



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 9 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

## September 2024

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**MESSAGE FROM KELLY**  
**KELLY LAFRENIERE**



Hello Fellow Gardeners,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying their plants and gardens as best you can in this heat!! Hopefully, the temperature and humidity will decrease very soon.

I want to congratulate our newest Elmore County Master Gardeners! They graduated on August 20<sup>th</sup> after fulfilling their obligations as interns. They are David Heffelfinger, Casie McGinn, Lidia Mitchum, Martha Rodgers and Lesley Wilkinson. Welcome and congratulations!

Our newest Elmore County Master Gardener interns are Beth Deaton, Paige Dodge, Jessica Harold, Wesley Reynolds, Bob Shields, and Tannis Thomas. Please make them feel welcomed and encourage participation.

I want to congratulate Ann Hill (Pictured) and Yvonne Ellis on achieving Emeritus status. Their dedication and love for Master Gardeners **is deeply appreciated.**

Our next Lunch and Learn will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.

On Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a public workshop on The Art of Autumn Gardening at the Elmore County extension center.

Everyone **is encouraged** to sign up and attend. For more information see Candy Jones.

Our next CAMGA meeting will be on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Elmore Co. Ext. Office. Please plan to attend. Our speaker will be Brent Vincent, Clinic Director from Phoenix Physical Therapy.

*See you then and happy gardening!*

*Kelly Lafreniere*  
*CAMGA, Inc. President*



*Carol Pugh, Editor*  
*Garden Buzzzzz*  
*Newsletter*

## August 20, 2024 Master Gardener Graduation



**Pictured are: Mallory Kelley, David Heffelfinger, Lidia Mitchum, Tom Miller, Consuelo Bradley, Deborah Brooks, Michael Camire, Casie McGinn and Martha Rodgers**



**Lesley Wilkinson with Mallory Kelley**

## Master Gardeners Yvonne Ellis and Ann Hill Receive Emeritus Status Certificate



**Pictured are: John Fitzpatrick, Felicia Fitzpatrick, Gene Hill, Kelly Lafreniere and Ann Hill. (Yvonne Ellis not in picture.)**

***Congratulations to all!***



## Message from Mallory

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

### September Garden Tips

#### Fruits and Nuts

- New catalogs will be arriving soon.
- Start plans for future selection and plantings.
- Take soil test for new planting areas.
- Fertilize established strawberry plantings.

#### Shrubs

- Study landscape to determine plant needs.
- Check early camellia varieties for damage caused by insects and disease.
- Replace landscape plants as needed that have severe damage caused by insects, disease, or freezes.
- After fall growth is completed, spray all shrubs with a fungicide.

#### Lawns

- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- If daytime temperatures are consistently cooler than 80 degrees F, apply fire ant bait. Read the label carefully for best control.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Reseed tall fescue lawns and fertilize at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

#### Roses

- Protect fall crops of blossoms from aphids and thrips.
- Keep plants healthy.

#### Annuals and Perennials

- Plant perennials and biennials. This is the last planting time for these.
- Divide old clumps of perennials.
- Plant peonies.

#### Bulbs

- Plant spring-flowering bulbs late this month in north Alabama.
- Delay planting in south Alabama.

#### Miscellaneous

- Clean up infestations of insects on azaleas, camellias, boxwoods, gardenias, hollies, etc.
- If oil spray is needed, don't use in freezing weather.
- Build a compost bin or box; leaves will be falling soon.

#### Vegetable Seeds

- **Central and North:** Continue planting carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, onion seeds, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard, and turnips.
- **Vegetable Transplants Whole state:** Continue planting cole crops, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, and spinach transplants, and onion sets.



**CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Minutes**  
**August 20, 2024**  
**First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall**  
**Wetumpka, AL**



Today CAMGA, Inc. welcomed the new Graduates of the Intern Class and their family and friends for a special Graduation and Lunch Celebration.

Kelly LaFreniere called the CAMGA, Inc. Business meeting to order at 10:11 A.M. 52 Members signed the roster today. Kelly asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes to record.

After noting that Amanda Borden's email address was typed wrong in last month's minutes report, but will be corrected in this month's minutes report, the motion was made by Katrina Mitchell to accept the minutes to record. This was seconded by Sheila Radford. A vote was placed and passed unanimously in favor. Amanda Borden's correct email address is [amandaw-borden@gmail.com](mailto:amandaw-borden@gmail.com). Please contact her for any questions you may have had about last month's presentation on "All About Hemp".

Special thanks to Robin Snyder and Rhonda Miles for their work in preparing the food for today. Special thanks to the members who volunteered to bring side dishes as well.

Special thanks to Jane McCarthy who created the beautiful fresh flower arrangements for the tables today.

Barbara Wallace urges members to sign-up for a "Little Digger" garden shovel. The small version is \$25, and the larger version is \$35. Cash or checks only.

Kelly LaFreniere announced on Candace Jones' behalf today that there will be a public workshop, "The Art of Autumn Gardening" on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Registration details soon to follow.

Volunteers are needed for the Helpline. Please contact Mary Ann Hatcher for more information.

Vice President, Jason Mattox, announced that next month's guest speaker will be Brent Vinson, Director of Phoenix Physical Therapy. October's meeting will be at Lanark again this year with a Plant Swap to follow.

Mary McCroan, Learning Gardens, encourages members to stop by the Learning Gardens to pick your own cherry tomatoes which are available now.

Sherri Davidson, Treasurer, reports the total assets for CAMGA, Inc. are \$22,665.00. Sherri reminds members that Membership Dues are due by the end of this year. Sherri will begin collecting dues September 2024. A QR code will be set up for members to scan to pay their dues. The QR code will also help with simultaneously updating the membership directory.

**CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)**  
**Elmore County Extension Office**  
**By: Michelle Sharpton**

Cindy Augustine, Advisory Council Representative, invites everyone to take a pamphlet and a postcard that announce the upcoming AMGA Conference October 10, 2024, in Auburn, AL, and the 2025 AMGA Conference April 3-5, 2025, in Prattville, AL. Registration is required for these events. Emails have also been sent out to the membership with details on these conferences.

Rhona Watson, Projects Meeting Co-Chair, reminds members to sign-up for the upcoming Succulent Workshop/ Make and Take Project on August 28, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Jane McCarthy will be the guest speaker on caring for your Succulents. Cost is \$12.00, and registration is required. Emails have been sent out as well as a sign-up sheet provided today.

Mallory Kelley invites all to attend the "Grow More Strawberries" Workshop on October 11, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the EV Smith Research Center. The cost is \$25.00 and includes 25 strawberry plugs as well as lunch. Space is limited, and registration is required.

<https://www.aces.edu/go/4436>

Must register by October 7, 2024.

Old Business: 0

New Business: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Michelle Sharpton, Secretary

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,  
Michelle Sharpton, Secretary*

## 2024 Spotlight On Volunteers

A big thanks to Jane McCarthy for her presentation on August 28 at the Elmore County extension on the propagation of succulents.

She showed us various methods of propagation for many varieties of succulents and we all went home with a small succulent garden that we planted and also lots of succulent parts for propagation at home.

Those in attendance were Jane Mobley, Candy Jones, Rhonda Miles, Robin Snyder, Rebecca Ridley, Michelle Sharpton, Leslie Bingham, Janice Jackson, Virginia Pruitt, Jackie Raines, Michael Camire, Rhona Watson and interns, Harriet Hobbs, Karen Montgomery and Rosemary Blackmon.

A big thanks also goes to Rhona Watson for organizing this event.





## CAMGA Library News

### September 2024

By: Dee Turberville

### Handmade Bird, Bee, and Bat Houses

By Michele McKee-Orsini

The subtitle of Ms. McKee-Orsini's book is "build and craft 25 beautiful small homes and feeders to attract wildlife to your backyard." Each house is beautifully designed, with colorful details, and adapted for its inhabitants. The cover and title of this resource are especially appealing and invite you to browse through the crafty projects within, although not practical if you would like to keep the bird houses for a few seasons. There are birdhouses you can hang up or place on stands, a bee house you can plant in your flowerbed, and there's even a home for a toad. There are also feeders for birds and butterflies, and a home for ladybugs.



With her attention to detail, Michele McKee-Orsini has designed a collection of miniature palaces for wildlife we need to encourage to visit our yards. She takes you through the basic woodworking and decorating skills with step-by-step instructions, clear artwork, and stunning photography to build your own houses. The book's ability to inspire creativity is its best feature. There is some information on birdhouse sizes for different species in the back of the book but not adequate information when considering bats, bugs, and feeders. There is a page on Bird Safety and another on Birdhouse Maintenance. However, for more information on proper techniques for the wildlife covered, you will need to do additional print or non-print research.





# Governor's Mansion Report For August 2024

By: Amanda Borden



In this heat and lack of rain, all we seemed to do was water and water some more.

We started our Christmas planning, weeded a bit, watered more, and even quit early one day and treated ourselves to breakfast at Farmer's Market Cafe. We also welcomed a new Master Gardener intern, Marilyn Greer. Hopefully we didn't scare her away.



Darwin & Jane F watering and trimming in herb garden



Ann & Alicia dump garden debris



Marilyn & Kathy fill toter from herb garden



Kathy watering herb bed adjacent to tennis court




Robin, Amanda, Jane in front of Finley bungalow



# September 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

1	2 	3	4 <i>Lanark Gardens</i> 8-11 a.m.	5 <i>Learning Gardens Workday</i> 7-10 a.m.	6	7
8	9 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> 8-11 a.m.  <i>Projects Meeting at the Extension Office</i> 10 a.m.	10 <b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b> <i>First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka</i> 12 to 1 p.m.	11 <i>Lanark Gardens</i> 8-11 a.m.	12 <i>Learning Gardens Workday</i> 7-10 a.m.	13	14
15	16 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> 8-11 a.m.	17 <b>CAMGA Monthly Meeting at the Extension Office</b> 10-12 noon	18 <i>Lanark Gardens</i> 8-11 a.m.	19 <i>Learning Gardens Workday</i> 7-10 a.m.	20	21
22	23 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> 8-11 a.m.	24	25 <i>Lanark Gardens</i> 8-11 a.m.	26 <i>Learning Gardens Workday</i> 7-10 a.m.	27	28
29	30 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday</i> 8-11 a.m.				