

July 2008 CAMGA Calendar
By Sue Robertson

Tuesday, July 8 – Landscaping workday at the Extension Office – 8:30 to noon. There is work to do inside and outside but event is canceled if rains. (contact Linda Griebel if you have questions).

Friday, July 11 – Project Committee Meeting – Meeting begins at 9:00 am. Meeting will be at the Extension Office Conference Room and will work on the fall seminar for the public. (Call Jane Mobley for additional information).

Tuesday, July 15 – Monthly CAMGA Meeting - We will be receiving training on how to install drip irrigation. Dr. Fain and other extension agents will have installed drip irrigation in our new landscaping at the Extension Office. They will use this installation as the basis for our instruction. MEETING WILL BE FROM 9:00 AM TO NOON.

Friday, July 18 – Food Preservation Workshop in Opelika – Refer to separate article in this newsletter.

Monday, July 21 - Landscaping workday at the Extension Office - 8:30 to noon. There is work to do inside and outside but event is canceled if rains. (contact Linda Griebel if you have questions).

Thursday, July 24 – Blueberry workshop in Autugaville. Refer to separate article in this newsletter.

Mark Your Calendar for August

Thursday, August 7 – Road Trip to Southern Nurserymen Association Show in Atlanta – Refer to separate article in this newsletter

Tuesday and Wednesday – August 12 & 13 – Master Gardener Workshops in Auburn- Refer to email sent to you for brochure attachment. If you do not use email contact the Extension Center to have one mailed to your..

Trip to the Southern Nursery Association Show in Atlanta
By Sue Robertson

Although billed as only open to the trade, Rick who received the notice assures us that we will be welcome. The following is an excerpt from their web page.

Join us in Atlanta for our Annual SNA Green Industry Nursery and Landscape Tradeshow at the Georgia World Congress Center. With 800 exhibit booths of plants and hard goods and 8,000 attendees expected to attend this show remains the largest tradeshow in the Southeast in the largest green industry market in the southeast. The traditional tradeshow with traditional floor plan will be held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 7, 8, & 9, 2008, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Downtown Atlanta. Make plans now to attend the SNA Tradeshow in August. Go to www.sna.org for more information and to register on line.

The cost to attend is \$30.00 per person. Joel Grasse called three bus lines in the phone book.

Alabama Buses Unlimited Inc	22 people	\$1225/22 = \$55.68
Prattville	47 people	\$1400/47 = \$29.79
	55 people	\$1575/55 = \$28.64
Capital Trailways	46 people	\$1550/46 = \$33.70
	56 people	\$1675/56 = \$29.92
Southern Coaches	55 people	\$2000/55 = \$36.37

There would be an additional cost of \$5.00 for cokes, water and snacks. Therefore if we could get 55 to 56 people the cost would be around \$35 transportation plus \$30 for tickets or \$65.00 per person. Lunch is on your own. Since the best deal is with the maximum number of people. The trip is open to CAMGA members, interns, friends and family. Volunteer hours are travel time and time spent at the Tradeshow will be CEUs since we should be learning something.

If anyone knows anything positive or negative about these companies, please let Joel Grasse or me know. If you know of a good driver with these bus companies, please let me or Joel know. If you know of another bus company that we should consider please let Joel or me know.

We need to commit by the July meeting.

GROWING BACKYARD BLUEBERRIES – 2008 WORKSHOPS

Blueberries are great backyard fruit and ornamental plants. In addition to their healthy berries they have attractive flowers and brilliant red fall foliage. Since the rabbiteye blueberry is native to the Southeastern United States it is an easy plant to grow. With a little care these plants can produce 12 to 25 pounds of berries per plant. They have few diseases and insect pests, need little fertilizer and are one of the easiest fruits to grow organically.

To learn more about Growing Blueberries attend one of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Blueberry Workshops. Extension Agents and State Specialists will provide information on planting blueberries, pruning, variety selection, health benefits, use in fresh recipes and preservation methods.

There are five workshops in July:

Tuesday, July 8, Randolph County – Wedowee (256) 357-2841

Thursday, July 10, Chilton County – Clanton (205) 280-6268

Thursday, July 17, Etowah County – Gadsden (256) 547-7936

Tuesday, July 22, Lee County - Opelika (334) 749-3353

Thursday, July 24, Autauga – Autaugaville (334) 361-7273

Workshops begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. Workshop participants will receive blueberry publications, a blueberry recipe book, a T-shirt and lunch. The cost of the workshop is \$10.00. To register and for directions call the Extension Office number for the workshop you plan to attend. For more information contact Regional Extension Agent Stan Roark (256) 357-2841.

Master Gardener Program

Tuesday August 12

- 1:00 – 2:00 Registration begins at the Auburn Hotel and Conference Center
- 2:00 – 3:00 **Understanding Advanced Master Gardener - and other MG updates**
The plans are finally in place for the for Advanced Master Gardener certificates. So how do you get started? How long will it take? What commitments are involved? Questions abound so we'll start this Gardening School by showing you how these August 12-13 CEU's can be part of an Advanced Certificate.
Kerry Smith
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 4:00 **The Peony National Treasure of the Orient**
Research at Auburn University Horticulture over the past 10 years on this incredible flower has yielded the best of the best for Alabama landscapes.
Dr. Ken Tilt

Wednesday August 13

- 8:30 – 9:15 **Delicious Backyard Fruits**
Small fruits and fruit trees including strawberry, blueberry, blackberry, fig, muscadine grape, persimmon, and cydonia will be highlighted for their suitability as backyard crops. General cultural practices and potential opportunities for value-added products will be presented.
Dr. Elina Coneva
- 9:15 – 10:00 **Alabama Yards and Neighborhoods Program**

A comprehensive manual is being developed that will address best management practices for home landscapes. An emphasis on natural resource conservation provides proper techniques for Alabama-Friendly landscaping.

Dr. Amy Wright

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:00 **Water-Wise Color Beds**

The drought in 2007 was a wake-up call. Landscapers must develop a new paradigm for applying sustainable practices in the landscape. This presentation will focus on garden practices and plant selection to reduce water use in color beds.

Dr. Raymond Kessler

11:00 – 11:45 **Diagnostics and Management of Common Plant Disease**

What is wrong with my plant? Learn to better answer this question by recognizing general symptoms of common garden diseases and learn some of the control strategies.

John Olive

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Program

Overview of Alabama Irrigation Initiative

Dr. Richard McNider, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Department of Atmospheric Science

1:15 – 2:00 **Drip Irrigation**

Learn how to water plants deeply but less often with low-volume drip irrigation. It's much more efficient than over-head, high-application-rate systems which waste water and can even decrease other garden problems.

Dr. Glenn Fain

2:00 – 2:45 **Right Plant-Right Place**

Many of us are guilty of walking into the local garden center and finding a new and beautiful plant to add to our landscape. The problem is usually that we'll say "I'll take it!" before we know how it grows, what conditions it needs, or where we're going to put it when we get home. How can we ensure that we'll get the right plant for the right place? Come find out!

Dr. Carolyn Robinson

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:00 **Diagnosing Landscape Problems**

Harry Ponder reveals the deep dark secrets of landscape diagnostics. Never wonder again what is wrong with the sick plants in the landscape. You will come away with a practical approach to identifying plant problems.

Dr. Harry Ponder