



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



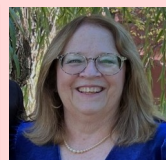
Volume 35 Issue 7 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.



July 2026



Message from Cindy
Cindy Augustine
CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT



Happy July Everyone!

Those hot and humid July temperatures are here, but at least we have had enough rain to take us out of the drought right now. I'm thankful for that!

Some upcoming events for July include:

Saturday, July 11 – Wetumpka Farmers Market table (see the Signup Genius to sign up to help)

Tuesday, July 14 – Lunch & Learn with Debbie Kelso talking about "Teas, Tinctures and Salves"

Tuesday, July 21 – CAMGA, Inc. Monthly meeting

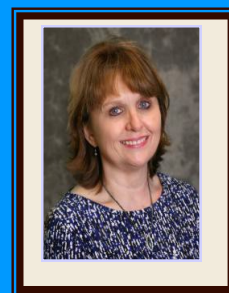
Unfortunately, due to an out-of-town work event, I will be unable to attend our July meeting, but I know Jason will have the meeting well in hand. We are needing some help in the kitchen for our August meeting/Intern graduation. Please see Robin Snyder if you can help with food preparation. Also in August, I will be appointing the Nominating Committee for this year. If you are willing to serve, please email me at cindyaugus@bellsouth.net and let me know you are willing.

I hope you are staying as cool as possible and keeping hydrated in this heat. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Lunch & Learn to support our CAMGA member Deb Kelso as she leads this session. I'm also looking forward to our Intern Graduation at the Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, August 18th. We have had a very active group of interns this year, and many have stepped up into leadership roles before even becoming official members. I look forward to celebrating them and making them official Extension Master Gardeners! We look forward to having Kerry Smith, Alabama Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator with us for this celebration. Be sure to put this date in your calendars and plan on attending! I hope everyone has a happy and safe 250th anniversary of our country!

Happy Gardening!

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*Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter*



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,

Tips to Keep your Tomato Plants Healthy

The tomato is by far the most popular plant in the vegetable garden, but it can also be the most problematic. There are so many things to watch for when growing tomatoes to insure you have a healthy crop. Following the tips below will help keep your plants healthy the further we go into the hot and humid summer months.

Start with drip irrigation or hand watering only at the surface of the soil to avoid splashing. Then prune all lower limbs off the tomatoes that are touching the soil and apply mulch.

Mulching your tomatoes keeps the plants moisture level consistent and will help prevent blossom end rot. Mulching helps control weeds where insects like to overwinter and eliminates there competition for the fertilizer you have applied. Mulch also creates a barrier between the plant leaves and the soil to help control many of the fungal problems that come from the surface of the ground.

Remove yellow and brown spotted leaves as soon as they appear and if not already, start a fungicide application to prevent “Early Blight.” No tomato grower can avoid this problem so apply the PREVENTATIVE fungicide before the tomatoes get the fungus. Products with the active ingredients: Chlorothalonil, mancozeb or copper will control Early Blight.

Scout daily for insects. Go out and inspect for armyworms, fruit worms, hornworms along with stinkbugs. (The main insect problems on tomatoes). Products that contain *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) will work when the WORMS are young or use products containing carbaryl if the worms are larger. Another insecticide that will control stinkbugs and some of the other pests you may find is bifenthrin.

Don’t wait until your plant has no more leave before you start your search for the hornworm. Scout today cause the plant may not be there tomorrow!!!! Weather challenges, garden insects, viral, fungal and bacterial problems, and disorders are all challenges we face with growing our own backyard tomatoes.

Like I said, they are the most popular vegetable/fruit to grow, but also the most problematic. If you have more questions on what may be affecting your tomato plants and what you can do to stop it.





CAMGA, Inc. Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Elmore County Cooperative Extension Office
By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Vice President, Jason Mattox, began the program portion of the meeting at 10:09 am with 25 members present. He utilized the extension's new NEAT smart board for Ellie Watson, Director, who presented a program entitled "What is Sweet Grown Alabama?" She encouraged members to utilize the nonprofit organization and to visit the sweetgrownalabama.org site to peruse the 600+ resources that are available for browsing and study. Mrs. Watson's program ended at 10:38 am, and the members took a brief lunch break.

Jason began the business portion of the meeting at 11:00 am and shared a list of upcoming events: June 17-Rose pruning/fertilization at First Presbyterian Church at 9:00 am (rescheduled for June 25, due to rain in the forecast); June 19-Public Education Workshop, "Potting in the Shadows," First Presbyterian Church at 9:00 am to Noon; July 13- Projects Meeting at 10:00 am; July 14 - Lunch & Learn at First Presbyterian Church at Noon, "Teas, Tinctures & Salves," by Deborah Kelso; July 21- CAMGA Monthly Meeting at 10:00 at Extension. Intern registration from June 1 - 30; early bird registration ends on June 15.

Secretary's Report:

President Cindy Augustine asked members if any corrections were needed for the last CAMGA business meeting, published in the May issue of the Buzz Newsletter. No changes were suggested so Cindy brought up a motion to approve the minutes. Sherri Davidson offered the first motion for approval, and Beth Deaton seconded it. There was unanimous consent.

Report from Mallory Kelley:

Mallory asked if anyone at the meeting would be attending the Cottage Garden Workshop, conducted by the Pollinator Partners of Alabama, at Petals from the Past on June 17. No one in the group planned to attend. She stated that 62 people who had registered (plus the 3 on the waiting list) would be participating in the training workshop on pollinators and the census. The cost of the workshop is \$40.00 with lunch and resource material included. CAMGA's "Potting in the Shadows" public workshop is scheduled for Friday, June 19, at the First Presbyterian Church, from 9:00 am to Noon, at a cost of \$25.00.

Mallory provided fliers for the ACES "Backyard Blueberries" workshop that will be held in Loundes County at the Southern Sportsman Hunting Lodge in Tyler, Alabama, Thursday, July 23, from 9-12:30 pm. Lunch and a take-home jar of jam are included in the registration cost of \$25.00. Learn how to care for blueberry plants in the winter and how to make blueberry jam.

Mallory stated that 16 people have registered for the fall master gardener classes, hosted by Autauga and Elmore County master gardeners. This year the classes will be held at the Autauga ACES Office in Autaugaville. Interested people have the remaining days of June to register; the early bird registration has ended. Representing Elmore County, Robin, with intern Pattie Brown as assistant, will work with Darlene Blumentritt of Autauga County in planning the lunches for the sessions from August 7 to November 13. CAMGA will be responsible for preparing 4 meals; the CAMGA Executive Board will provide 1 of those lunches. The graduation celebration for last year's interns will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on August 18 at 10:00 am. Mallory complimented Beth Deaton for encouraging and assisting the interns in completing all their required hours for certification.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Treasurer's Report:

Bob Shields was not present to give the treasurer's report due to an illness. Cindy summarized the income and expenses for him.

Beginning cash balance	\$22,018.80
Pri Share Balance	59.15
Checking Balance	11,238.06
Income-Checking	9,644.41
Expenses	(955.52)
Ending Cash Bal: Pri Share	59.15
Ending Cash Bal Checking	19,927.35
7-Mo CD	10,813.09
OVERALL:	\$30,799.59

Standing Committee Reports:

Education: Robin Snyder shared that the first 2026 public education event for CAMGA will be held Friday, June 19, from 9:00 am to Noon at the first Presbyterian Church. Jane McCarthy will be the speaker for "Potting in the Shadows." More volunteers are needed, and there are a small number of spots still available for participants. Rain is forecast for Friday so it will be held indoors – which will require additional work and planning, such as using drop cloths. Soil will be provided and the plants selected are perennials suitable for shade; there should be enough for at least three plants per pot. Jane Mobley asked if she should bring an indoor or outdoor pot. Robin stated either, but the plants, such as hostas and ferns, are more appropriate for an outdoor shade setting. Robin praised Tracey Poist and Pattie Brown for organizing a great event, plus, for preparing a wonderful lunch for the participants.

Sherri Davidson inquired about a question that she was asked during the Wetumpka Farmers' Market. The question concerned about joining the organization again if the person had been a master gardener in the past. Robin stated that the person should contact the ACES office and leave their name and number for CAMGA to contact. Rhonda Miles stated that the question had been addressed at the State Conference. The answer depends upon the number of years it has been since volunteering – if less than 3 years, yes; if ten years or more, the person must take classes again to be re-certified.

The graduation celebration for last year's interns will be held at the First Presbyterian Church at 10:00 am on August 18 after a brief CAMGA business meeting. Beth Deaton will be organizing the potluck, hosted by Tracey Poist and Pattie Brown. Both Autauga and Elmore Counties will provide food while Mallory Kelley will provide meat. Members can sign up for side dishes when the sign-up genius email is sent out in July. Members will also provide food for 4 of the lunches for next year's intern classes to begin this fall in Autaugaville. Robin also stated that mentors will be needed for those new interns.

Membership: Robin Snyder sent six directories to CAMGA's Emeritus and honorary members. Rick Beauchamp, Charolotte Hall, and Judy May expressed their appreciation for being included. Robin suggested that CAMGA send invitations to these members for future special occasions, such as the interns' graduation. Robin emphasized that they appreciate being remembered.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Network: Anida Wishniestsky was not present but had informed Dee Turberville that CAMGA emails recently were being marked as spam for those members who have AOL, Yahoo, and Gmail accounts. She advised those members who use these providers to check their Spam folder frequently and to send those CAMGA emails to their Inbox. Hopefully, that will resolve this issue. Cindy commented on the NEAT Smartboard now being utilized in the ACES classroom.

Learning Gardens: No report – Mary McCroan is out of town.

Publicity: Darlene Dixon Branyon stated the Wetumpka Farmers' Market has been a successful way to promote the master gardener programs. Many people have stopped by to pick up fliers of upcoming events as well as to ask questions about their plants or those being swapped. Others inquire about becoming a master gardener, how they can be involved. She especially enjoys meeting other vendors. Cindy Augustine added that Pattie Brown helps at the Millbrook Farmers' Market, held every Tuesday. CAMGA is responsible for hosting once a month.

Projects Committee: Rebecca Ridley is out of town, so Jason Mattox and Cindy Augustine shared her report. Rebecca will place the brick order for the Tribute Garden at the end of June. The blue folder with information and QR code are on the extension table. The only project this month is to assist Jane Mobley with the roses at the First Presbyterian Church, scheduled for June 18 at 9:00 am but postponed until June 25 due to rain in the forecast. The next Projects Committee will meet on July 13 at 10:00 am.

Plant Sale Update: Overall gross income for the annual plant sale is \$8,989.05, minus taxes, cost of annuals and other expenses.

AMGA State Advisory Council Representative Report: No updates from Kelly LaFreniere.

Old Business: None

New Business: A nominating committee for 2027 CAMG officers will be formed soon. Current members of the Executive Board are ineligible to participate in this committee. Cindy Augustine discussed the county's future safety audit that will be conducted to bring the ACES offices up to code. There is a filing cabinet in the CAMGA Office/Library that is blocking the use of the second door. The reorganization of this office will enable use of the door by the ACES staff to comply with active shooter safety protocol. Cindy also stated her desire not to discuss the purchase and cost of the proposed shed until the September meeting. Jason Mattox will conduct the next CAMGA meeting in July since Cindy Augustine has a work conflict that day. Carol Rattan also mentioned the trip she and friends are taking next May to see gardens in England. She invited CAMGA members to review the flier sent via the network in May for more information.

Adjournment: President Cindy Augustine adjourned the meeting at 11:27 am. The next CAMGA Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at the Elmore County Extension Office.

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



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



During the very hot month of June, we hedged boxwoods, planted summer annuals, weeded the Native Garden, renewal pruned wax myrtles, weeded and pine strawed the forsythia bed, weeded the back yard, and introduced the new volunteers to TORPEDO GRASS.



Group after workday
June 1st

Kathy with bed before cleaning out

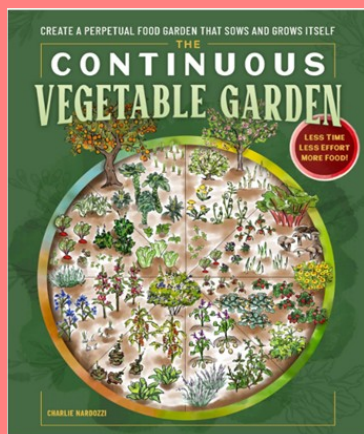


Amanda with bed after cleaning out





July 2026 Library Report By: Lisa Huff



CAMGA Library Book Review

The Continuous Vegetable Garden: Create a Perpetual Food Garden that Sows and Grows Itself

By: Charlie Nardozzi

I can hardly believe that it's been almost a year since the Master Gardener Intern Class of Fall 2025 got underway! We have learned so much working and interacting with such a dedicated and experienced group of Master Gardeners from Elmore, Autauga, and Montgomery Counties through the classes, workshops, volunteer opportunities, the learning gardens, the plant sale, and lunch and learns.

Many of you know that I love an excel spreadsheet, and an excel spreadsheet can be a beautiful thing, but I am also prone to "getting lost in the sauce of my own research." *The Continuous Vegetable Garden* by Charlie Nardozzi ties so many gardening concepts and ideas together in such an easily understood, logical and non-overwhelming manner! I found it to be a great supplement to what we have learned this past year. It helped me quit planning and start gardening.

In *The Continuous Vegetable Garden*, Charlie Nardozzi shares practical advice on how to design and manage a no-till, self-sustaining garden system that produces food continuously throughout an extended growing season. In his sub-title, Nardozzi means "perpetual" in three ways: 1) keeping the soil healthy so that the garden itself remains healthy and productive for years to come; 2) planning the garden wisely to have crops ripening for harvest throughout the growing season at the scale needed to feed your family; and, 3) cultivating perennial and self-sowing plants that continue to produce year after year with little effort.

My favorite chapter includes visual garden plans that illustrate crop rotation, succession planting, companion planting, and interplanting for full-sun, part shade and hot climate gardens. He details how to propagate favorite plants by saving seeds, taking cuttings, and overwintering. The book includes chapters of specific perennial vegetables and herbs, self-sowing vegetables, herbs and edible flowers, and introduces the concepts of a perpetual fruit patch and an edible hedge row.

Recent CAMGA Library Acquisitions

The Gardens of Colonial Williamsburg by M. Kent Brinkley and Gordon W. Chappell (Alabama and The South)

Friendly Reminder!

While the CAMGA library has an extensive collection of great books covering just about every aspect of gardening, the library has only one copy of most books. Please return books within four weeks to allow other CAMGA members a chance to enjoy them.

Review a CAMGA Library Book!

Many thanks to Tracey Poist for completing last month's superb review of *Unearthing the Secret Garden* by Marta McDowell. It was not only a great and informative review, but a fun and easy process. If you are interested in submitting a review, please don't hesitate to email (LisaHHuff@gmail.com) or text (334-207-1560) me so that we can get your review on the "books"!

Master Gardeners Volunteer

June 2026

The following Master Gardeners pruned roses at the Presbyterian church on 6/25/26 in appreciation of the church's generous sharing of their fellowship hall. Barbara Wallace, Diane Richey, Jason Mattox, Jane Mobley





Learning Garden Report

By: Mary McCroan

LEARNING GARDEN -SPRING TO SUMMER

One of projects Learning Garden volunteers spent significant time on this spring was supporting our annual Plant Sale. This year, Beth had the idea that we could save seeds and provide our shoppers with the opportunity to plant proven-in-the-garden plants from seed. We made about 230 seed packets with an expense of about 50 cents per packet and sold them for one dollar each.



Some of those seeds were from the red poppies that we had planted two years ago. They volunteered in the garden in 2025 when we harvested the seeds. And again, this year in 2026. Somehow the seeds germinated in every little crevasse. How wonderful! I have heard that they are not as cooperative when you plant them on purpose!

Beth continues to be the queen of propagation, encouraging the rest of us to dig plants to share with others. Strawberries are very cooperative in putting our dozens of daughter plants for us to pot up for our customers.



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



The Pollinator and Herb beds continue to be my favorite elements of the Learning Garden, particularly in the Spring to early Summer when they look nothing short of spectacular. Original designers of these beds were Jane Mobley and Candy Jones. Their creativity continues to pay dividends.

Meanwhile, Deb Kelso continues to design new gardens each year to showcase the plants used by various groups that have inhabited our area. Take a look at the small 4x4 raised beds outside the fence to see what is new this year request for all — please don't bring any trays or pots except for the one-gallon size. At one point we thought trays would be useful for the plant sale, but they are not. They just pile up, and somebody has to take them somewhere for recycling. Please skip the middleman, and take them yourselves rather than bringing them to the Learning Garden. Thanks!



Learning Garden Report (Continued)

By: Mary McCroan



Featured plant of the month: Shrubby St. John's Wort (*Hypericum prolificum*) is a tough, mounded deciduous shrub famous for its bright yellow, starburst-like summer blooms. Growing 1 to 4 feet tall, it is a highly adaptable, drought-tolerant, and deer-resistant plant that thrives in USDA zones 3–8 and is excellent for attracting pollinators. It has done very well in the Learning Garden this spring when it was covered with hundreds of flowers.

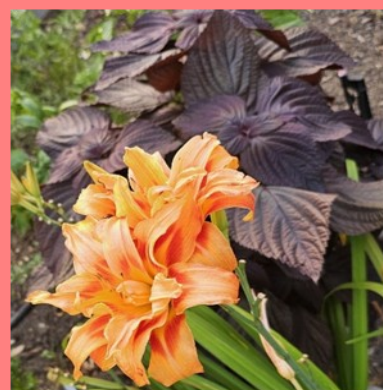


Pruning tip of the week is to plant a tree in the right place and shape it when young. The Crepe Myrtle in this picture was deliberately planted in that location to shade those two windows from the hot summer sun. However, knowing that the canopy might tend to interfere with the roof, this small tree was deliberately pruned to grow wider to the side, but not too deep toward the back.



Plant combo of the week. Purple perilla is a super contrast with the triple orange daylily. Both are eatable, but personally I'm more likely to make Perilla liquor or lemonade rather than sauté Daylily flowers!

Also growing in the garden this month are veggies (okra, cucumbers, brussels sprouts, carrots, corn and squash, tomatoes and eggplant), herbs (sage, turmeric, thyme, rosemary, and several types of basil). If you are visiting the herb garden, feel free to help out by harvesting some herbs — they like it!



Also growing in the garden this month are veggies (okra, cucumbers, brussels sprouts, carrots, corn and squash, tomatoes and eggplant), herbs (sage, turmeric, thyme, rosemary, and several types of basil). If you are visiting the herb garden, feel free to help out by harvesting some herbs — they like it!

Many thanks to June's Learning Garden volunteers: Beth, Virginia, Mary, Terry, Darlene, Amanda, Deb, Bill and my apologies to whoever I missed!



July 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	2 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i>	3	4 
5	6 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	7	8 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	9 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i>	10	11 <i>Wetumpka Farmers Market</i>
12	13 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i> <i>Project Meeting 10 a.m. at the Extension Office</i>	14 <i>Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	16 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	21 <i>CAMGA meeting 10 a.m. at Extension Auditorium</i>	22 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	23 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.</i>	28	29 <i>Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon</i>	30 <i>Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon</i>	31	