



# GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 34 Issue 10 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

## October 2025

### Message from Cindy

**Cindy Augustine**  
**CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT**



Welcome to Fall!

Although the temperatures don't currently show it, we are finally officially in the Fall season. Pumpkin spice and pumpkins are in abundance everywhere one looks. For Extension Master Gardeners (EMGs), this is a time to begin to clean out our spring and summer gardens and prepare our plants for winter.

I hope everyone is beginning to propagate plants for our May 2, 2026, plant sale. We were down a little bit last year due to the rainy day, but I would love for us to have lots of plants for our customers to select from this year.

This month we will have our meeting out at Lanark, which is located at 3374 Lanark Road in Millbrook. Our meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025, and will begin at 10 a.m. as usual. **We will have a plant swap as part of our program. Be sure to bring a plant (or two or three) to swap.** Those who bring a plant will have first dibs on choosing a plant to take home, but everyone should be able to take something home.

At our October meeting we will also elect our 2026 officers, who will be installed at our December meeting. The slate of nominated officers is as follows, and we will also take nominations from the floor:

President: Cindy Augustine  
Vice-President: Jason Mattox  
Secretary: Dee Turberville  
Treasurer: Bob Shields

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Lunch & Learn programs for the rest of the year. This month's topic is "Bats, Spiders, and Other Creepy Crawlies" and will be held on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka from Noon until 1 p.m. We have had wonderful turnouts for these programs this year! I look forward to seeing everyone on **October 21<sup>st</sup> at Lanark!**

*All the best,*  
*Cindy*

### Table of Contents:

Message from Cindy.....	1
Message from Mallory.....	2
CAMGA, Inc. Minutes.....	3-4
Governor's Mansion Report.....	5
CAMGA Library News.....	6
2025 Master Gardener Intern Class.....	7
Senior Project Program.....	8
October Calendar .....	9



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



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

**October Garden Calendar**

**Fruits and Nuts**

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area. Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

**Shrubs**

- Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape
  - Water when needed.
  - Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom.
- Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

**Lawns**

- Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall.
  - If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply pre-emergent herbicides.
  - Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

**Roses**

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
  - New rose catalogs will be coming in.
- Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

**Annuals and Perennials**

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
  - List desirable varieties of mums.
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

**Bulbs**

- Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus.
- Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

**CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2025**  
**Elmore County Extension Office**  
**Submitted By:**  
**Anida Wishnietsky**

Anita Reeves, Master Gardener from North Alabama, gave a presentation on Houseplant Gardening which included information on lighting, watering, nutrients, substrates, pots, environment and pests.

After a break for snacks and Rhonda Miles thanking those who brought food, the meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by the Cindy Augustine.

Jason Mattox reviewed upcoming events:

Sept 29, 9:30–11 am, Senior Project at Wetumpka Senior Center  
Oct 2–Nov 6, Thursdays 10a.m.-noon – Bud-Es welcome to join interns  
Oct 14, Lunch & Learn – bats, spiders, and creepy crawlies  
Oct 21, monthly meeting and plant swap at Lanark old house  
Nov 11, Lunch & Learn – wreaths – given by folks from Wadsworth Tree Farm  
Nov 11, Natural Wreaths & Garland make and take, 2-4 pm, \$15

Cindy Augustine asked for approval of last month's minutes. Candy Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Beth Deaton seconded the motion. All attending voted for it and the motion was passed.

Cindy Augustine gave the treasurer's report for Sherri Davidson. She reviewed all deposits and withdrawals for July and August. Final July balance was \$26,475.96 and final August balance was \$26,746.78.

Candy Jones gave the education report. Wildlife in the Garden went well. The last public education seminar of the year will be Making Natural Wreaths on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> (2-4p.m.) at the Extension with a charge of \$15. Since the Square is not available, attendees will sign up ahead of time but pay when they arrive.

Mary McCroan gave the learning garden report. They are doing a lot of propagation to support the plant sale and some of the interns came to help.

Robin Snyder gave the membership report. The intern class is going well. There are 14 Elmore county interns. They finished six classes. Bud-Es should come to the outdoor sessions. Interns can only use volunteer hours, not CEUs and they are supposed to have half their volunteer hours (25) done by the end of classes (Nov 6<sup>th</sup>). Robin Snyder will be updating the Annual Membership form which she will ask everyone to fill out when they pay their 2026 dues. Dues collection will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>. Current interns don't need to pay 2026 dues.

Anida Wishnietsky encouraged everyone keep their personal information up to date on the Service Reporting website under "my page." Making a change to the annual membership form does not update the website. Contact Anida if you need help with the website.

Darlene Branyon gave the publicity report. The most public interest comes from the CAMGA booth at the Wetumpka Farmers Market. The next one will be in October. The Dicken Christmas event also gets the word out. This year's will probably be the first weekend in December. We participated in the Wildlife Wetumpka Art Festival last year. We aren't doing it this year, but it is fun to attend. It will be on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in downtown Wetumpka.

Cindy Augustine gave the projects report as provided by Rebecca Ridley. Six people have signed up to help with the senior project on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> at the Wetumpka Senior Center, but more help would be welcome. Come at 9 a.m. if you want to help. The next project committee meeting will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Interns are encouraged to attend.

**CAMGA, Inc. Monthly Meeting Minutes (Continued)**  
**September 16, 2025**  
**Elmore County Extension Office**  
**Submitted By:**  
**Anida Wishnietsky**

Rhona Watson gave the nominating committee report. She only has a firm commitment for President so far. She is looking for volunteers for the other officers.

Cindy Augustine gave the Advisory Council report. Everyone needs to put in their volunteer and CEU hours in by December 31<sup>st</sup> for 2025. The receiving of grant money is based on these hours.

No old business.

New business: Board members approved a \$1000 to buy Supersoil, Promix and pots so that these items can be available all year for the learning garden and in preparation for the plant sale. Candy Jones made a motion to approve \$1000 for these items. Bonnie McCormick seconded the motion. All attending voted for it and the motion was passed.

Jason Mattox reminded everyone that the October meeting will be Oct 21<sup>st</sup> at Lanark, 3374 Lanark Rd, Millbrook. Bring plants for the plant swap.

Beth Deaton asked folks to not sign up for the helpline if three people are already signed up for a specific slot. Please pick another slot. Helpline is on Wednesday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m.

Bonnie McCormick told folks about free shredding (fifty pound maximum) Friday, Sept 19th, 9 a.m. – noon, by Dillards at Eastdale Mal.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

*Respectively submitted by,*  
*Anida Wishnietsky*





## Governor's Mansion Report For September 2025

By: Amanda Borden



In September, we pulled weeds in the Mansion back yard (now we all can identify torpedo grass) and trimmed Oakleaf hydrangeas in the front yard. We planned a major trim job in the Secret Garden. We trimmed aspidistra at the Finley House, mulched various beds, and welcomed three of the new interns: Bettie Summerlin, Teri Magdon, and Kim Schellenberg.



Jane demonstrates technique for fall trimming of hydrangeas



Robin & Jane demonstrate their flexibility!



Kim & Ann trimming hydrangeas



Carmen places aspidistra trimmings in toter



## CAMGA Library News

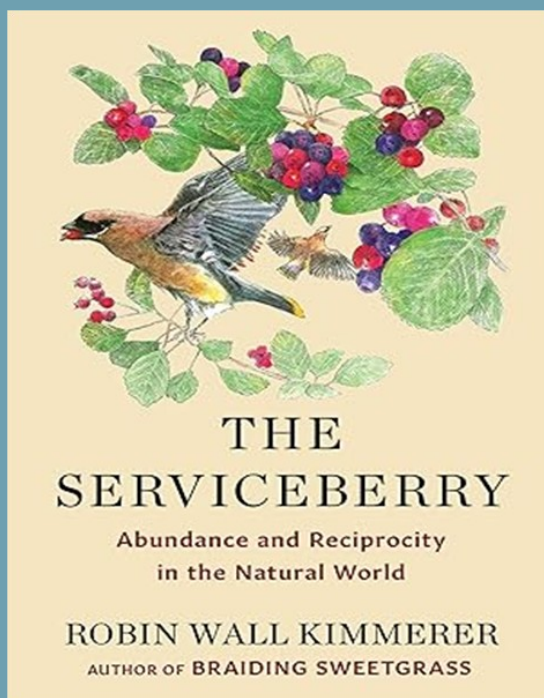
October 2025

By: Dee Turberville

### The Serviceberry; Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World

By: Robin Wall Kimmerer

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer has written a short and thought-provoking book on the interconnectedness of nature, reciprocity and the “gift economy” of plants. Kimmerer draws her inspiration from the serviceberry tree. In her writings, Kimmerer, a Potawatomi botanist, bridges Western scientific approaches with indigenous ecological knowledge. She advocates for environmental ethics and argues against a market economy that has contributed to climate change while competing and hoarding produce for profit without reciprocity.



In *The Serviceberry*, Kimmerer’s approach of reciprocity may seem too controversial and idealistic to some but using the service berry tree as a metaphor of a plant that distributes its wealth grabbed my attention. The tree share sits abundance of sweet juicy, berries to the needs of the natural community. Robin presents the “gift economy” as a model for consideration, much like the traditional way of thinking within indigenous communities. They do not take more than they need, and they share their abundance with others, a sign of their wealth and gratitude. Gardeners naturally do this by having community gardens and sharing their abundant harvest with food banks. I like her quote, “Plants offer themselves to us, whether we are saints or sinners.” After reading this book and attending classes on the value of our native trees, I have just purchased a serviceberry tree!





## 2025 CAMGA/ACMGA Master Gardener Intern Class

Submitted by Robin Snyder

The Elmore/ Autauga County intern class has 24 interns and is now half finished with the classes. At the September 25th class session the interns provided the wonderful tailgate lunch for their Bud-E's and the class facilitators. Next week Mallory will take the show on the road with sessions taking place at locations throughout the three counties. Many thanks to all of the members who are serving as Bud-E's, speaking at the classes, serving as class facilitators and providing money and food for our lunches. All of your efforts will provide us with new members in the near future. Thank you all so much.





## Senior Project Program

Wetumpka Senior Center — September 29, 2025

Submitted by: Jane Mobley





# October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	2 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office, 7-10 a.m.</i>	3	4
5	6 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	7	8 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	9 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office, 7-10 a.m.</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	14 <i>Lunch &amp; Learn Program, First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka, 12-1 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	16 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office, 7-10 a.m.</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	21 <i><b>CAMGA Monthly Meeting &amp; Plant Swap at LANARK, 10 a.m.</b></i>	22 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	23 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office, 7-10 a.m.</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Governor's Mansion Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	28	29 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	30 <i>Learning Gardens Workday at Extension Office, 7-10 a.m.</i>	31	