



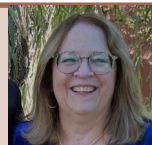
GARDEN BUZZZZZ



Volume 35 Issue 10 Central Alabama Master Gardener Association, Inc.

October 2026

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



Happy Fall Y'all! It has been so nice to have some slightly cooler temperatures this week! I hope everyone has been enjoying it!

I have been speaking with our nominating committee in the last couple of days, and we have a large issue in our organization that I would like to address. Our nominating committee has called 20+ people within the organization who regularly attend meetings, and we have yet to find anyone who is willing to lead our organization for 2027 in either the President position or the Vice-President position.

This is very disheartening to me that in a volunteer organization like ours we are unable to fill these positions. Jason Mattox has been Vice-President for three years and would like to take some time to not have that responsibility. I have been president for two years and have volunteered to take on the treasurer's role, if elected, for the 2027 year. I ask everyone to consider taking on these responsibilities for our organization. It's hard to have a business meeting if there is no president or vice-president to lead those meetings. That means no CAMGA activities can be completed because there will not be the appropriate people in place to approve anything or sign checks. If you would consider fulfilling one of these two roles, please contact Sherri Davidson or Cathy Whighan and let them know. We are supposed to elect officers at our next meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, October 13 - "Fall Blooming Roses - Planting and Care" with Jason Powell from Petals from the Past will be our next Lunch and Learn topic. Jason will have roses available for sale after the program.

Tuesday, October 20 - CAMGA Monthly meeting and Fall Plant Swap at 10 AM at the Elmore County Extension Center. Bring some plants to swap with fellow CAMGA members.

We have two Community Education workshops upcoming in October and November, but both are sold out with a waitlist. If you sign up for these and find you cannot make it, please let us know so we can remove you and allow someone from the waiting list to join. Thanks!

Also, don't forget to pay your dues before the November meeting deadline! I hope to see you at our meeting on the 20th!

**Happy Gardening!
Cindy**

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**Carol Pugh, Editor
Garden Buzzzzz
Newsletter**



Message from Mallory
Mallory Kelley
Regional Extension Agent — Home Grounds,
Gardens, & Home Pests

October Garden Calendar

Fruits and Nuts

- Planting season for strawberries starts in south Alabama.
- Clean up orchard area.
Remove broken limbs, old fruit, and debris from orchard floor.

Shrubs

- Plant new trees and shrubs in the landscape
- Water when needed.
- Note varieties of camellias and other landscape plants in bloom.
Start mulching all shrubs that do not have a mulch.

Lawns

- Perform a soil test to determine if limestone is recommended and apply anytime this fall.
- If winter or spring weeds were a concern this year, apply pre-emergent herbicides.
- Fertilize fescue lawns at 1 pound slow-release nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
As fall rain returns, monitor for fungal disease in fescue.

Roses

- Continue insect and disease control practices.
- New rose catalogs will be coming in.
Study closely; add some new varieties to your list.

Annuals and Perennials

- Visit flower shows and gardens.
- List desirable varieties of mums
- Clean up flower beds immediately after first killing frost. Plant half-hardy annuals, such as snapdragons.

Bulbs

- Plant tulip, hyacinth, daffodil, crocus, Dutch iris, anemone, and ranunculus.
Watch planting depth. Dig caladiums; clean and store in a warm place.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Elmore County Extension Office



Vice President Jason Mattox began the meeting at 10:05 with 29 members present. He introduced the program speaker, Charles Harwell, owner of the Green Thumb Nursery. Mr. Harwell shared helpful tidbits of information that he has learned over many years of experience for "Being Fall Ready." Members enjoyed his advice and asked several questions about fertilization and fungicide use in the fall and controlling headache weeds, such as gripe weed along with torpedo and goose grasses.

The presentation ended at 11:46 am and members enjoyed a brief lunch break. Jason began the business portion of the meeting by discussing the upcoming events:

- (1) Sept. 17 - CAMGA provides intern lunch in Autaugaville
- (2) Sept 18 – Backyard Buzz Workshop
- (3) Wetumpka's Front Porch Fall Festival (CAMGA participation canceled)
- (4) Oct. 2 - *Make & Take* at Extension
- (5) Oct. 9 – Senior Project at Wetumpka Senior Center
- (6) Projects Meeting @ 10:00 am, at Restoration Coffee
- (7) Oct. 13-Lunch & Learn," Fall Blooming Roses," First Presbyterian
- (8) Oct. 14 - 4-H Composting Class
- (9) Oct. 20 – CAMGA Monthly Meeting (Elect Officers & Plant Swap) at Extension and
- (10) Oct. 23 - A Season for Succulents Workshop.

Secretary's Report:

Cindy asked if there were any needed corrections for the minutes published in July and in August within the Garden Buzz Newsletters. None were suggested so Cindy took a motion to accept and approve the minutes as reported. Kelly LaFreniere made the first motion, and Tracey Poist seconded it. There was unanimous consent.

Report from Mallory Kelley:

Mallory was pleased that three of the interns attended today's meeting. Mallory shared information on the Autauga County Master Gardener workshop, "Growing Garden Herbs & Cooking with Herbs" to be held in Autaugaville at their extension, on September 23, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, with an inspired herb lunch to be served, cost of \$35.00 to register. Stacey Little with Southern Bite as well as Beth Melling from the Smith-Byrd Tea House and master gardeners Linda Jarzyniecki and Sondra Henley will teach participants how to grow and use their garden herbs for delicious recipes. Mallory mentioned savory herbal scones and lavender cookies will be served. A new herbal cookbook is in the making. Mallory stated the intern class is going well, and they are in their 6th week. Field trips and tours will begin in October. Amanda Borden will present "Growing Fall Vegetables" for the next Program on September 17, and CAMGA will provide the lunch.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob Shield covered both the July and August treasury reports. Summary for the August report:

Beginning Cash Balance \$29,688.47
 Pri Share Balance \$59.15
 Checking Balance \$18,816.21
 Income-Checking \$767.09
 Expenses \$(313.68)
 Ending Cash Bal Pri Share \$59.17

Ending Cash Bal Checking \$19,269.62

7-MO CD \$10,813.09

Total Overall \$30,141.88

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Comments and questions covered: Rhonda asked Cindy if the membership dues still have a QR code for automatic renewals, and Cindy stated that this code had been eliminated. Beth noted that the cash donation jar is stored in the shed. Cindy explained to the members that she and Rebecca are in the process of transitioning from Square to Zeffy software for sign-ups and activity workshop registrations. Zeffy is designed for non-profits. It is more affordable and user-friendly, easier to navigate than Square. Square charges a substantial fee for every transaction while Zeffy does not, which will save CAMGA money. Zeffy relies on donations instead. There are no ads like Sign-Up Genius; it reports on activity once a week, every Monday, and transfers money monthly. Cindy stated that they are no longer bombarded by daily updates. Cindy also shared that Zeffy sends out a list of registrants as well as email reminders for participants a few days prior to the event. There is an option to print a ticket receipt. Square will continue to be used for the membership dues in 2026, but that will change to Zeffy in 2027.

Education:

Pattie Brown shared that two public workshops will end the events for 2026: (1) A “Season for Succulents” to occur on October 23rd, 10:00 am to Noon, at the First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka, with Jane McCarthy as presenter, cost \$20.00. Of the 35 slots available, 5 slots remain open for those who might like to register. (2) November 12, Dr Arlie Powel and son, Jason Powel, from Petals from the Past will conduct a workshop on “A Potful of Sunshine; Growing Citrus,” a citrus *Make and Take*, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church, citrus plants will be available for purchase, cost \$25.00. The upcoming 4-H events for homeschoolers in 2026 include: (1) October 14-Composting by Kelly LaFreniere and Beth Deaton (2) November 11-Propagation by Sherri Davidson. For the 4-H meeting in January 2027, Pattie asked members to share any broken pots they may have with Erica --to use with the students to create toad houses. Drop off the pots at the Extension office for pickup by the Education committee. Additional volunteers are always welcome to work with the CAMGA home school classes. Cindy reminded members that ACES and Auburn University require their online session when working with children. It only takes about 30 minutes to complete the course. Anida will place the link to access the course on the CAMGA website.

Learning Gardens:

At a cost of \$700.00, Mary McCroan shared that there are ten yards of super soil available now for propagation, located past the shed, to the left, under a black cover. She also stated that a pallet of peat moss bales was donated to use for the garden’s beds and for members who are propagating plants for the spring sale. She would like members to notify her if a full bale is taken. Otherwise, members can get a bucketful of super soil and lighten it with half peat moss from one of the open bales. Cindy emphasized that the soil and peat moss bales are not for personal use in members’ gardens but for use in the propagation of plants. Thanks to Maria Pacheco, who has taken another job, Mary and Beth picked up several plants from the Lanark collection to place in the propagation area of the learning gardens for TLC over the winter.

Membership:

As chairperson for Membership Care, Cheryl Fitzgerald sent a card to Darlene Dixon Branyon after her recent foot surgery. Robin stated that members do not need to complete another membership form this year unless their information has changed. The form is available on the CAMGA website. She will not give a receipt unless the membership dues are paid in cash. New interns do not need to pay dues for 2027; however, the recent interns who graduated in August do need to pay the 2027 dues.

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

Network:

Anida Wishnietsky had no news to report except the continuing random nature of sending messages to Gmail accounts. Cindy suggested that members check their Spam folders as well as their filters in settings; filters can limit the number of people in a group. Cindy said that she would investigate software from non-profit vendors (CAMGA is now a non-profit) that are much more affordable than "GoDaddy." One program she is familiar with is "Constant Contact."

Projects:

Rebecca Ridley invited members to participate in the *Make and Take* workshop on October 2, 10:00-11:00 am, at the Extension classroom. The cost is \$15.00 and includes decoupage supplies and a small white pumpkin. Twenty slots will be available. The *Make and Take* prepares the members to work with the Senior Project *Make and Take* at the Wetumpka Senior Center on October 9. Five volunteers are needed; twenty slots will be available. More info will follow soon. Rebecca will give Bob the check today to order the bricks that have been requested. She has found another brick company in Auburn that will not charge \$100.00 for shipping. This company will also work with the smaller bricks AMGA currently uses and will engrave them as well. Brick prices may fluctuate in the future. When new bricks are added, the old bricks will be rotated out and used in the learning garden beds. The blue folder with brick order forms and procedures will be on a shelf in the CAMGA office. Robin asked Rebecca to inform the new interns about the location and background for the creation of the Tribute Garden.

State Advisory Council Representative Report:

Kelly LeFreniere reported that the AMGA Fall Seminar will occur on October 8th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm at the Auburn University Raptor Center. She reported that AMGA would like the master gardener organizations to participate, as groups, in funding the new endowment fund, "A Legacy That Blooms." Also, a donation of \$20.00 from individuals welcomes members into the Branch and Bloom Society, a community of supporters dedicated to helping people discover the joys of gardening. The purpose of the endowment is to raise funds for the state Master Gardener Program – to fund grants and to assist in hiring additional regional extension agents. Kelly also shared a flier on the AMGA state master gardener volunteer store – link: aub.ie.EMGVolProgramStore. Once again, she stressed how important it is for members to input their hours.

Specialty Committee Report:

Cathy Whigham, Sherri Davidson, and Carol Richey have been diligent members of the nominating committee. Nominees for secretary and treasurer have been selected. President and Vice-President offices are still open and needed for the leadership of CAMGA. Cindy stated that she works part-time and is involved with several church activities, but she still has managed to be president of the organization. Even though she is busy, she does not fret over "drama" and that the leadership role is manageable and will not "ruin" someone's life. The President does not have to attend every activity or workshop, plus they do not need to micro-manage the committee chairpersons' duties. She and Jason have worked together in presenting the slide presentations, and she will be happy to pass along a flash drive to guide the next leaders. Jason commented that finding program speakers can be challenging at times, but Mallory and members have helped by suggesting programs and speakers they have enjoyed in the past. He tries not to use those experts within the group unless there is a last-minute change. He stated that the meetings for January, with volunteer opportunities, August, with graduation of interns, and the December Christmas program take care of themselves. Mary McCroan encouraged members to think about being Vice-President since she has been in that role in the past - that it can be fun finding programming, especially when fellow gardeners are enthusiastic about helping to locate speakers. Cindy would like to have a slate of officers to present for members' consideration to be included in the October CAMGA Buzz Newsletter. Interested members should contact Cathy Whigham and her committee.

Old Business: none

CAMGA, Inc. Minutes (Continued)

By: Dee Turberville, Secretary

New Business:

Rebecca and Jason presented an overview of the proposed storage building project. There has been discussion over the past two or three years about purchasing an additional building for storage --to eliminate the overcrowded greenhouse and tool shed. Cindy reassured the members that the Treasury is in good shape with few expenses in the budget to be incurred for the remaining months of the year.

Estimated cost of the building:

Storage building \$5000

Shelving \$700

Dehumidifier \$100

Hand Trucks \$150

Table \$100

Storage Bins \$250

Incidentals \$50

TOTAL \$6350

Cindy asked the members if they had questions. Bonnie McCormick commented about the humidifier, who will empty it? Jason answered that it would have a filter. If the building is located by the barn, there will be electricity available with circuit breakers nearby. The two possible locations discussed – either within the gates of the learning gardens, a tight squeeze, near the greenhouse, or across from the entrance to the Extension office and parking area outside the barn. Jason prefers the barn location. Mary McCroan has placed a work order for the county to remove the fence and possibly the cross ties by the barn; Katrina will not push the staff to do this task until it is cooler. The master gardeners can then remove the vines and overgrown vegetation. A question was asked about who will have access to the keys; answer - the chairpersons of the Projects and Education committees. Keys are kept in the ACES office; one key may be kept in the CAMGA cabinet in the classroom. Rebecca said a code key box could be added later if needed. Cheryl Fitzgerald inquired about anchoring and installing the building. Jason stated that this process will be part of the installation. There will be two piers with concrete blocks to lift the building above any possible drainage issues. Terry Chambliss is visiting various companies with storage buildings. So far, Leisure Isle on Hwy 231 has given her the best price. Rhonda Miles also suggested checking out Thrifty Portables, a company she has used in the past. Rebecca stated that the storage building should be framed in wood with metal to match the barn. One member wondered how long it would be before CAMGA would have the building? Rebecca anticipated that the learning gardens should have the building in the early spring. Rhonda Miles mentioned that in the future, not for this project, CAMGA might like to apply for some of the annual AMGA grant money awarded to state master gardener organizations. Since approved by the Executive Board committee, no first motion for acquiring the building was needed. Cindy opened the floor for the second motion of approval to authorize purchase of the storage building. Kelly LaFreniere made the second motion to proceed, and there was unanimous consent from the members.

Cindy Augustine adjourned the meeting at 12:06 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 20th, at 10:00 am at the Elmore County Extension, not at Lanark, for the member plant swap. Members were encouraged to bring a couple of plants.

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



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



Over the five Mondays in September we got a lot of work accomplished:

- Watered the Herb Garden and Serenity Garden (necessary due to the major water line break);
- Weeded, trimmed, and watered the Herb Garden, the Secret Garden, the front porch Lion pots, the Hill House front and back yard, and the Finley House fence bed;
- Organized the Master Gardener Christmas decorations;
- Welcomed two new ACMGA intern volunteers, David Gordon and Jenny Lougee.



Education Committee Report

By: Patti Brown and Tracey Poist

On September 9th, the CAMGA Education Committee kicked off its new partnership with the Elmore County 4-H Homeschool Club. Our first topic was “Seed Starting,” and recent graduate Erika Godby did an excellent job leading the kids through the basics of planting their own seeds.

We would like to thank Alicia Brown, Cheryl Fitzgerald, and Carol Richey for donating their time and effort to the kids.

The next program with 4-H is October 14. Beth Deaton and Kelly Lafreniere will lead a program on composting. If you are interested in being a helper for this program or any future children’s programming, please reach out to us.



On September 18th, we hosted “Backyard Buzz” at the Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka.



Extension Master Gardener Janice Jackson taught attendees about some of our native pollinators and the habitat they need to thrive. Participants assembled and decorated their own pollinator cottages to take home, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Special thanks to Robin Snyder, Cheryl Fitzgerald, Jenn Cruise, Carol Richey, Katherine Reed, Linda Jennings, Debbie Satterfield, Suzanne Smith, Wendy Aldridge, Stephanie Starr, and Teri Magdon.

Our next public event will be held on October 23rd at the Presbyterian Church in Wetumpka from 10 a.m. to noon. Extension Master Gardener Jane McCarthy will lead a program on succulents, followed by an opportunity to design a living centerpiece using pumpkins, succulents, and seasonal elements.

Hearty snacks will be served. If you are interested in helping, please reach out. Helpers eat for free and get the make-and-take! And finally, a note to encourage you to join us on the Education Committee! We don’t have in-person meetings, but we do have a lot of fun. Talk to either of us for more information. Plant a little knowledge, grow a lot of joy!

Plant a little knowledge, grow a lot of joy!
- Pattie Brown and Tracey Poist



Education Committee Report (Continued)

By: Patti Brown and Tracey Poist

Activities held in September:





Master Gardener Intern Class Graduation August 18, 2026

By: Robin Snyder

On August 18th, twenty-one interns graduated with what must be a record number of volunteer hours earned over the last year. If you missed this event please extend your congratulations to each of them as you are able.

Kerry Smith spoke at the ceremony and expressed her pride in the above average accomplishments of this class and the support that was extended to them by the membership. This was an exceptional group of folks and we know that they will continue to be an asset to their various MG associations. CAMGA will be honored to add 10 new members to our roster and you can be assured that we will make good use of these extraordinary new graduates. As you can see in the photo CAMGA will be lowering our average member age by several years!! Hallelujah!!

Congratulations Master Gardeners!!





October 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon MG Intern Class 10-12 noon	2 Make & Take Program at Elmore Co. Extension Of- fice	3
4	5 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	6	7	8 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon MG Intern Class 10-12 noon	9 Senior Project at Wetumpka Sr. Center	10
11	12 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m. Projects Meeting 10 a.m. at Restoration Coffee House, Wetumpka	13 Lunch & Learn First Presbyte- rian Church, Wetumpka 12-1 p.m.	14 4-H Composting Class, Elmore Co. Ext. Office 10-11 a.m.	15 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon MG Intern Class 10-12 noon,	16	17
18	19 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	20 CAMGA Monthly Meet- ing & Plant Swap at the Extension Of-	21	22 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon MG Intern Class 10-12 noon,	23 A Season for Succulents Workshop, 10 a.m.— First Presbyterian Church	24
25	26 Mansion Gardens Workday 8-11 a.m.	27	28	29 Learning Gardens at the Extension Office 8—12 noon MG Intern Class 10-12 noon,	30	31