



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 34 Issue 12 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

December 2025

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



Wow, can you believe that we are now in the final month of 2025? This year has flown by, and our Extension Master Gardeners have been busy.

It seems like just last month that I was starting on my first year as CAMGA, Inc.'s President. It truly has been a blessing to be your President this year, and a great learning experience as well. I look forward to continuing as your President for 2026.

I'm excited to see CAMGA, Inc. continue to grow. We have a wonderful group of interns this year, and I hope they will all become active members in our organization.

I'd like to thank Martha Rogers for being the CAMGA, Inc. Secretary for 2025. It was a little outside of her comfort zone, but she worked hard to ensure our minutes were recorded for the future. Thank you, Martha!

Extreme thanks go out to Sherri Davidson for her role as Treasurer for many years. She has led CAMGA, Inc. through the incorporation of our organization and the establishment of the organization as a 501(c)3. Neither of those things were simple tasks, and Sherri seemed to accomplish it with ease. Sherri helped to streamline some of the financial policies and procedures for our organization, and those things will continue to assist future treasurers. She will certainly be a hard act to follow, but thankfully she has volunteered to assist Bob as he takes on this new role. So, please be sure to let Sherri know how much she has been appreciated in her role as Treasurer. Thanks, Sherri!

Thank you as well to Jason Mattox for continuing as Vice-President in 2026. Jason has been invaluable to CAMGA, Inc. in this role. It is a lot of work to arrange speakers for our meetings and arrange field trips throughout the year. I look forward to continuing to work with Jason!

Table of Contents:

Message from Cindy.....	1-2
Message from Mallory.....	3
Governor's Mansion Report.....	4-5
CAMGA Library News.....	6
CAMGA, Inc. Minutes.....	7
December Calendar	8



Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter

Message from Cindy (Continued)

December 2025

Thank you to the entire Executive Board for all their hard work this year. I couldn't do my job as President without everyone just doing their thing to keep this organization running smoothly.

Thank you to Dee Turberville and Bob Shields for taking on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer in 2026! I look forward to working with you both.

And lastly, thanks to all our CAMGA, Inc. members for all you do to support our organization and our projects. Without you, we could not accomplish anything, so thanks for all you do!



Some upcoming events for the month of December include:

- CAMGA, Inc. Christmas Luncheon, Tuesday, December 2 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Dickens Christmas in Wetumpka, Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6.
- December 9th, Lunch & Learn at First Presbyterian Church. Program on Hobby Greenhouses.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and a blessed and happy New Year!

*All the best,
Cindy*

CAMGA Members and Interns,

Just a reminder to make sure you report your volunteer hours to the [Service Report website](#) before December 31, 2025. To be eligible for Advanced Badges and Reach for the Star Awards, you must be current on association dues.

For any questions, you may contact Anida Wishnietsky at anidawi@aol.com, Michelle Sharpton at sharpton04@msn.com or Mallory Kelley.

If you would like Anida to put in your hours for you for the entire year reply to this email. Include your name, number of 2025 volunteer hours, and number of 2025 CEU hours. Also, if possible tell her what you did to earn the majority of the volunteer hours so she knows what category to put it under.

Below is a message on this subject from Kerry Smith:

Consistent reporting adds STRENGTH. I want to continue to emphasize the critical nature of our DEADLINE, December 31. Last year, late reports shorted our value by 15,000+ hours = \$500,000+ (\$33.50/hour).

Also, please report DONATIONS. These value points show another level of our program's community impact. Fun tidbit in our 2025 reports to date! – you made 530,000+ public education contacts. Go team!!! Volunteer reports illustrate our EMG Program's public value.



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

Caring for Poinsettias



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.



**CAMGA, Inc. Minutes
November 18, 2025
Elmore County Extension Office
Submitted By:
Martha Rodgers, Secretary**

Cindy called CAMGA, Inc. to order at 10:00 a.m. Jason announced that the guest speaker confused the location and went to Auburn instead of our meeting. He reminded the membership of the Christmas meeting and luncheon coming up on Tuesday, December 2nd at the First Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka. He also mentioned that the Dicken's Christmas in Wetumpka will be on December 5th-6th. Sachets will be handed out promoting CAMGA.

On December 9th, Lunch & Learn will be on Hobby Greenhouses.

As secretary, Martha had nothing to report. There were name corrections of Turberville and Sheilds and Cassco. Beth motioned that the minutes be approved with corrections. Candy seconded and they were unanimously approved.

Mallory mentioned that the guest speaker for the Lunch & Learn Hobby Greenhouse topic is Larry Pickens. She announced that Lowndes County Master Gardeners is having a Kokedama workshop.

Montgomery County Master Gardeners will be leading the next intern program. Registration is \$175 until November 30th. After that, it will be \$200.

Beth is now the Helpline Coordinator.

Sherri reviewed the Treasurer's Report for October. Any reimbursements need to be submitted by December 2, to enable a smooth transition for the new treasurer.

In Standing Committees reporting. Candy reported that the Wreath Workshop went very well and everyone had fun. Instead of one chairperson for the Public Education Committee, Darlene and Martha will co-chair the committee.

Mary noted that Cassco is closing at the end of December. She said supersoil will be available for members propagating for the plant sale in May. She introduced the Saffron flower and noted that it is a bulb plant.

Robin presented the Emeritus Status Certificate to Charlotte Hall.

Membership dues need to be paid by December 2nd and volunteer hours posted.

Anida reminded everyone to check their spam folder to make sure that they are not missing anything being sent out.

Costumes are available to rent at The Vault Variety Shop in Wetumpka for the Dickens Christmas.

Cindy adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

*Respectively submitted by,
Martha Rodgers, Secretary – CAMGA, Inc.*



Governor's Mansion Report For November 2025

By: Amanda Borden



In November, we started decorating Hill House for the Holiday Candlelight Tours, but we also did some outside work. In Hill House we put up Christmas trees, and we decorated the mantels, stair rails, and various tables and chests as well as the grand piano.

Outdoors we planted pansies and snapdragons in the pots in the pool area, the pots at the side yard, the beds beside the driveways at the portico, and in front and at the side of Finley House.

We sadly said goodbye to our dear friend and fellow Mansion worker, Linda Cater. Linda and her husband will be moving to Texas in early December to be close to their son. We wish them luck as they start their new adventure.

If you haven't visited the Governor's Mansion during the Christmas Candlelight Tours, they are:

Monday, December 15th, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 18th, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Monday, December 22nd, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in hosting at the Hill House representing the Master Gardeners, please call Jane McCarty, (334-221-9936). The bonus is that you get to see the two houses and don't have to stand in line.



Anne, Jane, Ann in front of Finley House



Carmen & Sue planting at Finley House

Governor's Mansion Report (Continued)



Casey & Debbie hanging ornaments



Pattie, Bettie, Ann decorating living room Hill House



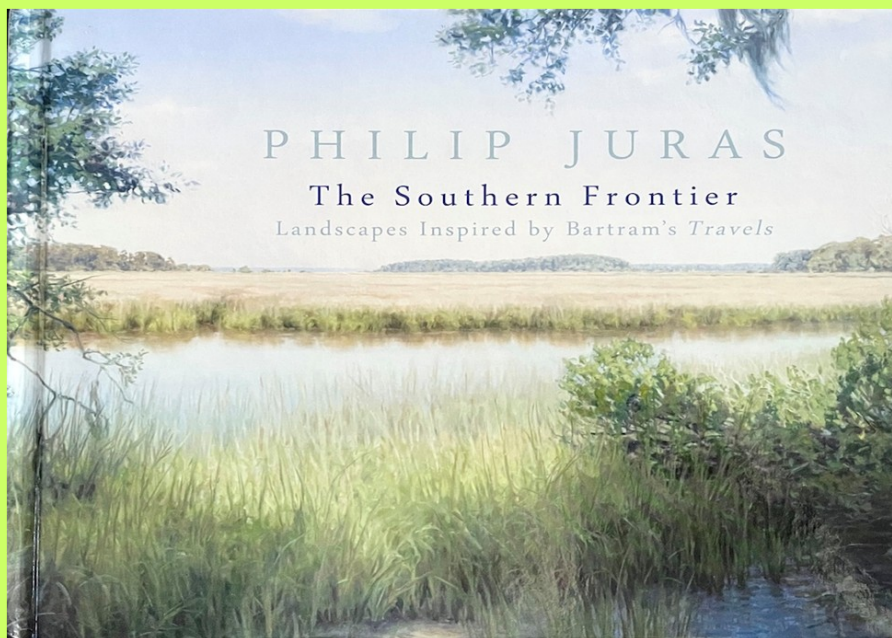
CAMGA Library News

December 2025

By: Dee Turberville

The Southern Frontier; Landscapes Inspired by Bartram's Travels By: Philip Juras

Presenting stunning reproductions of oil paintings by landscape artist Philip Juras, this exhibition catalogue offers a glimpse of the pre-settlement southern wilderness as the late 18th century naturalist William Bartram would have experienced during his famed travels through the South. Juras spent years researching Bartram and visiting the sites that the naturalist wrote about in his celebrated *Travels*. These 60 paintings combine direct observation with historical, scientific, and natural history research to reimagine landscapes as they appeared in the 1770s.



Juras's work explores many of the important and imperiled ecosystems that remain in the South Today. These little-known natural communities, remnants of the past, are enhanced by essays placing them in the context of Bartram's legacy and the American landscape movement. The book is a rare glimpse of the southern frontier before it was irrevocably altered by European settlement. Learn more about the artist/author, Juras, a native of Georgia, at philipjuras.com



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mansion Gardens Workday 9-11 a.m.	2 CAMGA, Inc. Christmas Luncheon, First Presbyterian Church, 10-12 noon	3 Lanark Gardens Workday 8- 12 noon	4 Learning Gardens Workday at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.	5 Dickens Christmas in Wetumpka	6 Dickens Christmas in Wetumpka
7 Mansion Gardens Workday 9-11 a.m.	8	9 Lunch & Learn 12 — 1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church	10 Lanark Gardens Workday 8- 12 noon	11 Learning Gardens Workday at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.	12	13
14 Mansion Gardens Workday 9-11 a.m.	15	16	17 Lanark Gardens Workday 8- 12 noon	18 Learning Gardens Workday at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.	19	20
21 Mansion Gardens Workday 9-11 a.m.	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 Lanark Gardens Workday 8- 12 noon			