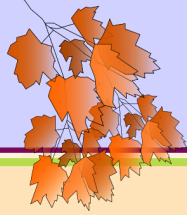




GARDEN BUZZZZZZ



Volume 33 Issue 11 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.



November 2024

MESSAGE FROM KELLY

**KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT**



Hello Fellow Master Gardeners!

I hope you all are doing well and will be enjoying some cool weather soon. The leaves on my trees in my yard are changing colors and they are absolutely beautiful! I hope you can get out and walk in nature and enjoy the leaves falling soon!

We voted on our slate of officers at our October meeting at Lanark and our incoming 2025 CAMGA officers will be:

President – Cindy Augustine Vice-president – Jason Mattox Secretary – Martha Rodgers Treasure – Sherri Davidson

Please congratulate them the next time you see them. I know we will have a fantastic board next year and they will do many wonderful things for CAMGA!

If you live in Wetumpka, you may notice they have started on the construction for the Fall Line Park between The Kelly Art Gallery and Coaches Corner restaurant.

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Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM KELLY (CONTINUED)

**KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT**

CAMGA purchased a paver that will be included in the park which will have CENTRAL AL MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION engraved on it. Please stop by to see it when construction is complete.

Please plan to attend our CAMGA November meeting at the Elmore Co. Extension office where our speaker will be Cynthia White, M.Ed., CWDP from Auburn University. She will speak on Financial Literacy and possibly Estate planning. I am looking forward to hearing her speak.

Lunch and Learn will be held Tuesday, November 12th at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. Beau Brodbeck, Certified Arborist, ACES will be talking about Trees with Great Fall Color and How Fall Foliage is Made. Should be an interesting talk! Make sure to attend!

Our annual CAMGA Christmas party will be held on **December 3rd**, which is the **FIRST Tuesday in December** at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka.

Please make plans to attend as it is always a special time for us all to come together to celebrate another wonderful year gone by with CAMGA, socialize with one another and eat some delicious food! **There will NOT be a CAMGA meeting on the third Tuesday in December.**

Take care and see you at our next CAMGA meeting on Tuesday November 19th at the Elmore County Extension office!

***Kelly Lafreniere
CAMGA, Inc. President***



Message from Mallory

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



What Makes Beautiful Fall Foliage?

Fall weather in Central Alabama has finally arrived. There is nothing like those first few cool crisp mornings after the long hot summer months. As we all know, our September and October can often times be just as hot as August. Looking around the last few days I am seeing the vibrant colors of fall foliage.

The initial plant that tells me fall is here is the terribly invasive popcorn tree! It is almost guaranteed to have a showy year! You will start to notice them along fence rows and out in pastures along the road sides. That is one great characteristic of this plant is its beautiful fall color.

Many times I am asked to make a fall foliage prediction for Alabama. To explain how to make an accurate fall color prediction let me remind you of the days in science class. The green color in leaves that we see all throughout the spring and summer is chlorophyll. Photosynthesis, the food-making process in the plant, takes place in the green, chlorophyll-containing leaves. As the day length changes and the amount of sun available to the leaves for photosynthesis begins to decrease. The living plant cells do not receive food and as a result, they change colors and then eventually die and fall to the ground.

As daylight hours shorten and temperatures drop, chlorophyll breaks down and disappears allowing the yellow color (which has been there all along) to show through. The potential for the yellow color has always been there, just covered up by the green chlorophyll. So now you know that the leaves do not actually change colors by magic, but rather by a chemical process in the plant that cause chlorophyll (the green color) to break down. So when someone asks you your projection for the fall colors this year, you can always say with certainty that it will be a great year for yellows!

Now, what is it that brings along the amazing shades of red and orange that we all love to see in the fall of the year? While the process of photosynthesis is decreasing due to light changes causing yellow to appear, other chemical changes cause red, orange or even purple pigments to form. This is what gives plants such as dogwoods, sumacs, sweet gums, and other trees their red to purple fall colors. Sugar maples take on a fiery orange color, hickories will only show yellow colors, while oaks are primarily reddish brown to brown.

So what triggers leaves to form the beautiful shades of red, orange, and even purple? Warm sunny days with cool night temperatures, especially below 45 degrees. While we have not quite gotten down to 45 degrees, the nights in the 50's are definitely starting the process. These day and night temperatures tend to raise the level of red coloration. The cool night temperatures trap the sugars produced during the warm sunny day inside the leaves.

The interesting thing about fall color is that it can vary from tree to tree because of things such as genetics or physical location. Colors can even vary on the same tree. For example, leaves directly exposed to the afternoon sun may turn brilliant red while those on the shady side of the tree may only turn yellow. So now the mystery is solved and next time someone asks you for your projection for the fall foliage you can always say, the yellow fall color is guaranteed to be GREAT, but the red, orange and purple foliage will depend upon the warm day temps and cool night temperatures.



CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Minutes

October 15, 2024

Lanark, Millbrook, AL

By: Michelle Sharpton, Secretary

CAMGA, Inc. Members met today at Lanark in Millbrook, AL, for their annual Plant Swap and Monthly Meeting.

Maria Pacheco, Extension Advanced Master Gardener, was our guest speaker for today. She spoke about her role at Lanark in caring for the gardens which encompass 40 acres and several part-time employees as well as volunteers. Maria offered volunteer opportunities for any level Master Gardener including times to fit to your individual schedule. Maria is available Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m. She may be reached at (334) 657-9414. Maria encourages you to call to set up a time.

 Kelly LaFreniere, President, called the Business Meeting to order at 10:27 A.M. Twenty-seven CAMGA, Inc. Members signed the roster. Kelly asked for a motion to approve last month's Meeting Minutes to record.

Rhona Watson made the motion to approve last month's minutes to record. The motion was seconded by Amanda Borden. After voting, the vote was unanimously in favor of approval of accepting last month's minutes to record.

Lee and Amanda Borden, Nominating Committee for recruiting new officers for the 2025 year, announced the current nominations:

President: Cindy Augustine
Vice President: Jason Mattox
Treasurer: Sherri Davidson
Secretary: Vacant

After opening the nomination to the floor for the Membership to nominate their choice, Martha Rodgers, has agreed to become the Secretary for 2025.

Amanda Borden then proposed the new slate of officers to the membership for approval. The membership agreed unanimously with a show of hands.

Kelly LaFreniere shared the budget numbers on behalf of Sherri Davidson, Treasurer, who is absent today. A deposit of \$152.00 was made, and CAMGA, Inc.'s total assets are \$22,308.00.

Anida Wishnietsky said she would send out the email for the Membership dues this afternoon. Members may still write a check.

Mallory Kelley recognized the interns present at today's meeting.

Robin Snyder encouraged members to have their dues paid by the end of December this year to be in next year's directory. The deadline will not be extended.

Rhonda Miles thanked all the volunteers for their contributions for the food and drink for today. Contact Rhonda to sign-up to bring food or drinks to November's meeting.

The Christmas Party and monthly meeting will be December 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, AL. Members are welcomed to bring a friend or family member.

CAMGA, Inc. October 2024 Monthly Minutes (Continued)

By: Michelle Sharpton, Secretary

This year, Robin Snyder said there will be a competition for decorating the tables. Ten groups will compete for the best table decorations. An email will be sent to all members for details and sign-up opportunities.

Kelly LaFreniere asked the membership to remember Joe L'Abbe's family and friends as Joe recently passed away.

Jason Mattox announced that Cynthia White from ACES Montgomery will be the November guest speaker. She will discuss financial literacy and estate planning. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year's guest speakers, please call Jason at (334) 300-8200.

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens will be hosting the Grand Opening of The Stumpery this Sunday, October 20, from 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Rhona Watson spoke about the upcoming Wildlife Art Festival in downtown Wetumpka, AL, this Saturday from 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. CAMGA, Inc. will have a booth at this event and will raffle mums. There will also be an art activity for the children.

The Camellia harvesting is still planned for October 21, 2024, at Dr. Mitchell's home at 10:00 A.M. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Rhona Watson, Rebecca Ridley, or Jason Mattox. Lunch is provided on site as well as a free camellia to take home.

Rhona encouraged anyone interested in joining the Projects Committee, to contact her or Rebecca Ridley. Projects Committee meetings are once a month from 10:00 a.m. --12:00 p.m. the second Monday of each month.

Darlene Dixon asked members to consider volunteering to help with the Farmer's Market set-up. Darlene also encouraged anyone interested in becoming part of the Dickens Christmas in downtown Wetumpka, AL, to contact her or the Projects Committee for more information. Each year the volunteers dress in period dress and pass out sachet bags of herbs as well as CAMGA, Inc. Cards to visitors. Dickens Christmas is Dec. 6-7, 2024.

Candace Jones said there are still spaces available for tomorrow's public workshop event on Fall Bulb Gardening.

Robin Snyder asks for volunteer help this Thursday, October, 17, 2024. The interns will be gathering plants at 274 Reynolds Road, Wetumpka, AL, from 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. for next year's Plant Sale. Robin also reminds the membership to start gathering your plants at home for next year's Plant Sale. She also requests seeds for the interns. If you have seeds or bloom heads, she would love to have your contribution to help the interns in seed gathering and storing techniques.

Mary Anne Hatcher announced the Help-Line will not need volunteers again until February 2025.

Cindy Augustine announced the date of the next Advisory Council meeting at Petals from the Past is November 5, 2024.

New Business: 0

Old Business:0

Meeting Adjourned: 11:15 A.M.

***Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Michelle Sharpton, Secretary***



Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

Summer in the Learning Garden is winding down and we are transitioning to a Fall garden.



The wildflower garden planted from seed last winter has continued to provide enjoyment. It has flowered in waves with different flowers dominating from month to month. In June we had lots of Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia*) and now in October Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*) are dominant. It will be interesting to see what comes back next spring.



When not planting, pulling weeds or pruning in the garden we have looked for ways to propagate our plants to support the plants sale.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



We experimented with some propagation techniques. Generally cuttings did not like being put in covered containers. Sage, lavender were very unhappy, and half the rosemary died. There seems to be such a thing as too much humidity, particularly for plants that prefer drier conditions like many herbs. However, this technique worked pretty well for the coral honeysuckle.

Next we tried not covering the cuttings. We did vary the planting medium, with half in sand and half in good garden soil. I thought the herbs would like the sharp drainage of the sand, but they much preferred the garden soil. The above pictures are all sage cuttings. Clearly some techniques work better than others, with the best growth in good soil and uncovered.



An Evening Primrose planted in the garden reseeded while we weren't looking and a couple of weeks ago we potted about a dozen plants that should make it to the plant sale.

And a beautiful triple orange daylily that is a wonderful naturalizer has been encouraged to propagate itself in one of the garden beds. This should be an easy sell in the plant sale.



We continue to pull weeds and maintain the butterfly and pollinator gardens and although less spectacular than in Spring and early summer, are still providing food to butterflies and bees as we approach our first freeze. These beds are also great examples to home gardeners for plants that provide wonderful fall color. Mums come in all colors and are great this time of year. Beware of the Black-eyed

Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan

Susan Vine which is currently gorgeous, but has often been cursed because it drops seeds and grows everywhere! Sages and salvias continue to put on a show and are incredibly resilient.



Cherry tomatoes did great this year. But although our pumpkin plant started out great, it never produced any fruit. It may have been too hot, or our the bed may have needed more fertilizer. This month we gave up on it and Wesley took it to the compost pile. Perhaps we will follow Master Gardener.

recommendations and do a soil test!



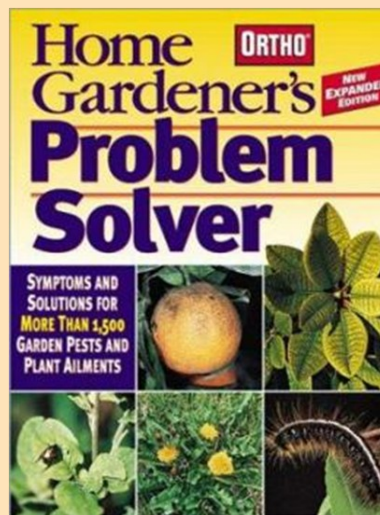


CAMGA Library News November 2024

By: Dee Turberville

Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver; Symptoms and Solutions for More Than 1,500 Garden Pests and Plant Ailments

An updated and significantly expanded edition, Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver is a comprehensive and "gardener friendly" reference that is the result of the work and contribution of more than one hundred top horticultural experts and scientists from the United States and Canada. This 2004 title is the paperback version of the hardback that you may have used in gardening stores. For the home gardener nothing tops this massive volume for finding the exact nature of plant problems and exactly what to do to resolve. Although it includes the use of both chemical and nonchemical solutions, the editors do suggest the use of Ortho products more than organic products. Nevertheless, it is still worthwhile as a helpful diagnostic tool.



Illustrated with color photography, Ortho Home Gardener's Problem Solver covers every plant from flowers, lawns, trees, houseplants, and shrubs to fruits and vegetables. Every pest affecting a garden is included -- whether insects, deer, rabbits, or gophers are similarly covered. The book also addresses the broad subject of weeds, invasive plants, and even problems associated with soil conditions, climate, and cultural problems. The garden solver is arranged and organized in categories so that you can easily find what you need (has an extensive index). The experts even point out that sometimes no matter what you do, it can be a lost cause.

This book is an indispensable step-by-step instructional reference for the home gardener, not too technical and easy to follow. I especially liked the section on plant diseases with photos that help make the identification positive. I recommend it as an informative user-friendly reference book for home gardeners.



Governor's Mansion Report For October 2024

By: **Amanda Borden**



During October we dead-headed oak leaf hydrangeas, weeded, watered, planted hellebores in the Serenity Garden, and planted dwarf Ruellia at the Finley House. We helped the CCMGA volunteers install the winter beds at the Shakespeare Garden on 21 and 22 October.

We started creating this year's Christmas crafts for holiday decorating at Hill House.

The Governor's Mansion Holiday Open House tours are scheduled for Monday, 9 Dec 5:30 at p.m., Monday, 16 December at 2 p.m., and Monday, 16 December at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.



Ann & Linda planting cabbages at Shakespeare Garden



Amanda, Darwin, Amy at Shakespeare Garden



Anne, Alicia, Ann, Harriet, Sue at Hill House



Group after early preparations Christmas at Hill House



November 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

