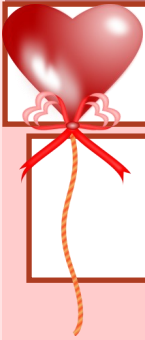




GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 34 Issue 2 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.



February 2025

Message from Cindy



I hope everyone has survived these dreary gray winter days and the cold temperatures. I know some of our members got to experience some snow. I live in Millbrook, and all we got was a quick dusting of flakes that was gone in a flash. I missed having our meeting in-person for January due to this weather, but as many of you experienced some snow and icy roads, we made a good decision to have our meeting virtually.

The February meeting will hopefully be in-person on February 18, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Extension Office. Jason has a wonderful program planned for us. Membership Directory hard copies will also be available at the meeting.

The month of February has several wonderful programs available both for Master Gardeners and the public. Be sure to check out the emails that have come from our CAMGA Admin email account out recently for days, times, and locations for these events.

In general, February is a wonderful time to get ready for Spring. Get those garden tools ready, pots cleaned, and soil and seeds purchased.

After Valentine's Day is always the recommended time to trim up those beautiful roses.

Our plant sale this year will be on Saturday, May 3rd, so be sure to start working on those items for the sale as well! I am so ready for Spring, which my Alexa device tells me is 52 days from the day I am writing this. I know you all are as well.

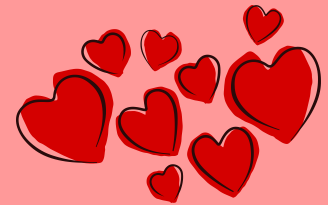
It will not be long until we are busy in our yards and gardens! Until then, please stay warm and dry!

*Best Wishes,
Cindy*

**Cindy Augustine
CAMGA, Inc. President**

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*Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter*



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

The War Against Lawn Weeds

Many of you have given up the battle to treat your lawn on your own and many of you are still waging war yourself and wondering what am I doing wrong? Well if you want to get ahead of the game a pre-emergent in February is the way to go! This article will hopefully give you several tips from pre and post emergent products to fertilizers to help you achieve the beautiful lawn you are hoping for.

The most popular product out there that seems to have it all, the “one stop shop” for all your lawn needs is the “Weed and Feed” products. I am often asked if this is the correct way to treat the lawn. In central Alabama, there is not a large window of time when this product would be beneficial, but it can be used in May or early June when an extra application of fertilizer would not hurt and the application of the pre-emergent chemical in the product will help prevent weed seeds from germinating through the summer and into the fall.

The best and most effect control of weeds in the lawn may take a little more effort than the “Weed & Feed”, “All in One” products, but you can save money and time in the long run applying them separately. Pre-emergent weed killers should be selected based on the type of grass you have. These weed control products are preventative so they should be applied before the weeds are visible in the lawn as they prevent the seeds of the weeds from germinating. These and can be applied any time of year except during “Green-up” or to newly seeded or sprigged lawns, but again February is a great month as we will soon have spring like temperatures and spring weeds will start to germinate.

Do not reseed a lawn for 4-6 months after a pre-emergent chemical is applied and remember to always read and follow all label instructions when making applications of any chemical. I have provided information below to access our website for a list of all Pre and Post-emergent chemicals on the market so you can correctly select the chemical that is best for your lawn situation. Don't forget, a post-emergent herbicide is only going to kill a weed that has already begun to grow in the lawn.

Fertilizers are generally applied twice throughout the year, first in early spring during green-up and then again in mid summer. Fertilizer type and amounts should be based on soil test results, not guess work and anytime is a good time to have a soil test. Soil tests will provide you with the correct type of fertilizer and amounts needed for your specific lawn and if lime is needed, lime can be added at anytime of year. Remember, lime raises the soil pH. A soil test will help you be more accurate in your fertilizer application, provide your grass with the exact nutrients it needs and save you money down the road.

For information on proper care of your turfgrass visit our publications online at www.aces.edu and search for the type of grass you have. Also for a list of pre and post-emergent chemicals that are available and the type of lawn they can be applied to, visit our website and search for: **IPM 0590 Home Lawns Chemical Weed Control.**



CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Online Meeting

January 21, 2025

By: Martha Rodgers, Secretary

The CAMGA, Inc. monthly business meeting was called to order today at 10:00 a.m. by President Cindy Augustine. Twenty-two (22) members were present and logged in.

Jason Mattox introduced the newly elected CAMGA officers with emphasis on the two new officers, Cindy Augustine and Martha Rodgers. He also introduced the continuing education opportunities, "New Year, New Opportunities". Jason talked about the volunteer opportunities at Lanark on Wednesdays with emphasis on calling Maria Pacheco ahead.

Volunteers can also volunteer on other days too. Jason then turned the meeting over to the committee and project chairs to describe areas in which members can serve.

Amanda Borden introduced the Governor's Mansion as a volunteer opportunity to prune, transplant, and water the gardens. A simple security clearance is necessary. Call Jane McCarthy, 334-221-9936 to set that up.

Candy Jones reported that David Heffelfinger is doing an excellent job with Lunch & Learn. To volunteer contact David at 256-794-7658 or dcheff21@hotmail.com. Volunteer help is needed for setting up and supporting the activity, as well as bringing along friends. Rhonda Miles needs a volunteer to be her backup in overseeing refreshments.

The Membership Committee oversees the Member Directory and Member Care. Cindy Augustine will distribute the new directory next month but needs a volunteer to keep the directory updated.

Cheryl Fitzgerald also needs help in reaching out to sick or bereaved members. Robin Synder mentioned that Michelle Sharpton needs a volunteer helper in Reach for the Stars, the member recognition program.

A volunteer is also needed for Spotlight on Volunteers which is a month recognition program.

Rhonda Miles needs a backup volunteer to help her with coordinating meeting refreshments.

Candy Jones wants volunteers to help with the Education Committee. There are four workshops planned for the year with the first one on January 29, 2025. This committee will also need a new chair in 2026 who also acts as liaison between this committee and the Projects Committee.

Candy Jones also talked about opportunities to become an Advanced Master Gardener. She said to contact our agent, choose a topic to specialize in. The study requires a minimum of 40 hours with 10 hours of public speaking.

Dee Turberville oversees the CAMGA Library. She needs another volunteer to help and be her backup when she can't be present. She has a small budget to work with. Contact her by phone at 334-235-4302.

CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes (Continued)
Zoom Online Meeting
January 21, 2025
By: Martha Rodgers, Secretary

Mary Ann Hatcher discussed the Help Line. Volunteers are needed. The Help Line can be managed from home. She's made it very simple to operate. Mary Ann also needs someone to take her place due to hearing issues. That person will set up the Help Line calendar, work with interns, and will need to know the do's and don'ts of the Help Line.

Kelly Lefreniere reported that AMGA Advisory Council will be meeting at Petals from the Past on February 24, May 6, August 5 and November 4. Please note a correction for the 2025 Conference registration. On the mailed postcard the URL for the website is incorrect. It is <https://alabamamga.org/>.

Debbie shared information about the Learning Garden overseen by Mary McCroan. Each raised bed is numbered and there is a rotation plan in place. Debbie is changing her area from a Civil War Garden to a Native American Garden.

Cindy Augustine announced that we were moving to our business meeting. She asked for approval of the December minutes posted in the Garden Buzz. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Sherry Davidson presented the Treasurer's Report, pointing out our investment account, beginning balance, income and expenses and the ending balance. Cindy Augustine called a vote for approval of the Treasurer's Report to raise hand. It was approved unanimously.

Standing committees reported on any business not covered in their presentations about their committee in the education portion of the meeting.

Old Business: A volunteer is needed to keep the Membership Directory updated and to have the 2026 issue ready to be printed by the end of December.

New Business: An Audit Committee is needed to audit the 2024 financial year. It will involve one day at the Extension Office.

The new directory is ready and will be distributed in February. A digital copy is available. Contact Cindy Augustine through her personal email address.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Respectively submitted by,
Martha Rodgers, Secretary*



Governor's Mansion Report For January 2025

By: Amanda Borden



All we did in January was pack up the Christmas decorations in the Hill House. The other three Mondays were weather cancellations. No photos available for January.

2025 Lunch & Learn Schedules

**Capital City
Master Gardener Association**
LUNCH & LEARN 2025
1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
12:00-1:00 P.M.
FREE PROGRAMS
Montgomery Cultural Arts Center
1018 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104

8 th January	Moonlight Gardens <i>Diane Fortner, Master Gardener</i>
5 February	Sowing Your Cutting Garden <i>Alicia Leverette, Whitewater Creek Farm</i>
5 March	Perennial Plants: Divide and Conquer <i>Dani Carroll, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
2 April	Natives for Birds, Bees & More <i>Kerry Smith, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
7 May	Name that Tree <i>Dan Chappell, AL Forestry Commission</i>
4 June	All About Hydrangeas <i>Maria Pacheco, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
2 July	Propagating & Care for Succulents <i>Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & MG</i>
6 August	Shade Gardening <i>Mary McCroan, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
3 September	All About Citrus <i>Dr. Chip East, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
1 October	Healthy Greens in Your Fall Veg Garden <i>Lucy Edwards, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
5 November	Bluebirds and Their Habitats <i>Dr. Wesley Anderson, Wildlife Biologist, ACES</i>
3 December	Wreath Making with Forest Products <i>Lynn Dickinson, Forestry Natural Resources, ACES</i>




For more information, contact
Montgomery County Extension Office (334) 270-4133
BRING A SACK LUNCH **WATER PROVIDED**

**Central Alabama
Master Gardener Association**
LUNCH & LEARN 2025
2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
12:00-1:00 P.M.
FREE PROGRAMS
First Presbyterian Church
100 West Bridge Street, Wetumpka 36092

14 January	Poisonous Plants in the Garden <i>Brian Brown, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
11 February	Purple Martins <i>Janell Diggs, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
11 March	Plant Veggies NOW! <i>Amanda Borden, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
8 April	Colorful Flowerbeds <i>Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & MG</i>
13 May	Host Plants for Butterflies <i>Soyna Moore, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
10 June	Perennial Herbs <i>Deb Kelso, Master Gardener</i>
8 July	A Twist on Stumpery <i>Sandy Rosamond, Master Gardener</i>
12 August	Cover Crops to Improve Your Soil <i>Carole Boroski, Master Gardener</i>
9 September	Plant a "Smoothie Bar" <i>Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
14 October	Bats, Spiders & other Creepy Crawlers <i>Lynn Dickinson, Forestry Natural Resources, ACES</i>
11 November	Garland & Wreath Demonstration <i>Lucie Wadsworth, Wadsworth Tree Farm</i>
9 December	Storing Tender Plants & Hobby Greenhouse Health <i>Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Hort Specialist, ACES</i>




For more information contact
Elmore County Extension Office (334) 567-6301
BRING A SACK LUNCH **WATER PROVIDED**

**Autauga County
Master Gardener Association**
LUNCH & LEARN 2025
3RD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
12:00-1:00 P.M.
FREE PROGRAMS
Trinity Prattville Church
610 Fairview Avenue, Prattville 36066

15 January	Seed Starting for Your Summer Veg <i>Mallory Kelley, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
19 February	Garden Tools & Maintenance <i>Mike Forster, Master Gardener</i>
19 March	Hydrangeas in the Southern Garden <i>David Doggett, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
16 April	African Violets <i>Susan O'Conner, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
21 May	Planting for Butterflies <i>Jane Mobley, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
18 June	Landscaping with Herbs <i>Debbie Boutelier, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
16 July	Daylilies for Your Garden <i>Terese Goodson, Master Gardener</i>
20 August	Muscadine Season is Here! <i>David Lawrence, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
17 September	Techniques for Growing Sprouts & Microgreens <i>Janell Diggs, Advanced Master Gardener</i>
15 October	Zone Maps: New, Old & Untrue? <i>Hayes Jackson, Horticulturist, ACES</i>
19 November	Holiday Decorating with Nature <i>Jane McCarthy, Horticulturist & MG</i>
17 December	Plants off the Beaten Path <i>Robin Snyder, Master Gardener</i>




For more information, contact
Autauga County Extension Office (334) 361-7273
BRING A SACK LUNCH **WATER PROVIDED**



January Spotlight on Volunteers

By: Jane Mobley

On Tuesday, January 28th, we pruned and fertilized at the Presbyterian Church. We help maintain the church's front landscape as a thank you for allowing us to use their facilities for Lunch and Learn, our Christmas party, and any other need that we have for room. We do this about twice a year.

The workers for this time were Jason Mattox, Dee Turberville, Jane Mobley and two of our interns, Marilyn and Beth. It was a beautiful day to be in the garden!





CAMGA Library News

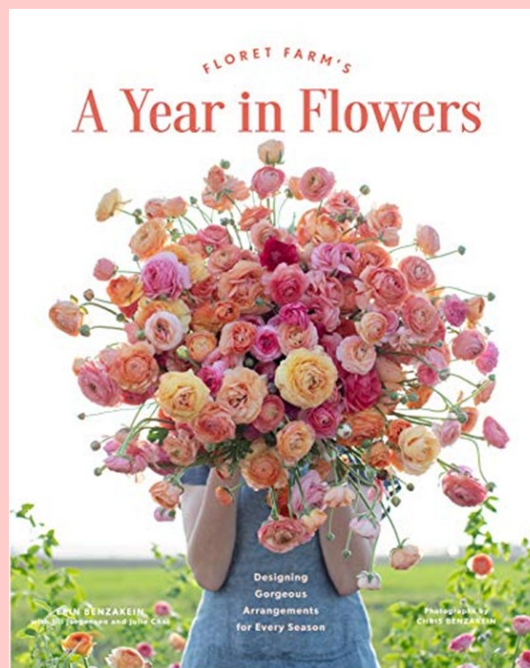
February 2025

By: Dee Turberville

Floret Farm's A Year in Flowers

By Erin Benzakein

A Year in Flowers, a New York Times best seller and companion volume to *Floret Farm's A Cut Flower Garden*, has been donated to CAMGA, "in appreciation for all the Lunch and Learns that we have enjoyed," stated Camellia Garden Club president, Janet W. Lewis. Brimming with indispensable tips and hundreds of vibrant photos, this book is an invitation to live a flower-filled life. Featuring expert advice from Erin Benzakein, a world-renowned flower farmer and designer from Washington state's Skagit Valley, this comprehensive and exquisite guide offers everything you need to make your own incredible flower arrangements all year long, whether harvesting flowers from your backyard or shopping for blooms at the market.



There are 25 seasonal arrangements to try your hand at – including table centers, gift posies, bridal bouquets and festive wreaths. The A-Z flower guide for 200+ varieties is helpful; as well, the book has sections on tools, flower care, and design techniques. Erin Benzakein's goal for her book is to promote the seasonal flower movement far and wide and to make a powerful statement that local flowers, and the people who grow them matter. Her book builds on the momentum created by forward-looking pioneers and the thousands of flower lovers, including our master gardeners, who are now growing, arranging and sharing flowers from their own backyards. Camellia Garden Club members, **thank you** for donating this wonderful resource to our CAMGA collection.



Thank You Volunteers!!

Rebecca Ridley Projects Committee Chair

Projects Committee:

The Projects Committee held their first meeting of 2025 on January 13. We meet the second Monday of each month, in the boardroom at the Extension Office, from 10 a.m. to Noon. Anyone is welcome to sit in on our meetings. We are always looking for additional members to join our committee.

Roses:

On January 28th, under the supervision of Jane Mobley, CAMGA members and interns from Montgomery/ Autauga Counties pruned roses at the First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka. Maintaining the roses is CAMGA's way of thanking the church for letting us utilize their facility for our events, while teaching our members a valuable skill. We will have a follow-up maintenance project in June, so if you want to learn more about rose maintenance, mark your calendar. Jane Mobley (janemobley13@gmail.com) is the event coordinator for this. Many thanks go out to those that helped on the 28th. Without you, we would surely have been in a prickly situation!

Mardi Gras:

Our next big project will be the Wetumpka Mardi Gras parade. This year's official theme is "The Wizarding World of Wetumpka". In keeping with a master gardening theme, our float will focus on "The Magic of Herbs." Each year we toss beads and seed packets to the crowd, with information on our Spring Plant Sale. At the next CAMGA meeting, we will need everyone's help wrapping the seed packets around tootsie rolls, so warm up those hands! Craft day for the float décor will be February 8th at the Extension Classroom from 10 a.m. -3 p.m. We will decorate the float February 28th, culminating with a celebratory pizza lunch. The parade itself is Saturday, March 1.

We will need four walkers and 6 to 8 riders. Specific information will be emailed to the group as we move forward. Rebecca Ridley is the coordinator for this event (256-419-3332 or rebecca.ridley74@gmail.com).

Mardi Gras Sign-Up for Float Riders/Walkers (March 1):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EABAE2EA6FCC70-47233067-2024>

Float Decorating Sign-Up (February 28):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EABAE2EA6FCC70-47232559-mardi>

Crafting Float Décor Sign-Up (February 8):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EABAE2EA6FCC70-47233362-mardi>

Millbrook Farmer's Market:

Beginning in May, we will be adding the Millbrook Farmer's Market to our agenda, on the first Tuesday of each month. Intern, Bob Shields will be the logistics coordinator for these events. Since Bob has not graduated yet, he will need at least one Master Gardener to be present with him on site. If you can volunteer for any of the 1st Tuesdays Millbrook Farmer's Market events, please contact Bob (727-430-3669).

Thank You Volunteers!! (Continued)

Rebecca Ridley
Projects Committee Chair

Wetumpka Farmer's Market: Darlene Dixon will be coordinating these events. (334-275-0486, darlenedixon@yahoo.com). She will need several volunteers to help with each event. This is a great way to get out and meet people, plus share our love for gardening and to get in volunteer hours. Especially for Interns, this is a great way to get hours. Each shift will be about 2 1/2 hours, so it's not a big commitment. After that you can walk around and enjoy the rest of booths. We will send out a Sign-Up Genius via email, as each event approaches.

Earth Day Celebration/Spring Market - April 12, 2025 from 9 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

This is a Plant Swap, so bring any plant (or plants) you would like to swap to add to what we bring from the Learning Garden. We'll promote our upcoming plant sale, plus promote the upcoming registration for the next Master Gardening Class, Lunch and Learn and the Tip line.

June Market - June 14, 2025 from 9 a.m. --1 p.m.

July Market - July 12, 2025 from 9 a.m. -- 1 p.m.

August Market - August 9, 2025 from 9 a.m. -- 1p.m.

Fall Market - October 18, 2025 from 9 a.m. -- 1p.m.

Holiday Market - December 6, 2025 from 9 a.m. -- 1p.m.

Upcoming Workshop



Led by Horticulturist & Landscape Architect, Molly Hendry

February 20, 2025

Grace Episcopal Church 10am-2pm
906 Pike Road, Pike Road, AL

For More Information: Janell Diggs (call or text) 334-425-9069

Lunch included. Bring pictures of a 10'by 10' landscape area you would like to reimagine.



To Register
Scan the QR Code
or Visit: www.ccmga.square.site

Sign Up Today, Space is limited!



Connect with us

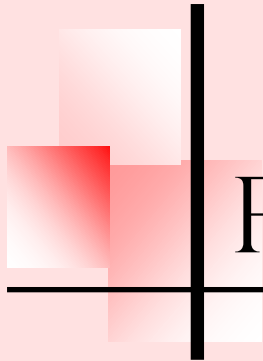


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Capital City Master Gardeners Association

Online Registration at:

<https://ccmga.square.site/product/garden-design-seminar/15>



FEBRUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	4	5 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	6 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office	7	8 Craft day for making Mardi float décor at Extension Auditorium, 10-3 p.m.
9	10 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m. Projects Meeting at Extension Office, 10 a.m.	11 Lunch & Learn, First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka, 12-1 p.m.	12 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	13 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office	14 	15
16	17 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	18 CAMGA Monthly Meeting at 10 a.m. Elmore Co. Extension Office	19 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	20 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office	21	22
23	24 Governor's Mansion Workday 9-11 a.m.	25	26 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	27 Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office	28 Decorate Mardi float for parade at Extension Office, 10 a.m.	