



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 35 Issue 5 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

May 2026

Message from Cindy
Cindy Augustine
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT



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Happy May, Everyone!

First, thanks goes out to everyone who played a part in the plant sale. It took a lot of work to have such a successful 2026 Plant Sale. We had a ton of wonderful, healthy plants to sell and several great vendors. I think everyone will be pleased with our earnings this year! Special thanks go out to the Projects Team for heading up the plant sale, with extra special thanks to Robin Snyder, Terri Chambliss, Rebecca Ridley, Darlene Branyon, and Allyson Andrews. All of our CAMGA members worked together to propagate lots of plants, handle all areas of the plant sale, and seek out donations from several local businesses. A special shout-out also goes to our CAMGA Interns. They worked hard at digging up plants (thanks to Kelly Lafreniere for letting us use her yard!), potting them, and maintaining them through to the plant sale.

We have several upcoming events this month that you should be aware of:

Tuesday, May 12 - Lunch & Learn at Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church from 12-1 PM. The speaker will be Dr. Carolyn Robinson, AU Horticulture Professor who will be speaking on Floral Arranging Techniques and Tips.

Wednesday, May 13 - Field trip to Jim Scott's Gardens (Sign Up Genius Link: <https://email.cloud.secureclick.net/c/1486?id=56143.3269.1.cc212807fcb1c0c6e4f2140d75472a8f>)

Tuesday, May 19 - CAMGA, Inc. monthly meeting at the Elmore County Extension Office at 10 AM.

Be sure to come to our monthly meeting this month to find out how much we earned and participate in a discussion on what worked and what didn't work at this year's sale. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Happy Gardening!
Cindy



Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

May Garden Tips

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue spray program.
- Keep grass from around trees and strawberries.
- Peaches and apples can still be budded.

Shrubs

- Newly planted shrubs need extra care now and in coming weeks.
Do not spray with horticultural oils when the temperature is above 85 degrees F.

Lawns

- Start new lawns from seed.
- Call the Master Gardener Helpline at (877) 252-4769 to learn more about seasonal fertilizer use and proper mowing. Overfertilizing and overwatering lead to lawn problems.
- Wait until warm-season lawns are fully green before applying any fertilizers.
- Mow often (5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing
- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to all warm-season lawn types: bermudagrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustinegrass, and zoysiagrass (or wait until after dethatching).
Dethatch warm-season lawns if needed. Check thatch layer, as in April. Water and fertilize after dethatching (1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet).

Roses

- Spray or dust for insects and diseases.
- Fertilize monthly according to a soil test.
- Plant container-grown plants in flower.
Prune climbing roses after the first big flush of flowering.

Annuals and Perennials

- Late plantings of bedding plants still have time to produce.
- Watch for insects on day lilies. Bulbs
- Summer bulbs started in containers may still be planted.
- Do not remove foliage from spring flowering bulbs.
- Do not let seedheads form on tulips and other spring flowering bulbs.

Miscellaneous

- Mulch new shrub plantings if not already done.
Monitor new landscape plantings of shrubs, trees, and turf. To establish healthy root systems, prevent them from drying out and water deeply.

Vegetable Seeds

- Whole state: Continue plantings of all April seeds across the state.
- Central and North: Add okra and southern peas to your garden.

Vegetable Transplants

- Whole state: Continue plantings of April transplant crops.
- Central and North: Plant certified sweet potato slips.



CAMGA, Inc. Minutes
Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Elmore County Cooperative Extension Office

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Vice President, Jason Maddox, began the program portion of the meeting at 10:03 am with 28 members present. He introduced Dr. Meredith Shrader, an insect diagnostician within Auburn's Entomology and Plant Pathology department. She gave a presentation on "Friend or Foe; Insects in the Garden." Meredith emphasized accountability. She stressed that if you have plants, especially fruiting plants, you need to manage them and that your actions impact others. Biological insect control will only take care of about 25% of pest populations. If used, she also stressed following the pesticide's label directions- to be a good steward of the environment. She asked members to consider and evaluate how much tolerance they have when it comes to losing some of their harvest.

Meredith covered beneficial insects as well as the harmful ones that damage our plants. The slide presentation covered mites, some of which are beneficial! Other categories included wasps, flies, praying mantis, lacewing, assassin bugs, ground beetles, parasitoids, the beneficial spiny soldier bugs that look like the destructive stink bugs (how to differentiate them), and the various types of ladybugs. She also covered evil doers such as thrips, worms, aphids and some of the viruses, fungus and bacterial issues caused by the bad bugs. Members enjoyed her humorous tidbits, i.e., "Aphids are born already pregnant." & "Yellow jackets are evil." The program concluded at 11:11 am. Meredith Shrader's email for insect identification (she needs a good image of the insect) is: mes0241@auburn.edu. After a break for lunch, Jason and Cindy began the business meeting at 11:28 am.

Upcoming Events

Apr 22	Field Trip to Crooked Oaks, Notasulga, AL
Apr 25	Autauga County MG Plant Sale
May 1	CAMGA Plant Sale Setup, 8 am-until
May 2	CAMGA Plant Sale, 8 am-noon
May 6-8	AMGA Conference, Hurstville, AL
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11	Projects Committee Meeting, 10:00 am
May 12	Lunch & Learn, 12:00 pm
May 13	CAMGA Field Trip to Jim Scott's Garden (watch for sign-up genius)
May 19	CAMGA Monthly Meeting

Jason said that there has been some confusion over the number of people attending the Jim Scott field trip. Rebecca can adjust the list to include individuals driving as well as those who are carpooling. For those members attending the AMGA conference, Cindy stated that they should wear the blue name tags from last year (if they attended) so they would not be charged for a replacement.

Secretary's Report

March minutes were shared in the Buzz Newsletter. After reviewing, it was discovered that the minutes needed a correction - changing the name of Cindy Jones to Candy Jones. Cindy Augustine took a motion to accept the minutes with the one correction. Jason Mattox offered the first motion, and Rebecca Ridley seconded it. The motion passed with one abstention.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Treasurer's Report – Bob stated that the 18-month CD at Max Credit Union matures on May 16, 2026 - \$10,721.59, YTD dividends of \$93.76. He will investigate finding the best rate since rollover rates are typically lower than the original new-customer rates. He stated that he is still learning how to read the Square numbers correctly because square fees are deducted before the deposit. *Snapshot coverage of the balance:* expenses reported included the AMGA auction donation (\$100), AMGA Membership (\$520) and Publix invoice (\$5.59) for a total of \$625.59. The beginning cash balance was \$12,722.04; checking balance of \$11,969.08; checking income of \$330.46; ending cash balance of \$11,673.95 for an overall total reported of \$22,454.67.

Mallory's Report – There will be a Cinco De Mayo container planting workshop on May 5, led by CCMGA's Karen Webber, at the Grace Episcopal Church in Pike Road, AL. Participants are asked to bring a 14-16" pot to fill with soil and plants to take home to their garden. The education committee is working on an advanced tomato workshop, potentially to be hosted in Elmore County with Montgomery County as a possible partner. Petals from the Past has planned a cottage garden program to be offered in June. One event is an all-day pollinator program on June 30th. It will tie in with the Southeastern Pollinator Count project. The CAMGA master gardener class for current interns is ending next week. Mallory stated that if anyone in the fall missed and wants to participate in the tour to Petals from the Past and the Chilton County Research Station, to let her know. She commented that June is the best month to recruit future interns for the master gardening program. Autauga will be the host this year. She asked that we tell those people who have shown an interest in the program (throughout the year) to call their county office (Autauga, Elmore, Montgomery) to add their names to the interested master gardener list; they should give the secretary their name, email, and phone number. They will stay on this list until they register for a class; they may stay on the list for multiple years. Mallory and Robin hope that a flyer will be ready for CAMGA members to share with the public at the upcoming plant sale. It will include times/ dates and info about the master gardener program. At the conclusion of her report, Mallory shared ACES notepads and wildflower seeds for members in appreciation for their volunteering.

Standing Committee Reports:

Education: The quarterly public education events are being organized. Quarter 1 was missed but the team, composed of Mallory, Robin, Tracey and Pattie, is creating a topics list and plans to execute catch up programs soon.

Learning Gardens: Mary McCroan shared that there is not much activity occurring in the gardens at this time except that the poppies planted two years ago have self-seeded. They are thriving in their raised bed and in the nearby vicinity. She invited members to gather ripe seed heads for their personal gardens.

Member Care/Concerns: Robin Snyder stated that Lee Borden is having open heart surgery to repair an aortic valve on April 27 in Montgomery.

Network and Publicity Reports: None were discussed.

Projects: Jane Mobley requested members to take photos of any events that they attend - to share those snapshots by sending them to her cell phone number or her email address. She needs members to assist her in creating the annual CAMGA yearbook, since she is unable to attend every conference, field trip and workshop. Rebecca shared that the propagation workshop at her home was successful. The participants commented on the fun learning experience; they also enjoyed the fellowship and fine food.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Upcoming events:

- April 30 Pre-Plant Sale Workday begins at 8:00 am. Come when you can.
- May 1 Plant Sale Set-Up continues, 8:00 am to noon
- May 2 Day of Plant Sale - Doors will open to the public at 8:00 am. Arrive early enough to be at your station by 7:45 am. Members can purchase plants at 10:00 am. Plants will be 50% off starting at 11:00 am. Sale ends at noon. Tidy up.
- May 11 Projects Committee Meeting, Extension Boardroom, 10:00-11:00 am - Lessons learned from the plant sale
- June Pruning and Fertilizing Roses at the Presbyterian Church with Jane Mobley – (TBA)
- Late September/Early October Senior Project-Decoupage a gourd or pumpkin for the holidays – (TBA)
- Memorial Bricks - Order to be placed in June. Rebecca has placed the order forms in a blue folder on a bookshelf in the Master Gardener office. Members can use the QR code or they can attach a check to the order form made out to CAMGA. Brick money should not be given to the treasurer.

Plant Sale Updates by Robin Snyder, Terry Chambliss, Sherri Davidson and Bob Shields:

For the workdays and setup – extra volunteers are needed the Thursday prior to Friday's set up day. Plants at the center will be labeled with prices and moved into the barn's arena on Thursday. Mary will organize additional tasks to be accomplished on Thursday. On Friday, the set up will continue as members bring their propagated and tagged plants to the center for pricing by Rhona Watson, Mary McCroan, and Jane McCarthy. It would be helpful if the members grouped their plants into categories for unloading prior to arrival. The team will assign price and the proper color label/tag, i.e., red, if the plant or item is donated and not grown by members, for tax purposes. Sherri clarified the color of labels/tags and the overall pricing process since members were confused about tax law and asked several questions for clarification. Robin requested members to clearly label plants, tags with scientific name and care requirements, and to hold their plants until Friday, the day of intake. On Saturday, the plant sale will be held in the arena and barn at the extension with a new traffic flow. Signage will direct the public, as if they were being directed through a "chute." Tables for the plants and vendors will be in the barn. Lights have been checked and supplemental lighting will be added. Robin gave detailed instructions to the members about tables and chairs to be used, tablecloths, signage, available aprons, snacks, bottled water, container of supplies, available restrooms, parking, and the check-out tallying station procedures, cleaning up, etc. She stated that she needs volunteers to bring coolers with ice and wagons, needed on both Friday and Saturday. Sign-up sheets are in the ACES classroom. Water will be available free to members and customers. Robin also requested members to bring trays and boxes for plants to assist the customers with their purchases. New to the sale this year is an "Impulse Table" with a variety of donated items. It will be located near the check-out area. Rebecca requested photos from members for the CAMGA website so she can market their plants.

State Advisory Council Representative Report

Kelly Lafreniere is at the Advisory Council meeting today, earlier than usual due to a conflict with the AMGA Conference. Cindy stated that Kelly asked those members attending the AMGA conference to take photos for Jane Mobley and to also send them to Sheila Bolen, editor, for the Pathways Newsletter. Her email address is: mgbolshe13@gmail.com

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Adjournment – Cindy adjourned the meeting at 12:21 pm. The next CAMGA meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Elmore County Extension Center.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Dee Turberville, Secretary for CAMGA, Inc.*



Governor's Mansion Report For April 2026 By: Amanda Borden



In April we planted black haw viburnum, redbud, winter jasmine, sweet shrub, tractor seat plant, French hydrangea, English dogwood, frost weed, marigold, basil, tomatoes, and others. We pulled weeds, laid pine-straw, trimmed branches, pruned shrubs, fertilized, and watered.

Group After Workday
April 20, 2026



Sue Pruning Azaleas



Robin Pruning Wax Myrtle

Group with Huntley in
Secret Garden



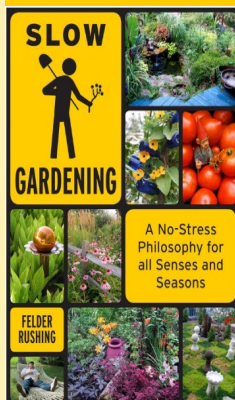


Library Report May 2026 By: Lisa Huff

CAMGA Library Book Review

Slow Gardening: A No-Stress Philosophy for All Senses and Seasons

By: Felder Rushing



Slow gardening is a philosophical approach to gardening developed by Felder Rushing, which encourages participants to savor everything they do, using all the senses, through all the seasons, regardless of whether the gardener likes growing vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruits, native plants, orchids, a perfect lawn, or anything in between.

“Rooted” in the Gestalt approach, slow gardening is intended to promote self-awareness, personal responsibility, and environmental stewardship. At first glance, this book would seem to be about Master Gardeners, not for Master Gardeners. In fact, Rushing advises the reader to meet the “trained volunteers...called Master Gardeners” to get good advice on plant selection, as well as advice on what to do when.

MGs don’t stress about keeping up with the Gardening Jones-we plant. Our problem, or at least my problem, is letting my enthusiasm for plants get me to start too many projects at one time until I am stressed out and overwhelmed, like Scrat, the Saber-toothed Squirrel in Ice Age.

Rushing’s book is not a step-by-step “how to” garden book, but an attitude adjustment with a few basic principles to help garden the right way in the first place, get a little done every day while you enjoy the garden, and not to sweat the small stuff. And his humor and obvious joy in gardening make it a pleasure to read. It’s like getting great advice from a super cool, funny uncle if your uncle was also a great gardener. There are too many great quotes from this book to include in this article, but I’ll leave you with one that I’m doing my best to take to heart:

“Have fun and experiment-and celebrate your failures, because you will learn more from them than your successes.” (Let’s just say I’m learning a lot).

Recent CAMGA Library Acquisitions

Continuous Vegetable Garden: Create a Perpetual Food Garden that Sows and Grows Itself by Charlie Nardozzi (Vegetables and Fruits)

Vertical Gardening: Grow Up, Not Out, for More Vegetables and Flowers in Much Less Space by Derek Fell (Techniques and Specialty Gardens)

Xeriscape Plant Guide: 100 Water-Wise Plants for Gardens and Landscapes by Denver Water and the American Water Works Association (Plant Lists and Encyclopedias)

Review a CAMGA Library Book!

If you also enjoy writing, submitting a review of any of the books listed above, or any other book in the library, is a great way to earn volunteer hours. If you are interested, please email (LisaHHuff@gmail.com) or text (334-207-1560) me so that we can get your review on the “books”!

Request a Book!

Does the library have a copy of the book you want to read? To find out, check the complete listing of titles in the CAMGA at: [Links - Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc \(CAMGA, Inc\)](#).

If not, please email (LisaHHuff@gmail.com) or text (334-207-1560) me the information so we can add it to the list!

May 2026



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2 <i>CAMGA Plant Sale at the Extension Office 8:00 a.m.</i>
3	4 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	5	6 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i>	7 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	11 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i> <i>Projects Meeting 10 a.m. Extension Office</i>	12 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 p.m.</i>	13 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i> <i>Field Trip to Jim Scott's Gardens</i>	14 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	15	16
17	18 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	19 <i>CAMGA meeting 10 a.m. at Extension Auditorium</i>	20 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i>	21 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	22	23
24	25 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	26	27 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i>	28 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8-11 a.m.</i>	29	30
31						