



GARDEN BUZZZZZ



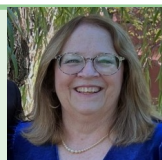
Volume 35 Issue 8 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

August 2026

Message from Cindy

Cindy Augustine

CAMGA, INC. PRESIDENT



Happy August! I hope everyone has been enjoying your summer! It is hard to believe that we are two thirds done with 2026 already. This summer for me has involved lots of travel around the state of Alabama for work and then a family trip to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. With the heat and the rain, I must admit I have fallen behind in weeding and garden care. Here's hoping for some slightly cooler temperatures as students get ready to go back to school and ride in unairconditioned buses.

Just a few reminders about upcoming events in August:

- Tuesday, August 11 – Lunch and Learn “Growing and Cooking with Herbs” with Janell Diggs, Advanced Master Gardener
- Tuesday, August 18 – CAMGA and ACMGA Intern Graduation at 10 AM at Wetumpka First Presbyterian Church

We have had very few CAMGA members sign up to attend the graduation and provide food for lunch. I hope we will have a great representation of our CAMGA members at this graduation.

We have had a very active group of CAMGA interns this year, and they deserve a lot of recognition for their achievement. I hope I can count on our CAMGA members to show up and show out for them! If you have not received the links for the registration, please check your spam or junk files.

We will begin accepting dues payments at our August meeting this year, to ensure we are able to pay our AMGA dues prior to the deadline of December 31, 2026. This year AMGA will be assessing a late fee if we do not submit our dues by the deadline. Because we change treasurers in January, it is essential that we pay our dues before this deadline as well. Dues will need to be paid no later than November 17th (our November meeting date).

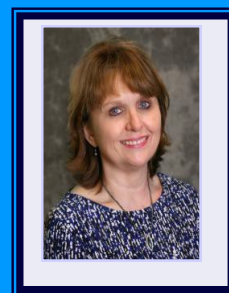
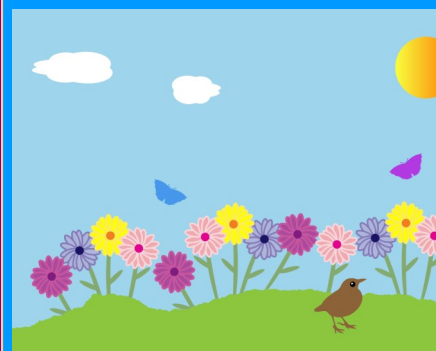
Additionally, I have been asked to remind our members that to maintain your active membership, in 2026 you must complete 25 volunteer hours, have 10 CEUs, have a signed MOU in the system, and have paid local and state dues. Please be sure to log in your volunteer hours and CEUs. If you are not technically able to enter them, please reach out to Anida Wishnietsky or myself for assistance.

I am grateful for all of our members who make CAMGA a great organization! I hope to see you all at our Intern Graduation (with a short business meeting).

*Happy Gardening,
Cindy*

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*Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzz
Newsletter*



Message from Mallory

Mallory Kelley

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

Alabama Gardener's Calendar for August

Fruits and Nuts

- Cut out old blackberry canes after fruiting and then fertilize and cultivate for replacement canes.
- Remember to order new catalogs for fruit selection.

Shrubs

- Propagate woody plants, such as hydrangeas and azaleas, by layering.
- Do not fertilize woody plants in late summer. It will stimulate new growth that might not have time to harden off before winter's first frost.

Lawns

- Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet to bermudagrass and St. Augustine grass. Skip this month for fertilizing centipede grass and zoysiagrass.
- Mow often (every 5 to 10 days) to remove just 1/3 the grass height at each mowing.
- Water lawns as needed (grayish color or curling leaf blades).
- Stop fertilizing warm-season turf types at the end of the month.

Roses

- Keep roses healthy and actively growing.
- Lightly prune hybrid teas and floribundas to prevent a scraggly appearance.
- Old-fashioned roses will experience second bloom flush, so no need to prune these types.

Annuals and Perennials

- Water as needed. Plant perennials and biennials for spring.

Bulbs

- Divide old iris plantings and add new ones.

Miscellaneous

- Keeping flowers, shrubs, trees, and lawns healthy is the major task during this month.
- Closely observe for insects and diseases.
- Water.

Vegetable Seeds

- Whole state: Continue planting beans and squash.
- Central and North: Continue planting cole crops, beets, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, Swiss chard, parsley, radishes, and turnips.



CAMGA, Inc. Minutes
Tuesday, July 21, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Elmore County Cooperative Extension Office
By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Vice President Jason Mattox began the meeting at 10:03 am with 31 members present. He introduced the program speaker, Scott Poague, owner of Poague Tree Farm and Nursery, who presented a topic on "Fertigation." Members were engaged and asked several questions after his presentation. His nursery is in Flea Hop, Alabama, and is open for wholesale and retail (seasonal).

Jason began the business portion of the meeting at 11:16 am and shared a list of upcoming events: (1) Aug 10: Projects Mtg at 10:00 am; (2) Aug 11: Lunch & Learn, "Growing and Cooking with Herbs", 12:00 pm @ First Presbyterian Church; (3) Aug 13: 2027 Intern Class begins in Autaugaville; (4) Aug 18: CAMGA Monthly Mtg, 10:00 am – 2026 Intern Graduation @ First Presbyterian Church.

Secretary's Report:

Dee stated that she needed to correct last month's minutes to delete that Tracey Poist and Pattie Brown were hosting the intern graduation luncheon. Beth Deaton offered the first motion for approval to change the minutes, and Kelly LeFreniere seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

Overall Summary of Bob's report for June 2026:

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 30,799.59
PriShare Balance	\$ 59.15
Checking Balance	\$ 19,927.35
Income-Checking	\$ 334.80
Expenses	(\$ 567.16)
Ending Cash Bal Pri Share	\$ 59.15
Ending Cash Bal Checking	\$ 19,694.99
7-MO CD	\$ 10,813.09
TOTAL	\$ 30,567.23

There were no outstanding checks. When Bob asked if there were any questions, Barbara Wallace said that she did not have a question, but would like to suggest a use for the growing CAMGA funds. She commented that at one time, CAMGA helped provide scholarships to Auburn students majoring in horticulture. Would this be something we might want to consider? Mary McCroan replied that she would prefer not to give individual scholarships to horticultural students who may not be involved in education. Since the mission of the Master Gardener Program is to educate the public, she thinks it might be better to connect with Auburn to see if there is another suitable program within the horticultural field of education for a possible donation or scholarship. She also suggested renting a bus for a field trip to visit botanical gardens of interest to CAMGA members—an opportunity for their growth in gardening knowledge.

Report from Mallory Kelley:

Mallory mentioned the upcoming July 23" Backyard Blueberries" workshop in Loundes County, with registration now closed. She shared that the 2027 Intern Class is composed of 21 interns, 4 from Elmore County, 5 from Montgomery County, 2 from Selma area, and many from the Prattville community. They will need Bud-Ees soon. She has a list of their programs and speakers if anyone is interested in picking up the flier. She will not be able to attend the 2026 Intern Graduation on August 18 due to a conflict, but she has arranged for Kerry Smith, State EMG Program Coordinator, to officiate at the luncheon. On October 16, from 9:30 to 2:30, she has planned an educational workshop on "All Things Strawberries" at Grace Episcopal Church in Pike Road. Registration fee is \$45.00 and includes a strawberry-theme lunch with a take home flat of strawberry plants. However, the QR code is currently not working.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Standing Committee Reports:

Robin began the report with gratitude and admiration for the interns' "Potting in the Shadows" workshop that was so successful - for their research, plant selection and organization. Upon graduation, Tracey Poist and Pattie Brown will become Co-Chairs for the Education Committee. Robin stated that she will need a few people to help on the afternoon of August 17 at 2:00 pm to set up tables for the next day's CAMGA meeting and graduation at First Presbyterian Church. She also asked for assistance in the kitchen on August 18 with food prep and, as in the past, for all members to assist in the clean-up. Beth Deaton will oversee the meal that day. She and Robin emphasized that if there are problems using the Sign-Up Genius to contact them via email or phone. Robin then turned the education report over to Tracey Poist who thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Potting workshop. Tracey shared the upcoming public events for this fall:

A program presentation on "Pollinators and Native Host Plants" by CCMGA master gardener, Janet Jackson, on September 18, 2026, @ First Presbyterian Church.

Jane McCarthy, Autauga County master gardener, will give a program on using succulents within pumpkins for seasonal décor on October 23, 2026.

Dr Arlie Powell from Petals from the Past will have a workshop on "Growing Citrus in Pots" in November, date to be determined. Participants will also learn how to use dehydrated citrus for holiday decorations.

Tracey stated that a few master gardeners are interested in working with ACES 4H agent, Courtney Heritage, to encourage gardening opportunities for youth. Erica Godby is the Children's Programming liaison within the Education Committee. One of the first lessons she is coordinating with Courtney is to construct Toad Motels and share why they are important in the garden. Courtney has a list of dates and suggested topics for lessons with the 4-H Home Schoolers. There will be a Sign-Up Genius to select dates/topics soon. The classes will be an hour long and will consist of students 9-13+ years, with about 15 to 20 per session. Katrina Mitchell thinks that the background check completed for the master gardener program will be sufficient. However, the background check must be repeated every three years when working with children. The cost, \$40.00, for registering may be reimbursed by the 4H organization. Tracey sent out an email on July 20 with the Volunteer Application as an attachment. (Three references are not needed.) Courtney can provide a link to begin the background check process.

Beth commented that Lowes, Green Thumb and other nurseries may be able to donate damaged pots for the toad houses. Erika said that she can use broken clay pots, chipped ceramic pots, and even plastic pots. For a future make and take, Tracey asked members to collect any vintage, delicate teacups with saucers, for "Growing a Tea Garden" workshop. She needs at least 35 but would like to have 70. Other hints of workshops to come include: a Moon Garden, Nature Photography, and for children, "Creeping Crawlers in the Garden."

Membership:

Robin provided cards for members to sign for Judy May who has a health issue, and for J. Daniels who is not doing well. She encouraged members to take lunch to any of the CAMGA emeritus members who may not be able to attend the graduation luncheon. Question asked of Robin, how many members do we currently have? 76 members.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

Learning Garden:

Mary thanked Katrina for providing an excellent brunch for the Learning Garden volunteers. She said that they had a good discussion on a variety of topics for consideration in the garden. She shared these notes:

- Consider ways to get involved with Junior Master Gardeners or 4H so we can help inspire tomorrow's gardeners. We wouldn't be leading any new program but looking for ways to participate in existing programs; current MG background checks may be sufficient.
- Look at requirements to be certified as a "Monarch Way Station." For us, it would probably just take planting some Milkweed. Preferably natives to our area (Whorled Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Common Milkweed, etc.). We need a minimum of 10 milkweed plants, two or more species. Nectar plants—we have a few of those, need shelter (I think that is covered). Plus, a management plan to maintain the area (provide water, avoid pesticides, etc.).
- We discussed other certification programs. There are Pollinator Certification Programs for individuals to become certified. ACES has a course.
- We talked about bug control, such as having a mosquito "Bucket of Doom"—a device to attract mosquitoes to a breeding environment with mosquito dunks that will kill the larvae. We would need some signage so visitors would know what it was for.
- We discussed researching and adding Japanese Beetle Traps.
- Consider Installing a Bat house and/or a Martin house.
- Consider growing some plants that we know are easy to propagate and that our customers like, such as new colors of angel trumpet.
- And maybe grow native grasses (pink muhly and purple love grass) both to propagate and to include in our gardens.
- As we think about new plants, continue to try and keep the landscape as low maintenance as possible.
- Wetumpka is installing a Butterfly Garden—we should take a look.
- The group also discussed issues not directly related to the Learning Garden that ranged from Wetumpka's mosquito control methods, the effectiveness of citronella plants for mosquito control, and the potential for solar farms to damage the soil.

Mary invited other members to join the learning garden as volunteers and to feel free to share ideas with her that they may have for the beds. She reminded members that the learning garden is for everyone.

Network:

Anida stated that she is currently having issues with sharing information on the network with those members who have Gmail accounts. Sometimes the messages go through OK; other times they are recorded as Spam, but frequently, they are rejected. She would like those members who have Gmail accounts to provide another email address, if they have one, so that she can use that address as well, to keep them informed of CAMGA activities, etc.

Publicity:

Darlene shared that \$61.00 in cash was donated to CAMGA for plants during the last Wetumpka Farmers' Market on July 11. Darlene enjoys meeting and supporting other local vendors, plus, meeting new people who have moved into the area and want to learn about Alabama's native plants. Volunteers work in 2 shifts during the 9-1:00 event; they share Helpline info and the upcoming workshops offered by the CAMGA. There will be no Saturday Farmers' Market in August; the next one will be on Saturday, September 12, 2026.

Projects:

Rebecca was out of town, but Jason shared that she will be having a trial run for the "Make and Take," probably in September, for members, while the Senior Citizen "Make and Take" will occur in October. The theme will be pumpkins. Sherri Davidson shared about visiting the daylily collections at Ken Rogers' home in Auburn. She stated that there will be a Japanese maple grafting class at Ken Rogers' home in Auburn on August 9 at 1:00 pm, no cost. Sign-up Genius will be coming soon.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary, CAMGA, Inc.

State Advisory Council Representative Report:

Kelly shared info on the Blount County Fall conference on October 1, 2026, and the AMGA Fall Seminar at the University of Auburn on October 8,9, 2026. She also shared a brochure for the 2027 Alabama Master Gardeners Association Conference and Business Meeting to be held in Homewood, AL, April 7-9, 2026, hosted by Jefferson County Master Gardeners. The theme of the conference is "Forging A Garden Oasis." She invited board members to attend the upcoming quarterly meeting of the State Advisory Council on August 4, 2026, at Petals from the Past. Rhonda encouraged members to attend the quarterly meetings and the state conference since gardeners come from all over the state, and it would be wonderful to know that CAMGA is involved and represented.

Old Business: none

New Business:

A note from Cindy Augustine- In August, we will be appointing a nominating committee. If you are willing to serve on this important committee, please let me know before August 10th. Cell: 205-746-4528, Email: cindyaugus@bellsouth.net

The Gardens of Wetumpka Assisted Living Center needs a speaker for Friday, August 28 at 2:00 pm. The topic should be related to gardening, a session to be from 30 to 60 minutes. There are two master gardeners in residence there currently, Bob Brown and Sally L'Abbe. Reach out to Cindy if you would like to represent CAMGA at this community speaking opportunity.

Intern Class Lunches for 2027 Class-The Executive Board will provide lunch at 11:30 am on August 20 in Autaugaville; Learning Garden volunteers will provide salads on September 3 at ACES Extension; All CAMGA members will be asked to sign up to provide food for lunch on September 17.

Announcements:

Tracey Poist asked members to sign up to provide food for upcoming Lunch& Learn programs as well as for future CAMGA business meetings. Katrina Mitchell asked members to complete a Senior Planet Interest Survey for senior citizens on tech topics they might be interested in learning more about, such as AI, phone photography, etc. Katrina also encouraged members to participate in "Walk Across Alabama," a challenge program to encourage walking and exercising by Alabama A&M, Champion, and ACES/ Auburn University. Several members brought bundles of daylily stems for Maria Pacheco at Lanark; she has enough for this year but will keep extra bundles to use next year. Jason will deliver them today. Carol Rattan shared that the gardens trip planned for England in May 2027 has 15 registered so far, with 6 from our group, but the trip organizers would like to have at least 30 to participate. Robin has revamped the Bud-ee program for the coming intern classes. She stated that there will be reduced hours for mentoring and clarified which programs would welcome Bud-ees to attend. There will not be a need for Bud-ees to attend the programs that involve field trips. She said that this change in the program sessions would allow more time for interaction among the interns, so they have an opportunity to get to know one another.

Adjournment:

Vice President Jason Matttox adjourned the meeting at 12:14 pm. The next CAMGA meeting will be Tuesday, August 18, the 2026 Intern Graduation Luncheon, at First Presbyterian Church.

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



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



In July we spent a full morning trimming, pruning, and weeding in the Hill House back yard, creating three truckloads of debris. Four mornings were spent in the back yard and Secret Garden: trimming, weeding, pulling vines, and applying pine straw. We cleaned up the Mansion's Herb Garden, front and side lawn beds, and the Finley House front beds.



Group after workday July 13, 2026



Kathy trimming in Herb Garden



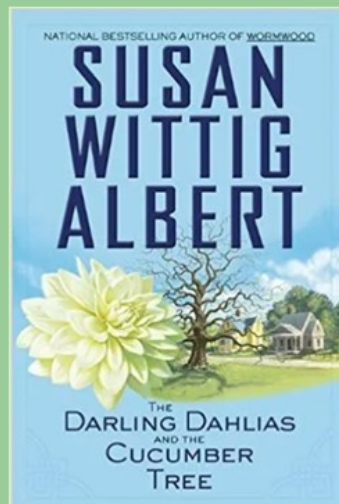
Alicia weeding in Herb Garden



Pattie, Casey, and Sue finishing up in Herb Garden



August 2026 Library Report By: Lisa Huff



The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree

By: Susan Wittig Albert

The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree is the first book in a historical mystery series, set in Depression-era Darling, Alabama, “a fictional town located in a real place...about 70 miles north of Mobile, west of Monroeville, and east of the Alabama River”. (Which real town do you think Darling is based on?)

The Darling Dahlias, the local garden club, puts aside their current project, the restoration of their recently inherited club house and gardens to find a beautiful young woman who has gone missing, exonerate a sister Dahlia accused of embezzling from the local bank, and scare off the Cartwright ghost haunting their cucumber tree.

Susan Wittig Albert “brings a small Southern town to life and vividly captures an era and culture—the Depression, segregation, class differences, the role of women in the South—with authentic period details. Her book fairly sizzles with the strength of the women of Darling.” --Library Journal Starred Review

In 1930, Darling is a town in transition. Not everyone has an automobile, indoor plumbing, or electricity. Most don't have telephones, and those who do share party lines. It's the Great Depression, but Darling is resilient. Most families already rely heavily on growing their own food, sewing their own clothes and making do with what they have.

Albert is known for her outstanding historical research and ability to use this information in little details that give a fullness to the time, the place, and the characters of each of her books. We know each Dahlia's favorite recipe to bring to the monthly garden club meeting, their favorite plants, their back story, their strength of character, and who's related to whom. The book also includes 12 tips for stretching what you have to get through tough times and favorite recipes of Darling residents. She provides more recipes, a map of the town, and other resources on her website (www.susanalbert.com).

Albert has recently published a slow read of *The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree* on her Substack page: Thyme, Place and Story. She gives the author's perspective on the research and writing of the book a few chapters at a time, including songs, radio shows, and films that the Dahlias might have seen or heard in the 1930s, as well as some resources that she used in her research. If you are a member of the Wetumpka Library, you can listen to *The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree*, like the Dahlias might have on the radio. Audio copies are available through Camellia Net, their digital library accessed through Libby App.

Request a Book!

Is there a book you'd like to see added to the CAMGA library? Please bring them to the next CAMGA meeting, or email (LisaHHuff@gmail.com) or text (334-207-1560) me the information so we can add it to the order list!

August 2026
Library Report (Continued)
By: Lisa Huff

Recent CAMGA Library Acquisitions: Many thanks for two beautiful books recently donated to the CAMGA library!

The Gardens of Colonial Williamsburg by M. Kent Brinkley and Gordon W. Chappell (Alabama and The South), donated by Dee Turberville and Jane McCarthy

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett and Graham Rust (Ill.) (Theory and Miscellaneous), donated by Tracey Poist

The Library Book Return Box has moved! The Help Desk/Library room was rearranged slightly to be able to open the door to Katie's area in the front lobby. The library return box is now on the top shelf to the right of the help desk.



August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	4	5 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	6 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon	7	8
9	10 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m. Projects Meeting at Extension Office 10 am	11 Lunch & Learn First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 p.m.	12 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	13 MG Intern Class begins in Autauga County Learning Gardens at the Extension Office	14	15
16	17 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	18 2026 Master Gardener Intern Class Graduation & CAMGA Meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Wetumpka 10 a.m.	19 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	20 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon	21	22
23	24 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	25	26 Lanark Gardens Workday 8-12 noon	27 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon	28	29
30	31 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.					