



December 2024



**MESSAGE FROM
KELLY
KELLY LAFRENIERE
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT**



Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,

I hope everyone is doing well and preparing for Christmas. I am excited about our CAMGA Christmas party on December 3rd at 10 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka.

It is always a fun and exciting event for everyone to come together and close our year with delicious food and fellowship. We will be installing our 2025 Executive Board officers as well.

Cindy Augustine – President, Jason Mattox – Vice President, Sherri Davidson – Treasurer, Martha Rodgers – Secretary.

I am extremely excited for them, and I know they will carry out and perform many amazing things in the following year for our organization.

I want to take this opportunity to express how much I have enjoyed serving as our CAMGA President these past two years. It has been an honor, a privilege, and an experience I will always cherish.

Together, we all accomplished so many wonderful things for CAMGA. I hope to see everyone this Tuesday at our CAMGA Christmas party.

Take care and may God bless you and your families.

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



Table of Contents:

Message from Kelly.....	1
Message from Mallory.....	2
CAMGA Minutes.....	3-4
Mansion Report	5
Spotlight on Volunteers.....	6
December Calendar.....	7



*Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter*



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

Caring for Poinsettias All Year

Poinsettias are an iconic indoor plant. The vibrant red, white, and green colors make this plant a popular choice around the holidays. However, with proper care, poinsettias can add beauty and color to homes for more than just the holiday season. Follow these tips to appropriately care for poinsettias year round.



During the Holidays — These care tips can help keep poinsettias healthy during the holidays.

- Place the plant in an area with plenty of natural light, away from vents and drafts that can dry out the pot.
- Water the plant only when dry. If the pot is covered in a holiday foil or decorative wrap, allow excess water to drain. Poinsettias are susceptible to stem and root diseases, so draining the excess water is important.
- Utilize an all-purpose fertilizer (20-20-20) at one-a-month intervals.

After the Holidays — The cost to keep a poinsettia growing for next year is marginal compared to purchasing a new plant every year.

- Remove decorative wraps from the planter after the holiday season and place a saucer underneath it. This allows for better air circulation for the roots during the rest of the growing season.
- Water and fertilize at regular intervals.
- Move the plant to a larger container, with new potting mix, as the plant grows.
- Cut back to 5 to 6 inches if the plant becomes long and leggy. Periodically, cut the tips of the branches to encourage more side branching and to maintain a fuller appearance.

Care Throughout the Year — In the summer, growers should move the plant outside in an area with indirect sunlight. Summer is also the time to increase fertilizer to at least twice the frequency. In mid-summer, trim the plant as needed to keep a manageable size and fullness and move to a location with full sunlight.

After Labor Day, bring the plant inside to a location that gets a minimum of six hours of sunlight, preferably more. This will start preparing the plant for their flowers and their colorful foliage. Growers should also start reducing the frequency of fertilizer.

Long periods of darkness are vital to the iconic colors of the poinsettia. Toward the end of September, they must have at least 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 11 hours of bright light each day. Placing the plant in a closet, basement, or under a box can give it the required hours of darkness. During the periods of bright light, make sure to rotate the pot to ensure the plant receives even light from all sides.

Just before Thanksgiving, stop the dark period treatments, reduce the amount of water and fertilizer and place the plant in a sunny area that receives at least six hours of direct light.

More Information: These tips are sure to keep your poinsettias healthy and happy during and after the holidays. For more information about home gardening, visit www.aces.edu.

Source: ACES.edu Webpage



CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024
Elmore County Extension Office
By: Michelle Sharpton, Secretary

The CAMGA, Inc. Membership welcomed Cynthia White from A.C.E.S. Montgomery. Cynthia is a Financial Resources Specialist and gave a presentation on Identity Theft and Scams and how to avoid them. She reminded members that our identity is a precious asset. A person's identity can be stolen by Phishing, Spear phishing, Pharming, Skimming, and Social Media scamming. Cynthia shared ways members can reduce their risk of identity theft and scamming. Help is available if it happens to you. Visit IdentityTheft.gov for more information or call the Attorney General's Consumer Complaints Line at 1-800-392-5658.

The CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Business Meeting was called to order by President Kelly LaFreniere at 11:44 a.m. 23 Members signed the roster today. Kelly asked for a motion to submit last month's minutes report to record. After no request for revisions, Candace Jones made the motion, and Connie Willis seconded the motion. The vote was placed. The vote was unanimously in favor of the October minutes to be submitted to record.

Kelly states there is an opening for a Volunteer to handle the membership directory, as Cindy Augustine will become our President for 2025. Cindy announced she will continue the work on the directory for this year and see to the publishing of the material. There will be a need for someone to compile and complete the 2026 Directory.

Cindy Augustine will be taking membership pictures for the directory at the next meeting in December. Printed copies of the QR codes for payment of membership dues through Square are available today. Members may also submit a personal check for dues.

On behalf of Anida Wishnietsky, who is unable to attend today's meeting, Kelly asks members to check their SPAM folders and add CAMGA Admin (camgainc@outlook.com) to their list of contacts to receive emails.

Kelly LaFreniere gave an update on the Wetumpka Fall Line Park. CAMGA, Inc. had previously purchased a paver for this development, and it will soon be on display. Kelly reports that two of the four landscape designs have been completed by Jane Mobley. Jane has worked for over 15 hours to complete this project. Kelly plans to meet with Andrew and Chapel, of the City of Wetumpka, in January for final approval of these designs. The remainder two landscape designs will be completed soon thereafter.

On behalf of Robin Snyder, who is unable to attend today's meeting, Kelly reports the interns are continuing to be very active. They are currently working with Martha Rodgers to plan a volunteer event planting raised flower beds at the Charleton Place senior living facility in Prattville in the near future.

Kelly gives the Treasurer's Report, on behalf of Sherri Davidson, who is unable to attend today's meeting. The total balance is \$23,259.00. Sherri Davidson has proposed via email to the Board of Directors this past week that the \$10,000 C.D. at Max Credit Union that is set to mature on 11/16/2024 to be rolled over to a new \$10,000 C.D. for 18 months at 3.5% APY. There is a 10-day grace period. The Board of Directors responded with 10 yes votes. No one responded with a no or abstention. The emails are available and attached to this month's Board meeting report for record.

CAMGA, Inc. November 2024 Monthly Minutes (Continued)
By: Michelle Sharpton, Secretary

Jane Mobley requests members to send pictures taken at the upcoming Christmas party to her email so she may add them to the CAMGA, Inc. Scrapbook for viewing.

Dickens Christmas is December 6-7, 2024, in downtown Wetumpka. CAMGA, Inc. will participate both nights this year. Volunteers are needed and are asked to dress in Victorian attire.

December 10th Lunch and Learn will be “Growing & Forcing Winter Bulbs to Bloom” presented by Karen Weber, Horticulturalist and Extension Master Gardener.

Member Concerns: Cheryl Fitzgerald shares our fellow Extension Master Gardener, Darlene Dixon, has recently been involved in a biking accident. She and her husband are in need of meals for the next few days. See Cheryl for more information or sign up on the Sign-up genius.

A reminder to all members to submit your Volunteer Hours before December 31, 2024, to receive any stars or badges for the year. For questions or concerns, contact Anida Wishnietsky, Mallory Kelley, or Michelle Sharpton.

Mary McCroan’s Learning Garden Update featured sweet potatoes. She reports they have done great this year and will last until March.

Cindy Augustine reported the Advisory Council Meeting was held, and the M.O.U. has been revised. All members will need to read and sign again in January.

Kelly and the membership thank Jason Mattox for his continued excellence as Vice President and providing the slides for our meetings. Jason states he is now in the process of filling spaces for the 2025 guest speakers and would welcome any suggestions on topics.

Rhonda Miles thanks all volunteers who brought food for today’s meeting. She also requests volunteers for assistance in the kitchen for the annual Christmas party to be held December 3rd at The First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, AL.

Candy Jones shares she is in the process of planning the workshops for 2025 and will have a meeting today for said planning. All are welcome to attend.

Katrina Mitchell reminds the membership of the many programs available through the Extension Office. She encourages members to sign up to receive the Newsletter from the Extension Office. For more information on how to sign up, you may contact Katie Beasley (334) 567-6301.

Katrina also announces the 4-H job position has recently become available.

Mallory Kelley passed around the new 2025 Lunch and Learn schedule that she and David Heffelfinger have created. A copy is also available online and on social media. There’s still time to sign-up for the next intern class.

New Business: 0

Old Business: 0

Meeting Adjourned: 12:17 P.M.

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



Governor's Mansion Report For November 2024

By: Amanda Borden



The MMMGG, (Monday Morning Mansion Garden Group) has been working at the Governor's Mansion for 11 years. The Master Gardeners and interns from the three counties have accrued just over 10,000 hours of volunteer work.

This month we decorated the Hill House for the holidays, spread pine straw, weeded, and planted violas and snapdragons.

Many thanks to our group: Sue Berry, Amanda Borden, Anne Carr, Linda Cater, Amy Cook, Ann Colvin, Jane Fiquette, Ann Hamill, Harriet Hobbs, Jane McCarthy, Cheryl McKiernan, Darwin Prewitt, Kathy Quinn, Alicia Robertson, Robin Snyder, and the current interns Marilyn Greer, Terri MacLaren, Wesley Reynolds, and Nancy Strong. Job well done.

Christmas tours at the Governor's Mansion — (1142 S. Perry Street, Montgomery, AL):

- December 9th 5:30 p.m.
- December 16th 2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Free
- Tickets at Mansion Gift Shop



Sue & Ann decorating parlor tree



Linda & Ann decorating parlor Christmas tree



Kathy decorating Sunroom 11-24



Group after workday November 25



Marilyn, Jane, Linda decorating dining room

CAMGA Spotlight on Volunteers

Submitted by: Robin Snyder, Master Gardener

October 15th, 2024 – CAMGA Members, Beth Deaton, Darlene Dixon, Candace Jones, Mallory Kelley, Debbie Kelso, Kelly LaFreniere, Wesley Reynolds, Martha Rodgers, Cathy Whigham and Connie Willis, stayed after the CAMGA meeting at Lanark to prepare bulb packages for the Art of Autumn Gardening workshop to be held on the 16th of October. Many thanks to Maria Pacheco for allowing us to use the prep space.

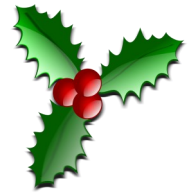
October 16th, 2024 – Many thanks to CAMGA Members of the Public Education Committee for creating and putting on the “Art of Autumn Gardening” workshop, held at the Elmore County Extension Auditorium and Learning Gardens. The speakers for the event were, Mallory Kelley, Mary McCroan and Candace Jones. Working tirelessly to plan and put it all together, before the day, and the morning of, were Anne Carr, Darlene Dixon, Kelly LaFreniere, Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Martha Rodgers and Connie Willis. Special thanks to Debbie Kelso and Robin Snyder for donating bulbs, from their own gardens, as giveaways to participants.

November 15, 2024 – Many thanks to members of CAMGA who brought delicious morsels of food to the surprise reception for Mallory. They were Cindy Augustine, Leslie Bingham, Beth Deaton, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Mary Ann Hatcher, Candace Jones, Kelly LaFreniere, Judy May, Mary McCroan, Bob Shields, Robin Snyder and Dee Turberville.

November 19, 2024 – Thank you to the members of the CAMGA Public Education Committee, David Heffelfinger, Candace Jones, Mallory Kelley, Kelly LaFreniere, Mary McCroan, Rhonda Miles, Jane Mobley, Martha Rodgers and Connie Willis who met to plan a full calendar of workshops for 2025



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9—11 a.m.</i>	3 <i>CAMGA Christmas Luncheon 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall</i>	4 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	5 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	6	7 <i>Holiday Farmers Market</i>
8	9 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9—11 a.m.</i> <i>Projects Meeting 9 a.m. at Extension Office</i>	10 <i>Lunch & Learn 12-1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church</i>	11 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	12 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9—11 a.m.</i>	17	18 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	19 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	20	21
22	23 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9—11 a.m.</i>	24	25 	26 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 9—11 a.m.</i>	31				