#) to watch a video that will help you prepare to attend.

**[Register](#)**

## Dates and Topics

### May 1 — Garden Chat

- Alabama Extension's Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests team

### May 8 — What's Blooming In North Alabama

- Alabama Extension's Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests team

### May 15 — Cover Crops For Home Gardens

- Carole Borowski, advanced Alabama Extension Master Gardener

### May 22 — What's Blooming In Central Alabama

- Alabama Extension's Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests team

### May 29 — What's Blooming In South Alabama

Alabama Extension's Home Grounds, Gardens, and Home Pests team

More Information For more information on the Get Outside with Alabama Smart Yards webinar series, contact [Dani Carroll](#) at [carrodl@aces.edu](mailto:carrodl@aces.edu).

**CAMGA Monthly Minutes**  
**April 16, 2024**  
**Elmore County Extension Office**  
**By: Michelle Sharpton**



Today, the CAMGA members welcomed Bionca Lindsey, Advanced Master Gardener, from Autauga County. She gave an impressive educational program on Hostas. For any questions, her email is [bloveshostas@gmail.com](mailto:bloveshostas@gmail.com).

The Business Meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by President Kelly LaFreniere. Twenty-one CAMGA members signed the roster.

Kelly asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes to record. Jason Mattox made the motion, and Rhona Watson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval.

Rebecca Ridley and Rhona Watson, Projects Committee, began the meeting with circulating a sign-up sheet for help tidying up the Learning Gardens in preparation for the Plant Sale. A sign-up genius was also emailed to the membership.

All volunteer slots have been filled for Earth Day April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Wetumpka Farmer's Market from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. If you didn't sign up, but would still like to participate, please feel free to join.

April 25<sup>th</sup>, is the annual trip to Dr. Mitchell's home for Air Layering Camellias for next year's plant sale. A sign-up genius was circulated. Contact Rhona Watson or Rebecca Ridley for more information if you are interested.

Member Concerns: Cheryl Fitzgerald reports she is sending cards to members who have not been able to come to meetings for a while. Lois Pribulick loves getting the cards from everyone. Kelly welcomes the Interns with us today, Lesley Wilkinson and Melissa Watts.

Devonne Ellis, AMGA President, and Kerry Smith, Alabama Extension Master Garden Program Coordinator will be visiting our chapter in May as part of a statewide meet and greet event.

The Millbrook Rotary Club requests a speaker for their event at Lanark on April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:20 a.m.- 7:50 a.m. The topic is completely up to the speaker. See Kelly for more details.

Wetumpka has asked CAMGA, Inc. for volunteer help in designing 3 gardens in the Wetumpka area as part of a beautification project. Kelly plans to meet with Andrew Stieb, Tourism Director for Wetumpka, to discuss the details as well as see the space and report back to CAMGA for membership input and volunteers. The City of Wetumpka will cover all costs associated with this project as well as the labor and upkeep. The request is simply for design. The 3 gardens are located 1. Gold Star Park, 2. Behind the City Administration Building, 3. Wetumpka Sports Complex.

## CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

### Elmore County Extension Office

By: Michelle Sharpton

Sherri Davidson, Treasurer, reports the Budget as follows:

Memb- Membership dues	155.00
Memb- Membership directory	(53.68)
Memb- Member recognition - Reach for the Stars	(21.00)
CAMGA Library	(110.33)
Software Fees - Website Security	(648.46)
Memb- CAMGA Meeting expenses	(17.08)
President's Registration AMGA Conference (per By-laws)	(175.00)
Office update	(66.42)
Main Street Wetumpka paver (CAMGA)	(130.00)
Proj- Mardi Gras Parade	(567.49)
Meeting site - Presbyterian Church maintenance	(74.03)
Balance	\$ 17,623.53
Wahed Mary	\$ 146.80

CAMGA officially filed for 501 (c)3 on March 25, 2024. The Board approved that the Regions Bank accounts (old organization's financials) to be permanently closed after the remaining checks have cleared. The Board approved a new bank account under a nonprofit status to be opened at MAX Credit Union for the new organization's financials (CAMGA, Inc.). The new checking account will not have duplicate checks and will not require two signatures to write a check. Several people will be added to the banking accounts for safekeeping. The Board also approved opening a \$10,000.00 7 month C.D. at almost 5% interest at Max Credit Union for the new organization (CAMGA, Inc.). Sherri is still searching for a Treasurer's Assistant.

Jason Mattox, Vice President, updated the membership on the April 30<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to the Auburn Transformation Garden and Vertical Aquaponics Garden, Rooftop Garden at Rane Culinary Center followed by a curated tour of the Donald E. Davis Arboretum. Lunch will be at the Rooftop Restaurant, "1856". Contact Jason Mattox (334) 300-8200 for more information. A sign-up genius was sent to the Membership. Stay tuned for more upcoming field trips including the Dahlia class with Betty Clark in Anniston, AL on June 20.

Next month's guest speaker is from the Birmingham Fern Society and will be on "Fantastic Ferns." Sandra Rosamond, Lunch and Learn Coordinator, reports that 44-46 people attended last month's Lunch and Learn.

Next month's topic will be "Unusual Plants in your Garden" with Rhona Watson. Sandy needs volunteers for door prizes and snacks. She passed around a sign-up sheet today.

Katrina Mitchell sent invites to the Membership to join them in the Open House for the Elmore County Extension Office on May 16, 2024 from 8:00 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. RSVP by May 10, 2024, by calling (334) 567-6301.

## CAMGA Minutes (Continued)

### Elmore County Extension Office

**By: Michelle Sharpton**

Anida Wishnietsky, Network Chair, reports the Board approved the criterion for Emeritus status for a member. This is under the umbrella of Honorary Member. The criterion is as follows:

The member must have been active for 10 years.

Self-reporting that they are no longer able to participate in CAMGA events due to health reasons.

They must request Emeritus status.

The Board must approve Emeritus status of the individual with a majority vote.

The Emeritus status member will no longer be required to pay dues. The Emeritus status member will be entitled to CAMGA newsletters, e-mails and other correspondence, and Membership Directory. The individual will no longer be entitled to vote.

The Board also voted Ann Hill Emeritus Status today.

Cindy Augustine, Advisory Council Representative, plans to attend the next AMGA meeting May 7, 2024.

Robin Snyder, Membership Chair, along with Cindy Augustine have created a new sign-in sheet for CAMGA events. This can be found on the CAMGA.net webpage. For now, Robin asks for the completed sign-in sheets to be sent to her to aid in the recognition of Volunteers and their efforts.

Robin asks for Volunteers to help hang 4 large banners for advertising the Plant Sale. Robin also plans to check on the details of asking the 8 Americorps volunteers that are currently in our area for help at our plant sale. Details will be forthcoming.

Robin suggested a vote to be called at the meeting today regarding omitting the pre-sale of plants for CAMGA members at the Plant Sale. It is greatly affecting inventory for the public event. After discussion, it is recommended that the CAMGA members start their shopping at 10:00 a.m., the day of the Plant Sale. This gives the public a couple of hours to have their choice of the full inventory.

Bonnie McCormick made a motion to stop the Friday pre-sale and allow CAMGA shopping to begin at 10:00 a.m. the day of the Plant Sale. Sandra Rosamond seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Dee Turberville, Librarian, thanks Melissa Watts and Cheryl Fitzgerald for their assistance in the inventory process of our Library.

Candace Jones, Education Chair, would like to report 27 people signed up for the last public education event on Water gardens, and 22 were in attendance. More programs will be available soon for sign-up.

Old Business: 0

New Business: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 12:15 p.m.

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,*

*Michelle Sharpton, Secretary*



## CAMGA Library News

### May 2024

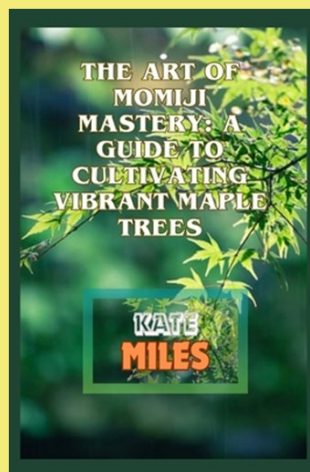
By: Dee Turberville

### The Art of Momiji Mastery: A Guide to Cultivating Vibrant Maple Trees

By Kate Miles

*Purchased in Memory of John Haynie, Class of 2012*

Dive into the enchanting world of Momiji tree cultivation with this informative guide -- Unlocking the Secrets of Pruning, Soil Care, and Seasonal Beauty for Your Japanese Maple Grove. Momiji, the Japanese term for maple trees, is deeply rooted in symbolism, often associated with the changing seasons and the transient beauty of life. During the fall, the vibrant transformation of Momiji's delicate leaves are a symphony of reds, oranges, and yellows celebrated through the traditional activity of "momijigari" or maple leaf viewing. This cultural practice draws people to gardens and mountainsides to witness the breathtaking spectacle of nature.



Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a passionate newcomer, this book unlocks the secrets of nurturing Japanese maples in your own garden. Kate Miles explores their rich cultural significance and guides you through the intricacies of planting, pruning, and caring for these beautiful specimens. The book provides expert insights into selecting the perfect variety, creating captivating landscapes, and maintaining the health and vibrancy of your Momiji trees throughout the seasons. Journey through chapters that include practical tips on soil preparation, watering techniques, and effective fertilization practices. Study the art of shaping and pruning, enhancing the natural beauty of these trees while ensuring their longevity and vitality. If you dream of a serene Japanese garden or wish to add a touch of elegance to your backyard, this 'Harmony in Foliage' is the guide for you.





## Governor's Mansion Report For April 2024

By: Amanda Borden



The Governor's Mansion volunteers weeded, trimmed camellias, limbed up magnolias, renewal pruned a severely damaged red bud and several spireas, thinned out some perennials, removed winter annuals and prepped for the summer annuals...and kept weeding all the while.

In April, we accrued 111 volunteer work hours, bringing our total to 9273 hours.



Amy goes to work on the weeds!



Sue trimming pansies



Anne unearths a giant  
smilax root!!



Darwin and Robin trimming in backyard



After workday April 29th



# May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	2 <i>Learning Gardens 8-12 noon</i>	3	4 <i>CAMGA Plant Sale, Elmore County Extension Office 8-12 noon</i>
5	6 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	7	8 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	9 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	10	11
12 	13 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m. Projects Meeting at the Extension Office 10 a.m.</i>	14 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 pm</i>	15 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	16 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	21 <i>CAMGA Meeting Elmore Co. Extension Office 10-12 noon</i>	22 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	23 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	28	29 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	30 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	31	