



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 35 Issue 6 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

June 2026

Message from Cindy
Cindy Augustine
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT



Happy June Everyone!

It's hard to believe that 2026 is almost halfway over. While I struggle with gloomy, rainy days, it has truly been a blessing for our plants to have that beneficial rain! I hope you are enjoying your gardens and the warmer weather.

Just a couple of upcoming events to make note of for the month of June:

Next week (June 9) will be our monthly Lunch & Learn at 12 PM at Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church. Advanced Master Gardener Bionca Lindsey will speak on, "Add Hostas to Your Garden". The following Tuesday, June 16, we will have our monthly meeting beginning at 10 AM in the classroom at the Elmore County Extension Office. On Thursday of that same week (June 19), we will have our first community education workshop of the year, "Potting in the Shadows".

At this writing, there are still a few slots available, so be sure to sign up before they are gone.

If you were at the last meeting, you learned that our proceeds from the plant sale, before taxes and expenses are taken out, were approximately \$9000.

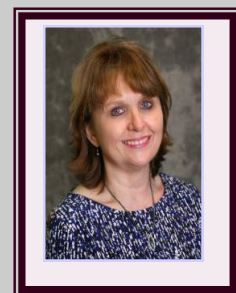
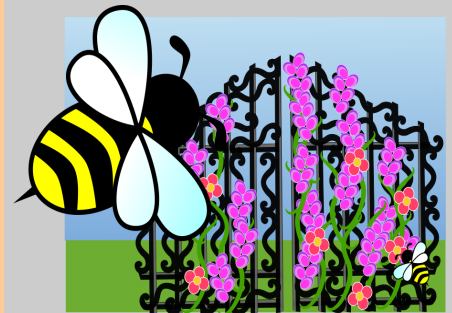
This sale had record proceeds for CAMGA, Inc., and doubled the amount from 2025. All the credit must go to our members who worked so hard to propagate lots of plants and to everyone who worked so hard to organize and work at the event. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in the 2026 Plant Sale.

I hope everyone has a wonderful June, and I hope to see you at our monthly meeting!

Happy Gardening!
Cindy

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Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

Controlling Weeds in Flower Beds and Vegetable Gardens

A weed can have many definitions, but its true definition is “a plant out of place”. Some weeds are more than just irritating eyesore, some can be aggressive and very difficult to control. Especially in perennial flower beds it is very important that you stay on top of weed control. If weeds get out of hand your only method of control is hand weeding. In the case of an annual bed, since you will be pulling out plants seasonally that does allow more options in controlling weeds in between plantings and with a pre-emergent.

Overall, the best way to prevent or control weeds in your gardens is to mulch. Mulch truly is one of the best things a gardener can do far beyond just the benefits of weed control. Adding mulch helps add organic material and nutrients as it breaks down, creates a barrier between soil fungi and diseases and also helps retain moisture to the plants.

All gardeners know weeds love vegetable gardens. There's plenty of sun, the soil is great, water is plentiful, and no competition between rows. So what exactly should you do to control them?

If weeds are in your vegetable garden, beyond mulching, the old proven method of hand pulling, hoeing and tilling are best as many weeds are close to the vegetable plants and you have to be careful about using herbicides. In selecting a herbicide, Roundup is best. Roundup kills all vegetation and starts working immediately. The great thing about this herbicide is that it only affects the green plant tissue it comes in contact with. Once roundup touches the soil it becomes inactive so no need to worry about it getting into the water and affecting other plants. For best results apply roundup when weeds are actively growing. For very hard to kill weeds it will more than likely take multiple sprays before you kill the weed, but generally weeds begin to wilt within hours and are dead within one to two weeks.

Spray roundup when air is calm to prevent drift to desirable plants. One gallon covers approximately 300 sq. ft. Even on a calm day, be sure to use a piece of cardboard or plastic to shield your vegetable plants or shrubs and reserve one sprayer specifically for herbicides so you do not chance residues remaining in the tank.

Roundup can also be used in the landscape around trees and shrubs, but again, make sure to shield all desirable plants from any drift. If you begin to see leaves on plants in your garden or landscape have a puckering in-between the veins and a distorted look it is more than likely the result of herbicide drift.

Trifluralin is an active ingredient that can be used as a preventative for weeds in both the vegetable garden and also in shrub beds. If applying in a vegetable bed the application needs to be made at least 6 weeks before planting of any seeds and then can be applied once all plants are up and actively growing for continued control. When using Herbicides -- Always read and follow label directions.

In the shrub bed, I am often asked about using landscape fabric. This will work well for the first year or two, but will more than likely cause you much more work than just pulling weeds years down the road. Eventually, the mulch breaks down and forms soil build up on the fabric and weeds will begin to grow on top of the fabric. As years pass the fabric will become weak, rip and tear and then when you finally decide to remove the fabric it is almost impossible. So my best suggestion is to stay away from the weed fabric in the landscape.

The best method I have found in either the vegetable garden or in the landscape bed is to use thick sheets of newspaper around your plants and then cover with a layer of two to four inches of mulch (pine straw or pine bark). The newspaper and mulch will keep weeds out from Spring to Fall (depending on how thick) and it will add nutrients to your soil while inhibiting weed growth. The more you control weeds this year, the less of a problem they'll be next year.



CAMGA, Inc. Minutes
Tuesday, May 19, 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 10:05 am with 25 members present. David Lawrence, Chilton County Extension Agent, presented a program on “Growing Strawberries in Alabama.” His contact information is Lawreda@aces.edu, (334) 740-1667. After a brief break for lunch, Jason began the business portion of the meeting at 11:12 am.

He shared information on *upcoming events*:

June 6 – Hydrangea Fest and plant sale, Lanark in Millbrook, 8:00 am to noon, \$5.00 admission, June 9 Lunch & Learn, 12 pm, “Add Hostas to Your Garden,” program by Adv. Master Gardener, Bionca Lindsey, June 16 CAMGA Monthly Meeting, 10:00 am, program “Sweet Grown Alabama.” June 17 Rose pruning & fertilizing with Jane Mobley, First Presbyterian Church, 9:00 a.m. June 19 “Potting in the Shadows,” by Jane McCarthy, a public education workshop, First Presbyterian Church, 9:00 am to noon, lunch served, \$25.00

Robin Snyder reminded members that June is the month to invite and encourage people to sign up for the next intern class to be held in Autaugaville.

Secretary’s Report: President Cindy Augustine asked members if there should be any corrections for the April minutes published in the Buzz Newsletter. No changes were suggested so Cindy brought up a motion to approve the minutes. Sherri Davidson made the first motion for approval and Bonnie McCormick seconded it. There was unanimous consent.

Report from Mallory Kelley – none

Treasurer’s Report: After researching and comparing CD renewal rates at various banking institutions, Bob stated that he rolled over the entire amount of the CAMGA CD for a 7-month period at Max Credit Union at a 3.75% rate. It will mature on December 16. The past 18-month CD matured on 5/16/2026 at \$10,721.59 with YTD dividends of \$93.76. *Summary:*

Beginning Cash Balance	\$11,673.95
Pri Share Balance	\$ 59.13
Checking Balance	\$11,673.95
Income-Pri share	\$0.02
Income-Checking	\$383.73
Expenses	(\$819.62)
Ending Cash Bal Pri Share	11,238.06
18-Mo CD	\$10,721.59
TOTAL	\$22,018.80

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Standing Committee Reports:

Education: Robin Snyder stated that she had made an intern class flyer for CAMGA members to share and market – among church members, neighbors, friends and for the public at the various farmers' markets. It is one that CAMGA can use until the AMGA organization sends out their flyer. Robin vented frustration over this policy since CAMGA began advertising in January for August's internship program. Autauga and Elmore counties are hosting the interns this fall. Of the 10 times to meet in Autaugaville, CAMGA will be responsible for half of the lunches, 4 to 5 times.

Robin also shared that Tracey Poist and Pattie Brown, current interns, are working with her and Mallory in planning the first public education event this year. Rather than using the ACES extension, the event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church to accommodate more people. It is titled "Potting in the Shadows" and will be conducted by Jane McCarthy, with lunch served, at a cost of \$25.00, 9:00 a.m. to noon, on June 19th. More details will follow when the registration flyer is finalized and ready to share with the public on camga.net and various social media groups. They will be creating three public education programs this year rather than four.

Membership/Concerns: CAMGA welcomes two new members, Murray Lewis and Debra Wakins, who participated in Montgomery classes but will be joining the Elmore County master gardeners. Cheryl Fitzgerald shared that she had sent a card to Ricky Hatcher who had been hospitalized recently. She also sent a condolence card to Mary McCroan on the passing of her father. Lee Borden's aortic valve repair surgery will be on May 20, rescheduled after a surgeon's second opinion.

Learning Gardens: Mary McCroan was not in attendance to give a report, but Cindy shared that general cleanup and reorganization of plants in shaded areas has been taking place in the gardens this month.

Network: Anida Wishnietsky and her husband donated three coolers and a canopy tent to the CAMGA organization. Within the network, she stated that she is having difficulty sending info to all the members, especially those who have Gmail accounts. She requested that those members who use Gmail but also have another email account to share that address with her. A master gardener friend may need to forward the email to their friend's account. Sometimes Gmail will put the network messages in Spam but not always.

Projects: Rebecca Ridley sent info to Cindy and Jason about the upcoming projects:

Project Committee Meeting on June 8th at 10:00 am and Rose Pruning at First Presbyterian Church on June 17 at 9:00 am. Rebecca will be making a brick order for the Tribute Garden in June. The blue folder with form and Square QR code are in the CAMGA room on a library shelf.

Plant Sale Update: Robin shared that CAMGA nearly doubled plant sales from the previous year. The total amount received for the sale this year was \$9009.05. This does not include the expenses which will be about \$1000.00 and will be deducted from the total. She credited all those members who propagated so many plants - with only a few left that were then offered free to members. She complimented the interns for their great participation and involvement which helped to make the sale so successful. Customers liked the variety of plants in the sale and the presentation of those plants in the barn arena.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

After plant sale suggestions were discussed:

Parking was a “nightmare.” Plans for next year include better traffic flow by requesting the vendors and CAMGA members to park at the Head Start school. This will give customers approximately 60 more spaces to access the ACES center. The traffic flow around the entrance and exit worked well and can be improved by not allowing cars to block tours of the Learning Gardens. Volunteers are needed to direct the traffic.

Lack of wagons was frustrating. Robin ordered 9 wagons for \$34.00 each on Amazon, available for a limited time, for the next plant sale. * On future social media sites, we can also encourage customers to bring their own wagons. Eliminate generators to reduce noise. Vendors need to use outlets and CAMGA needs to ensure availability. Lighting needs to be improved. On a dreary day, it is hard to read some of the labels, especially for those plants on the ground.

The Thursday pre-pricing and setup day should continue. The system of using separate tags worked well and needs to continue. More people are needed to help with pricing. Knowledgeable members could also circulate among the public on the day of the sale to assist Jane McCarthy, Mary McCroan, and Rhona Watson with horticultural questions. Labeling for all of plants needs to improve. An exemplary note - Tracey and Cheryl created some of the best labels for their plants.

Beth Deaton commented on the success of selling seeds for \$1.00 (created over 150 packets) that she and Mary McCroan had researched and then labeled with a laser printer. Members were asked to save seeds from their garden and to store them in paper envelopes or small bags (never plastic) in a cool area for next year’s plant sale.

State Advisory Council Representative Report: Kelly LaFreniere shared two upcoming events – Blount County’s “Happiness in the Garden” Fall Conference, on Thursday, October 1,2026, and the AMGA Fall seminar to be held at Auburn University on October 8th-9th. AMGA is emphasizing the 250th anniversary of the United States by highlighting the Grow More, Give More program. They would like each county to donate 250 pounds of produce to food banks. CAMGA members are requested to record produce they have grown for food banks on their service reports. AMGA will also be adding possible activities to help the pollinators.

Old Business: –

New Business: *Cindy suggested a motion, approved by the Executive Board, for the members to vote and allocate up to \$500.00 for the purchase of 10 wagons. Bonnie McCormick made the first motion to approve, and Terry Chambliss seconded it. There was unanimous consent. There was a discussion about labeling, storing and inventorying the wagons with sign out procedures.

Cindy shared with members that the Farmers’ Market in Millbrook has requested that all vendors use a white 10’ x 10’ canopy. Although Anida and her husband have donated one, it is about 10 to15 years old. The Extension has a canopy that CAMGA can borrow, but is labeled with the ACES logo.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)
By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

CAMGA has an orange and a blue tent, but Cindy preferred that the members approve the purchase of a new white tent as well. Bonnie McCormick created the first motion to purchase a quality white 10' x 10' canopy tent up to \$200.00 to be used at the Millbrook Farmers' Market and other CAMGA events. Kelly La-Freniere seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion followed with Sherri Davidson suggesting that CAMGA start a log of items so that an annual inventory can be conducted of equipment, banners, supplies, etc. A proposal is being developed to purchase a shed to house the accumulating resources and that will be discussed in the future.

Another topic that Cindy brought up was the need to allocate funds to purchase personalized cards for membership care. Beth Deaton proposed the motion to allocate up to \$100.00 for Cheryl Fitzgerald to use for purchasing the note cards, and Dee Turberville seconded it. There was unanimous consent. Cindy complimented Cheryl for her work.

Rhonda Miles gave the members a brief review of the AMGA Conference since she "stood in" for President Cindy Augustine, who was unable to attend. One special moment that Rhonda highlighted was a videotape of the Artemis II astronauts sending a message to members in attendance at the state conference, since they are growing food in space. Conference guidelines and manuals were updated; dues were discussed as well as a new updated dues tracker being developed. Special request: if you move, be sure to update your address. There needs to be better communication and guidelines in helping new officers understand their roles and responsibilities. Next year's AMGA State Conference will be in Hoover, AL, hosted by Jefferson County, April 7-9, "Foraging a Garden Oasis."

There were also some miscommunication and confusion at the AMGA Conference about missing badges and jewels for our CAMGA members. Cindy discussed with those members in attendance if they did or did not receive their proper awards, jewels, certificates, or replacement badges. She also will check with Michelle Sharpton about this issue.

Adjournment: President Cindy Augustine adjourned the meeting at 12:19 pm. The next CAMGA meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at the Elmore County Extension Center.

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



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



During the month of May we swapped out the Mansion's small containers and annual beds, installed natives and shade perennial plants in the Serenity Garden, pruned azaleas, and installed pine straw.



Sue trimming outside Finley



Pattie, Carmen, Darwin and Casey adding pine straw



Pattie feigns alarm as Darwin trims



Jane and Ann cut back azaleas outside gate

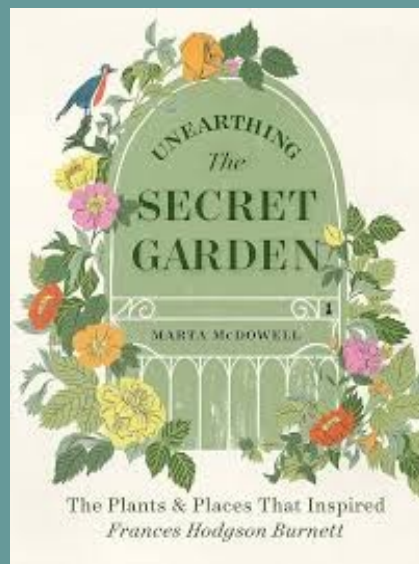


June 2026 Library Report By: Tracey Poist

Unearthing The Secret Garden By: Marta McDowell

When I was a young child, my family lived on five acres in the rural panhandle of Florida. The property boasted fruit trees, pastures, a grape arbor, a pond, untamed woods, and my favorite area: a tiny “secret garden,” a small open space ringed round by fat azaleas and shady trees. With a little persistence, one could squeeze into the garden to find an abandoned bird bath, the deep green of mondo grass and the variegation of sedge, and (to my absolute delight) the shocking reds and pinks of tall gerbera daisies. Before I learned to pull weeds, turn soil, or sow seeds, I knew the joy of the garden, the peace and wonder to be found there.

In “Unearthing The Secret Garden,” a book by Marta McDowell about the plants and places that inspired the author Frances Hodgson Burnett, we find that same sense of wonder. Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote the much-beloved classic “The Secret Garden,” a book I’m sure many of us know from childhood. But she didn’t write it until later in her life, after she discovered the world of gardening. McDowell shows us how Burnett was inspired by the places she called home and the various gardens she tended.



In “Unearthing The Secret Garden,” McDowell not only gives us a biography of Burnett and her writing, but she also delineates Burnett’s discovery of the joys of gardening. McDowell leads us through our own discovery of Burnett’s gardens in England, America, and the Bahamas, sharing along the way many snippets of Burnett’s correspondence, full of the evidence of her growth as a gardener and her adoration of the natural world, rich in beautiful detail about the designs of Burnett’s gardens, and the many flowers and shrubs and trees she planted. She includes dozens of photographs of the various gardens, as well as some bits of artwork from friends and fellow authors, and even some fascinating seed catalogs and flower advertisements of the day. At the end of the book, she includes two essays written by Burnett, and an alphabetized list of every plant she could confirm was once an inspiration to the author of “The Secret Garden.” At her own end, Burnett said that she would rather be a “builder up of waste places than anything else in the world.” She wrote to a friend, “Flowers don’t die. They simply go to Flower Heaven where I pray I may join them someday.” McDowell gives us a rich biography that not only deepens our understanding of Burnett and “The Secret Garden,” but allows us to explore the themes of healing, renewal, and nature’s restorative power. Perhaps you will, as I did, remember some of those first flowers that called out to you.

Article submitted by: Tracey Poist

June 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p>1</p> <p><i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i></p> <p><i>Projects Meeting 10 a.m. Extension Office</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 p.m.</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>CAMGA meeting 10 a.m. at Extension Auditorium</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i></p> <p><i>Rose Pruning & Fertilizing at First Presbyterian Church, 9 a.m.</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>“Potting in the Shadows” workshop. First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 9-12 Lunch served — fee \$25</i></p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p><i>Happy Father’s Day!!</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i></p>	<p>30</p>				