



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 34 Issue 5 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.



May 2025

Message from Cindy *Cindy Augustine* **AMGA, INC. PRESIDENT**



Happy Spring, Everyone! Although lately it's felt more like summer! I hope you have been able to spend lots of time in your gardens making everything new and fresh. Lots of things have been going on in CAMGA, Inc.

By the time this newsletter is published, our 2025 Plant Sale will be finished. Thank you to everyone who has had a hand in making this event a great success! Special thanks go out to Rebecca Ridley and the Project's Committee for taking the event on. Extra special thanks to Terri Chambliss for stepping in to head things up.

On May 15, CAMGA, Inc. members will have the opportunity to tour the gardens of Jim Scott at Lake Martin. Watch for a Sign-Up Genius coming soon! We will all need to carpool as parking space is limited.

Our meeting location for May has been changed from the Extension Office to Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church. Our meeting will be held beginning at 10 AM with a presentation on organic vegetable production/cultivar selection for vegetable production in Alabama.

After the business portion of our meeting, we will have a potluck luncheon to celebrate Mary Ann Hatcher for her many years of service on the AMGA Helpline for CAMGA. The luncheon will be potluck, and a Sign-Up Genius should be emailed out in early May for you to let us know what you plan to bring. We have changed location so we will have a larger kitchen and table space for this event. We hope you will come out to celebrate Mary Ann!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Mother's Day on May 11th, and I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting!

Happy Gardening,
Cindy

Table of Contents:

Message from Cindy.....	1
Message from Mallory.....	2
CAMGA, Inc. Minutes.....	3
Treasurer's Report.....	4
Governor's Mansion Report.....	5
CAMGA Library News.....	6
Upcoming Workshop.....	7
Picture from AMGA Conference.....	8-10
Event Invitation.....	11
May Calendar	12



Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory Mallory Kelley Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

Let's Get in the Garden, Spring is Here!

The pecan tree leaves are sprouting and you know what that means...it's time to get in the garden! The good old southern pecan trees are the last tree to leaf out and this makes it a great indicator that the soil temperature is rising and the ground is ready to plant.

What to plant? The list is endless from cucurbits like squash, cucumber and zucchini to those in the night shade family like tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Do your research on which are related to one another by family and make sure you rotate the different types into a new place in the garden each year. You may also want to wait a few more weeks for the soil to warm a little bit more for things like your peppers and especially okra as they really like it hot!

Now is also a great time to apply fresh mulch like pine bark or pine straw. Those are the most accessible and economical for where we live in Alabama. Either type works great, it just depends on your preference and location. The pine bark is usually more expensive, but lasts longer as it breaks down slower in the soil. Either way, whatever type of mulch you choose there are so many benefits it will add to your garden. It suppresses weeds, retains moisture in the soil which results in less watering, the mulch breaks down and adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil as well over time. Mulch also creates a great barrier between your plants leaves and the surface of the soil where many fungal spores live so it also helps prevent diseases. My only precaution, make sure when applying around trees and shrubs that you do not mound up several inches of mulch around the main stem of the plant. This will hold moisture into the bark of the plant and slowly cause rot and decline over time. Make sure that the flare of the tree or shrub at the ground is visible!

Now let's talk about pruning. If you have not pruned shrubs yet that needed a good cut, remember the "May Rule" or you may be removing this years buds resulting in a garden with no beautiful blooms. The "May Rule" is "If it blooms before May, prune it right after it blooms, if it blooms after May, it can be pruned when it is dormant in the fall or winter and you will have blooms again next year." On occasion, there can be some plants that are exceptions to this rule so always check before pruning to make sure.

It is also a great time of year to get your soil tested. Soil tests are available through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and cost ten dollars. It is a good idea every few years to test the soil in your lawn to see what additional nutrients might be needed to improve the growth of your turf grass, but it is also a good idea to get a soil test if you are planting new shrubs. Plants like blueberries, camellias, and azaleas require a low pH as they need acidic soil to grow healthy. Testing if planting new shrubs, but also existing shrubs can help you improve the growth and health of your shrubs and trees.

April is a great time to plant a new lawn or to fertilize established lawns. Wait until May to plant lawns from seed. In May, water new lawns as needed to prevent drying. Keep established lawns actively growing by watering, fertilizing, and mowing and spray weeds in lawns with the proper herbicide. Begin fertilizing in April at 3-6 week intervals. Remember to mow regularly to avoid thatch buildup and water early in the morning with any overhead sprinkler systems so that the sun will dry the foliage of the grass and plants as soon as possible to help prevent diseases. The recommended amount of water for all established trees, shrubs and even turfgrasses is one inch per week throughout the year. If you are uncertain how much your irrigation system is putting out, use a rain gauge and timer and measure how long it takes to collect one inch of water. In addition, it is best to split that time into two applications per week to ensure a deeper soaking into the soil for better root development than to apply just a little bit of water every single day.

For More Information or Questions about your Garden, Call the Alabama Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener Helpline at: 1-877-ALA-GROW



CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025

Elmore County Extension Office

By: Martha Rodgers, Secretary

Jason Maddox introduced our guest speaker, Dani Carroll, ACES Regional Extension Agent, who talked to us about the advantages of winter sowing. Seeds can be direct sown or planted in covered containers in the late fall for cold stratification. The covered containers need to be put in a protected area so that they don't blow over. If planted in a container, check periodically for excess moisture which will cause the seeds to rot. In order to propagate roots in the winter, it must be done after the root is dormant.

The CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Business Meeting was called to order by President Cindy Augustine at 11:18 a.m. Twenty-nine (29) members signed the roster today.

Jason Mattox reviewed the upcoming events. He said that on May 15th we would need to carpool to Jim Scott's to tour the garden because of limited parking.

The Herb Society Plant Sale is on April 26th on the corner of Bell Road and the Atlanta Highway. There is also a workshop at the Crump Center on Container Gardening from 9:30-11:30 presented by Kayla Raleigh. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 18th meeting minutes. The vote was placed and unanimously approved. None were opposed.

Sherri Davidson gave the treasurer's report noting expenses that total expenses were \$484.31. The total cash balance is \$11,976.81 with an overall balance of \$22,331.20. A motion was made and seconded. The vote was placed, and the vote was unanimously in favor of adding the March's Treasurer's Report to record. None were opposed.

Candy Jones noted that the Garden Tours would have door prizes upon return to the Extension Office. The gazebo is going to be sanded and stained Thursday then two climbing roses planted around it. Sherri mentioned that Petals from the Past gives a free rose bush on birthdays only.

With Michelle's permission, Cindy announced that Michelle Sharpton's father passed away last week from Parkinson's.

Advertising for the plant sale is moving forward. Allison is handling Elmore County TV with Don Day. Darlene will be live with WACV News talk. WSFA and WCOV will post it on their community page on their websites. Terry Chambliss needs volunteers for the May Plant Sale. Allison and Cheryl will manage set-up on Friday. Helpers for setup need to arrive by 7:30 a.m. Volunteers working with plants need to arrive by 8 o'clock. Sherri rounded up coolers. The day of the plant sale, volunteers need to arrive by 7:30. Volunteers are needed to take plants to the pricing station and return them to their set up. Anything NOT grown by CAMGA will be taxed. It will be red tagged.

There were no Special Committee reports.

Old Business: Remember we will be celebrating Mary Ann Hatcher's years of volunteer hotline service. A gift will be purchased with member donations. Members need to bring a dish.

New Business: The Board approved the Financial Audit Procedures. It was noted that Mary Coley made valuable suggestions for the procedures.

Cindy adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

*Respectively submitted by,
Martha Rodgers, Secretary*

Treasurer's Financial Report

By: Sherri Davidson



TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

March 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

Investments

18-mo Certificate (matures 5/16/2026) current balance **\$10,354.39**

BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (MARCH 1, 2025) \$12,268.12

INCOME

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/7	Member dues	\$ 50.00
3/21	Member dues	\$ 15.00
3/21	R. Watson overcharge return	\$ 20.00
3/21	Staghorn fern Workshop	\$ 108.00
Total Income		\$193.00

EXPENSES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Check#</u>	<u>Payable To`</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3/19	3027	C. Jones	Gazebo project ('24)	(\$269.84)
3/19	3028	C. Jones	Mallory gift ('24)	(\$ 99.00)
3/19	3043	T. Chambliss	Mardi Gras snacks	(\$ 37.79)
3/21	3029	C. Jones	Business cards ('24)	(\$ 77.68)
Total Expenses				(\$ 484.31)

ENDING CASH BALANCE (March 31, 2025) \$11,976.81

OVERALL BALANCE 10,354.39 + 11,976.81= \$22,331.20

Outstanding checks:

3030	Mary McCroan	(\$ 77.74)
3033	Candy Jones	(\$407.00)



Governor's Mansion Report For April 2025

By: Amanda Borden



We have done the usual spring cleanup, started pruning azaleas and camellias, planted more drought-tolerant perennials in the Finley House bed, and held a Capital City MG intern visit to the mansion.

The CCMGA 2025 interns were Racile Casey, William Haynes, Sheryl Henderson, Gigi Langford, Murray Lewis, Diane Lindsey, Deborah Mallory, Beth Nelson, and Carmen Somers. The MG volunteer guides were Sue Berry, Linda Cater, and Jane McCarthy, with Mallory Kelley.



Group after workday April 21



Jane, Robin, Kathy in herb garden



CAMGA Library News

May 2025

By: Dee Turberville

Flower Color Theory

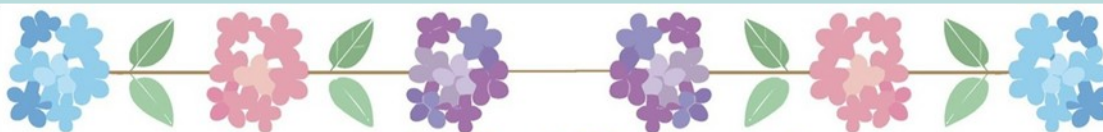
By: Darroch and Michael Putnam

After attending the L&L program on *Colorful Flowerbeds*, presented by Jane McCarthy, I ordered The Flower Color Theory book for our CAMGA collection. Jane gave us attendees information on the effects of a variety of color combinations for our containers and flower beds, as well as to consider the color of those beds against our foundations. I learned so much from that workshop and decided to order this title -- to further study the aesthetic and emotional power of color in floral design. One of the best features of the book is its emphasis on the psychological effects of color and how different colors can evoke specific emotions and set various moods, i.e., the calming effect of blues and greens to the energizing influence of reds and oranges.



The book begins by teaching the reader the fundamental principles of color theory. Even if you do not have a background in design or art, the authors break down the concepts into segments with helpful colorful illustrations and high-quality photos. From there, the book transitions into the practical realm, showing you how to apply these principles in your floral arrangements. In conclusion, the Flower Color Theory is a comprehensive and masterful blend of theory and practice, offering the readers a well-rounded education in the use of color in floral design. If you are a flower enthusiast, whether a novice or an expert, the book is a valuable resource that educates and inspires.

Upcoming Workshop



Propagating Hydrangeas

Led by
Jason Powell, Petals from the Past
&
David Doggett, Master Gardener
Aldridge Gardens Volunteer

**Join us at Petals from the Past to learn about
Growing Hydrangeas, Varieties, and Propagation.**
**Participants are asked to bring an empty, clean, 2-liter clear
plastic bottle (Coke or Pepsi). All other supplies will be provided.**
Lunch will be catered by B&K Bar-B-Que.



June 18, 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM

60 Participants Max
\$35 Class Fee
Petals from the Past
16034 County Road 29
Jemison, AL 36085



Capital City
Master
Gardener
Association



**Please sign up today
and join us
June 18th!**
ccmga.square.site

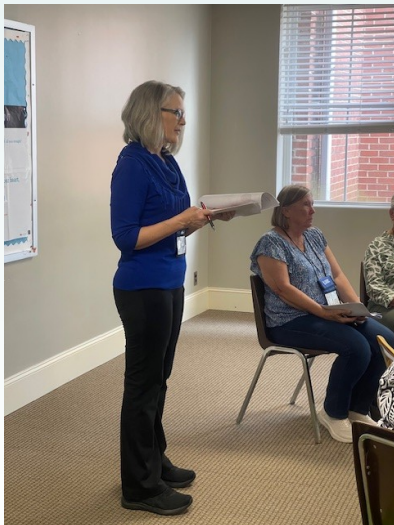
- * Refund request must be made 10 days prior to the event to Ann Hamill hamillhs@gmail.com
- * Refunds will be made through Square

- * If you have any questions please contact Janell Diggs - (334) 425-9069
- * The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Alabama A&M University and Auburn University) is an equal opportunity educator, employer, and provider. If you need a reasonable accommodation or language access services, contact Mallory Kelley at jones57@aces.edu by 6/6/25

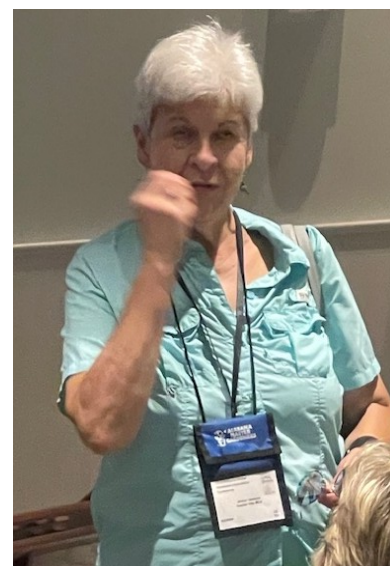


<https://ccmga.square.site/product/propagating-hydrangeas/17>

PICTURES FROM AMGA CONFERENCE APRIL 3—5, 2025









You're Invited!

Honoring
Mary Ann Hatcher

Celebrating her many years of dedicated
leadership of the
AMGA Helpline for CAMGA

 **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

 **Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church**
Wetumpka, Alabama

Potluck Luncheon

 Please bring a dish to share! 

Immediately following the CAMGA, Inc. Meeting

Let's come together to celebrate a true
master gardener of our hearts and community.



May 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office</i>	2	3 <i>CAMGA Plant Sale at Extension Office</i>
4	5 <i>Mansion Gardens workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	6	7 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	8 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office</i>	9	10
11 	12 <i>Mansion Gardens workday 8-11 a.m.</i> Projects Meeting at Extension Office 10 a.m.	13 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church 12-1 p.m.</i>	14 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	15 <i>Learning Gar- dens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office</i> Tour Gardens of Jim Scott at Lake Martin	16	17
18	19 <i>Mansion Gardens workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	20 CAMGA monthly meet- ing 10 a.m. at First Presbyte- rian Church	21 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	22 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office</i>	23	24
25	26 <i>Mansion Gardens workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	27	28 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	29 <i>Learning Gardens Workday 8-12 noon at Extension Office</i>	30	31