



GARDEN BUZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association

June 2024

MESSAGE FROM KELLY

KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA PRESIDENT



Hello Fellow Master Gardeners!

I hope everyone is doing well and having fun working in your gardens.

I want to thank EVERYBODY who came out to work Friday and Saturday for our May CAMGA plant sale and Robin Snyder for doing another phenomenal job organizing the event. It was a lot of fun, and we had a huge turnout! We made \$6,668, which is incredible!!

The Learning Garden looked amazing. Thank you Mary McCroan, Deb Kelso, Jason Mattox, Darlene Dixon, Candy Jones, Terry Chambliss, Virginia Pruitt, and ANYBODY else I may have missed who work every Thursday to make the Learning Gardening so beautiful.

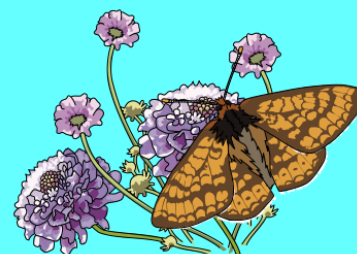
Jason Maddox, our VP, has another great field trip planned for us all on June 12th at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. We will receive a walking tour of the Fern Glade at the BBG starting at 10:15 a.m. Charles Murray and Louise Billings, who are members of the Birmingham Fern Society will be providing our tour. Please review your emails for the sign-up genius for this event.

Thank you Rebecca Ridley, head of Projects and Candy Jones our Education Chair for organizing a Propagation workshop for the public on Saturday June 22nd in our Learning Garden at the Extension center. Please sign up to attend!! Bring a friend!

I want to congratulate CAMGA on achieving our 501(c)(3) status. We received our letter from the IRS in the month of May and we are officially now a 501(c)(3)!! Much thanks to all of the committee members Rhona Watson/Head Chair, Cindy Augustine, Sherri Davidson, Anida Wishnietsky and myself. I'm glad it's done!

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Carol Pugh – Editor
Garden Buzzzz
Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM KELLY (CONTINUED)

KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA PRESIDENT

Please join us for Lunch and Learn on Tuesday June 11th at the Presbyterian Church where our next speaker will be Diane Fortner, Lee Co. MG who will speak on "Moonlight Gardening". Thank you Sandy Rosamond for all you do with Lunch and Learn!! We have had record turnouts and positive comments about our speakers!!

Please join us for our next CAMGA meeting on Tuesday June 18th at 10 AM at the Elmore County Extension center.

If you haven't seen the new Extension center you're in for a treat. They've updated the kitchen, lighting and ceiling panels and are preparing to install new flooring soon. Thank you, Katrina Mitchell for pushing the county to make the much-needed upgrades!!

Registration for our next Intern class is from June 1-30. Classes will start in August and will be held at the Autauga County extension office.

Our June speaker will be Anthony Yarbrough, Autauga Co. MG who will speak on "Destructive Insects" followed by a short business meeting.

Take care and happy gardening!

Kelly Lafreniere
CAMGA President



501(c)(3) Committee Members:

Rhona Watson, Sherri Davidson, Cindy Augustine, Kelly Lafreniere, and (Anita Wishnietsky not pictured).



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

“Have You Seen Um?”

If you are into camping, fishing, gardening, or really just hanging out on your patio grilling you may have come in contact with biting midges or what many people call “no-see-ums.” They are especially bad early in the morning and late in the afternoon, but can also be present at any time of day when it is cloudy and no breeze.

They get the name “no-see-ums” due to their tiny size and go unnoticed until you feel their painful bite. They are barely visible to the naked eye so many times people don’t know what is biting them. Males and females feed on nectar, but the females require blood for their eggs to mature. The females will blood-feed primarily around dawn and dusk; however, there are some species that prefer to feed during the day. The larvae cannot develop without moisture, but do not require standing water as they can develop in soil as long as it stays moist. In the U.S., the biting midges are primarily a nuisance and the major medical issue associated with *Culicoides* is allergic reactions to the bites. However, in some countries they do vector diseases.

Insecticide applications targeting the adult stage are not efficient. While this type of application may kill biting midges active one night, they are continually dispersing from the larval habitat and entering areas of human activity. It would require insecticide applications on a daily basis in some areas, and this is not efficient or environmentally sound. Many government agencies that provide mosquito control services receive complaints about biting midges. However, most of the programs are not mandated or allowed to respond by providing control measures.

Homeowners can install proper screening for windows and patios to prevent no-see-ums from entering areas used for leisure and entertaining. Most biting midges can pass through 16-mesh insect wire screen and netting, so a smaller mesh size is required. The small mesh size does limit air flow through the screens. In addition, because no-see-ums are so small and are weak fliers, ceiling and window fans can be used at high speeds to keep no-see-ums out of small areas.

Repellents containing DEET for mosquito repellents are also labeled for use against no-see-ums and can decrease your exposure to the painful insect. It is important that the directions for application that are printed on the label are followed for any product used as a repellent.

CAMGA Monthly Minutes
May 21, 2024
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Michelle Sharpton



Today, the CAMGA members welcomed Charles Murray and Louise Billings from the Birmingham Fern Society to speak about "Southern Ferns".

The Business Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Kelly LaFreniere. Rhonda Miles, Hospitality, thanks everyone who brought food for today's meeting. Bonnie McCormick made a motion to accept April 2024 CAMGA Monthly Minutes to record. The motion was seconded by Rhona Watson. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval.

Kelly LaFreniere, President, introduced our special guest, Kerry Smith, Alabama Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Devonne Ellis, AMGA President, had to leave early today.

Kelly presented Gold Badges to Dee Turberville and Barbara Wallace for their Volunteer Hours to CAMGA.

Kelly has received a request from the City of Wetumpka to assist them in a beautification project. There are four areas around the city that need landscaping. The city will pay the full cost of the project if CAMGA will assist. An acknowledgement plaque of CAMGA's involvement will be placed for public viewing as well. This project will be handled by the Projects Committee.

Contact Cheryl Fitzgerald for member concerns so she may send a card on behalf of CAMGA.

The CAMGA graduation for our 2023 interns will be August 20, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. Flyers are available for the new 2024 Autauga/CAMGA intern class. See Robin Snyder for details.

Jason Mattox, Vice President, notified members that the anticipated field trip to Anniston has been canceled due to distance and timing of the speakers. Lanark Hydrangea Fest is June 1, 2024. It will be held at Lanark from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sherri Davidson, Treasurer, reports there is \$2940.86 left in the Regions Bank Account under the old CAMGA organization for now. A new account with \$15,000.00 at Max Credit Union for our new CAMGA, Inc. Organization was opened since our 501(c)(3) is in process.

The Plant sale earned our new organization \$6,329.58. Total Revenue combined from Max Credit Union and Regions Bank is \$24,439.00. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is available to CAMGA, Inc. Members. Contact Sherri Davidson, Treasurer.

Cindy Augustine, Advisory Council Representative, states the next AMGA meeting will be August 6, 2024, at Petals from the Past. Anyone may attend this meeting. Upcoming conferences include the 2025 Autauga County Conference, April 3-5, 2025. The 2026 Huntsville Conference will be May 6-8. There will also be a Fall Seminar in Auburn, Alabama, on October 10, 2024.

Katrina Mitchell stated the Extension kitchen has had several improvements made but is "not completely done yet".

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

Rhona Watson, Projects Committee, shared that the Earth Day Event in Wetumpka, AL, is probably the most conclusive event CAMGA takes part in as far as recruiting new participants for the Master Gardener Program. The Propagation Program is scheduled for June 22, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Extension Center. This event is open to the public. There is a registration charge of \$10.00.

Attorney, Jim Gaines, was instrumental in getting CAMGA 501(c)(3) status. He did all the work for no charge. The paperwork was turned in March 2024, but there has been no status notification received yet.

Candace Jones, Education Chair, shared she has new programs planned for the public. The June 22 Propagation Workshop in the Learning Gardens and Help Line Training are a few that are in the works. The Help Line is desperate for volunteers. CAMGA is responsible for every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. This service can now be done from home.

Old Business: 0

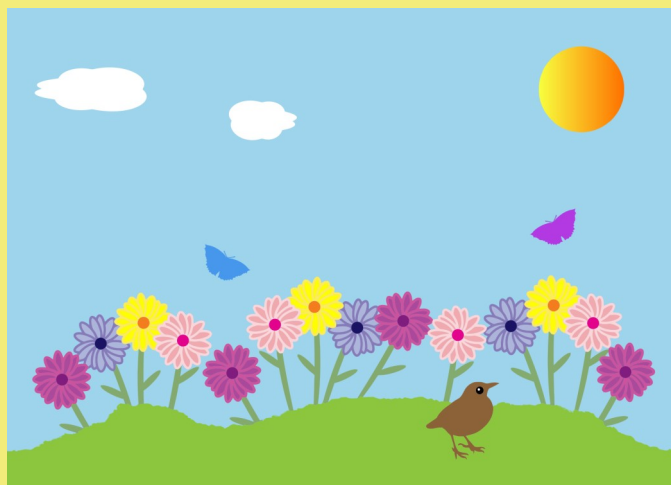
New Business: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05 p.m.

Minutes taken by Sheila Radford on behalf of Michelle Sharpton

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Michelle Sharpton, Secretary





Learning Gardens — May 2024

By: Mary McCoan

May is a great time to work in any garden, including CAMGA's Learning Garden. First thing to report is the plant sale. It was great fun to find shoppers with kids and get them back into the Learning Garden to pick a handful of carrots. Toddlers can pick carrots without even leaning over! And we enjoyed showing our adult shoppers around the gardens as well. Just as an "oh by the way", I've gotten creative with compensating for recent shoulder surgery, and a washing machine can be an effective carrot cleaning strategy! I'm also happy to report that the income from plants propagated from the Learning Garden exceeded the Learning Garden budget. Our mission is to educate, and we aren't focused in revenue generation, but it's still nice to be self supporting.



The wild blackberries growing on the fence across from the kitchen are FULL of fruit. The are small, but very sweet. If you are in the area, stop and get a handful. These vines planted themselves, and grow great with no human intervention except cutting out the random trees that try to intrude.

The Butterfly Garden looks great this time of year. Shout out to Jane Mobley who designed the garden and purchased many of the plants that are impressing visitors years later.



Learning Gardens — May 2024 (Continued)

By: Mary McCoan



Katrina says keep an eye out for slithery visitors in the gardens. This garter snake was hanging out on the wall behind the water feature. And just recently there was an aggressive rat snake blocking the entrance to the office building!

I'm thrilled to report that the Satellite Pergola project is close to finished and looks wonderful. Recently the team filled the new beds up with dirt and planted a rose to replace the diseased one that had to be removed. Many kudos to the team: Deb Kelso and her husband Steve, Candy Jones, Darlene Dixon, Jason Mattox, Terry Chambliss and Cheryl Fitzgerald



A new plant for the Learning Garden: Amanda planted parsnips that did well. Amanda pulled one up to see if it was ready to harvest and it was more than big enough.



Learning Gardens — May 2024 (Continued)

By: Mary McCoan

Sweet potatoes harvested last year were left on a shelf in Mary's unheated garage all winter and spring. They continued to be good to eat until they started sprouting in May. Then we took the slips and planted them back in the garden. Sweet potatoes: good to eat, easy to take care of, and easy to propagate for the next season!

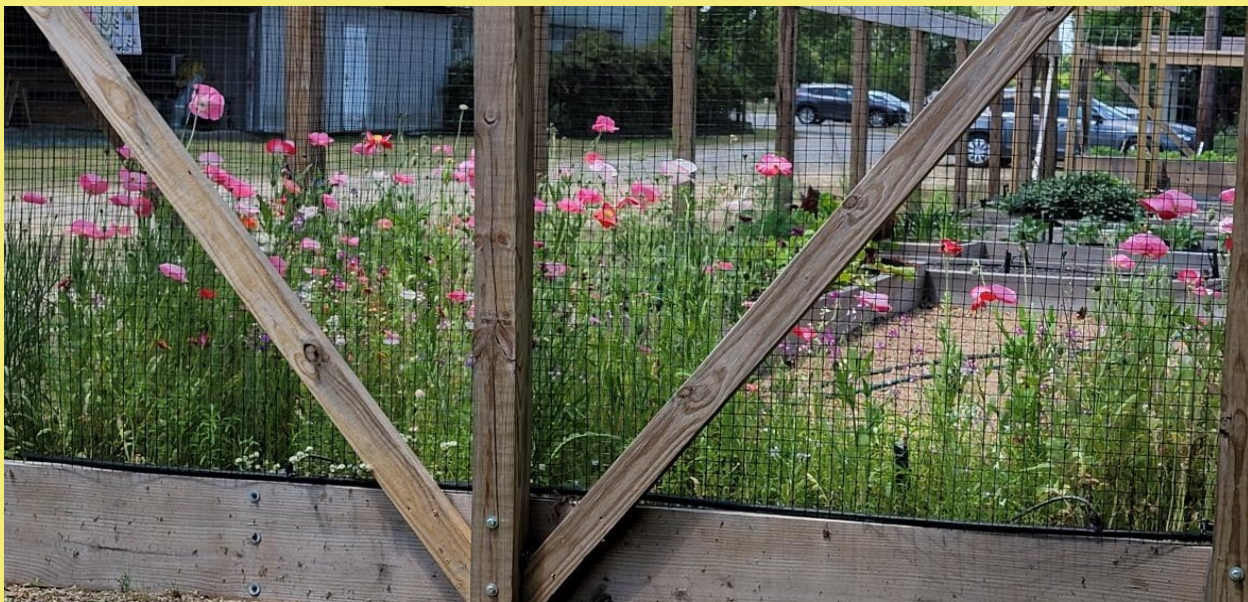
The plants that Deb Kelso placed in Learning Garden beds to demonstrate how the early settlers used plants for medicine, food and clothing are looking great. We continue to add signage to tell visitors how these plants were grown and used.



Some of the culinary herbs have really taken off and need to be trimmed. Recently we gave some of the thyme a haircut, dried it in the oven, (170 for 30 minutes), and then replaced the old store bought thyme in the pantry.

What a difference in aroma and taste. Give Mary a call (334-312-0679), if you'd cut some rosemary, thyme, oregano or mint for fresh use or drying.

The last item is the Wildflower bed. This was planted just because we were donated a packet of wildflower seeds and the result was pretty wonderful. We will likely keep this going and see if it reseeds next year.





CAMGA Library News

June 2024

By: Dee Turberville

Climate Change Gardening for the South;

Planet-Friendly Solutions for Thriving Gardens by Barbara J. Sullivan

Gardeners across the USA are experiencing clear signs of a warming climate in their home gardens. There is a need for an update on gardening practices to deal with the weather extremes, shifting hardiness zones and seasonal unpredictability.

Changing environmental conditions are tough on plants as well as insects, pollinators, birds, and mammals. Droughts are lasting longer, tornadoes are more intense while hurricanes and tropical storms are dumping excessive torrential rainfall. Barbara Sullivan has written an essential, well-researched and user-friendly resource for Southerners to adapt to the new realities of climate change. Some of the key features include:

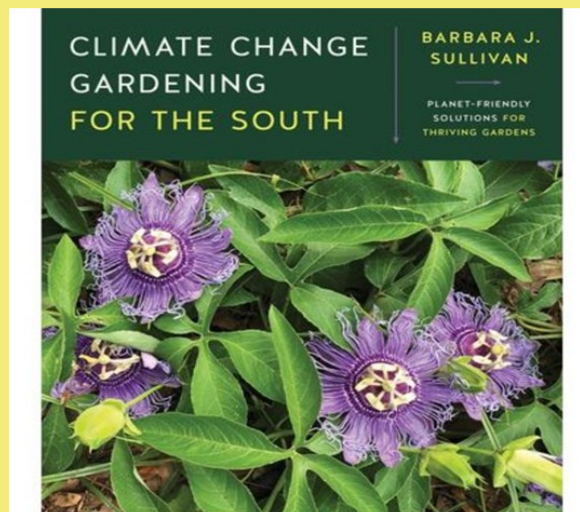
Surveys the science behind climate change and gardening.

Covers USDA hardiness zones 5a to 9b --includes the 13 southeastern states.

Gives advice on planning and installing gardens that will not only thrive but also help address critical environmental challenges.

Covers key topics ranging from designing a climate-friendly garden that will attract songbirds and pollinators to weaning off gas-powered tools to using water wisely.

Features many colorful illustrations, charts, and tables brimming with recommended native plants for each region.



My favorite part of the book is the Appendix; it includes several categories of native plants, i.e., lists of drought, flood and salt tolerant natives. Sullivan lists invasive, non-native species, fruit-bearing and seed-bearing shrubs, natural autumn-blooming perennials and so much more. This title will appeal to those Southern gardeners who want to try more sustainable practices in our changing environment – to aid wild-life and to contribute to the community we share.



Governor's Mansion Report For May 2024

By: Amanda Borden



During May, in addition to weeding and laying pine straw, we planted annuals in the side lawn bed and annuals and drought-tolerant perennials around the Finley fence bed.

We worked two Mondays, and weather cancelled two others.



NATURE JOURNALING FOR EVERYONE

June 28, 2024
10:00AM -12:00PM

Deepen your connection to nature, hone your observation skills, and wake up your curiosity through nature journaling. Join us as science teacher, Amy Sides leads this fun two-hour program on nature journaling. Good observation skills are very useful not only in science, but also in school, work, and life in general. Nature journaling is a fun activity for honing observation skills, plus it has the added benefit of connecting people with nature. In addition to honing your awareness so you notice more, nature journaling is restorative, creative, deepens learning to help you remember more, and provides a structure to slow down and transition from doing to being. All ability levels are welcome!



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.

Water & Snacks will be
provided

Adults & children
welcome!

All Supplies will be
provided

Village Green Park

3199 Main Street
Millbrook, AL

Contact Lynn
Dickinson for more
information

(334) 303-8360
rhodela@aces.edu

REGISTER AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.ACES.EDU/EVE
NT/NATURE-JOURNALING-
FOR-EVERYONE-3/](https://www.aces.edu/EVENT/NATURE-JOURNALING-FOR-EVERYONE-3/)



June 2024

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					 1	
2	3 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 am	4	5 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	6 Learning Gardens Work- day 7-10 a.m.	7	8 June Farmers Market
9	10 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 am Projects Meeting, Extension Office 10 a.m.	11 Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church, Wetumka 12-1 pm.	12 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	13 Learning Gardens Workday 7-10 a.m.	14	15
16	17 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 am	18 CAMGA Meeting 10 a.m. Extension Office Auditorium	19 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	20 Learning Gardens Workday 7-10 a.m.	21	22
23	24 Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 am	25	26 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	27 Learning Gardens Workday 7-10 a.m.	28	29
30						