



Three County Master Gardeners' Association

Newsletter

Fall 2010

Our Executive Board

President: Rosemarie Sells, rosemariesells@yahoo.com, 770-267-7404

Vice President: Donald Syke, donaldsyke@aol.com, 706-367-4562

Treasurer: Ed Novak, edvisor@aol.com, 770-267-3853

Secretary: Shirley Turner, sturner@harrisonpoultry.com, 770-367-5863

County Coordinators:

Barrow County: Charlotte Phillips, charlienwinder@netscape.com, 770-307-0638

Jackson County: Donna Hut, dlhut1@windstream.net, 706-654-2689

Walton County: Jean Selph, willowoaks@hotmail.com, 770-266-6985

Newsletter Coordinator: Margaret McCollum, margaretandy@bellsouth.net, 678-753-1030

President's Corner

Hello Master Gardeners:

When I was growing up there was song that said, "We're having a Heat Wave, A Tropical Heat Wave". Now that I am grown up I think I truly understand what those lyrics are talking about. Hope you have found some shady spots to run to if you have been spending some quality time outside in your garden. I also hope that your garden was able to bring you some joy producing some flowers or vegetables despite the extreme temperatures we've endured.

Since our last newsletter our Tri-Co. MG volunteers did a wonderful job of selling plants (myrtles and shasta daisies, etc.) and sharing information during the Crepe Myrtle Festival June 12th in Monroe. Thanks to everyone who helped make it happen, especially Britt West and Athens Wholesale Nurseries. It was a success in every sense of the word.

Walton County will host our next quarterly Three County Master Gardeners meeting which is September 9th, 2010, at 6pm at the Barrow Co. Ext. Office. Please make plans to attend because we always have such a good time of fellowship and learning. Our guest speaker is Donna Norris from Gravel Springs Nursery. Special thanks to Jean Selph for working on that for us.

There are also two more upcoming festivals to tell you about for Sept. and Oct.. This week while visiting a nursery I met a Camellia named, "Wait at the Gate". So that's where I'll be waiting to see you.

Rosemarie

Volunteer Opportunities

The Three County Master Gardeners Association is planning 2 fund-raising events.

* The Jackson County event will be at Art in the Park Festival at Hurricane Shoals near Jefferson, GA from 10AM-6PM on Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19 from 12:30PM-5:30PM. The booth needs to be set up on Friday before the festival starts on Saturday. During the festival, volunteers will be selling plants, answering gardening questions and promoting the Master Gardeners. Contact Donald Syke at (706) 367-4562 or DonaldSyke@aol.com. Hurricane Shoals Park is located on GA route 82 just after you cross Interstate 85.

* The Social Circle Friendship Festival is October 2, 2010 in Social Circle, Walton County, 9AM-5PM. The contact people are Rosemarie Sells at rosemariesells@yahoo.com 770-267-7404 or Jean Selph at willowoaks@hotmail.com or 770-266-6985. Directions: Follow highway 11 through Winder to Monroe. In Monroe you will pass the old Court House, go through several red lights, and pass the Methodist Church on the right. Continue to follow Route 11 to Social Circle, about 10 miles. In Social Circle turn right and proceed past the Blue Willow Restaurant. Parking will be available behind the Baptist Church and around town.

We hope you will either attend or volunteer to assist in the festivals.

Amanda Kudrow, Master Gardener, is requesting help with Holsenbeck Elementary School's garden in Barrow County. If interested, contact Charlotte Phillips at charlienwinder@netscape.com or (770) 307-0638.

Please contact Donna Hut if you are interested in helping people at a personal care home owner and her residents in Braselton with gardening and landscaping advice. Donna can be reached at dlhut1@windstream.net or 706-654-2689.

Summer Gardening

By Debbie Maund,
Master Gardener

I have had a vegetable garden for years. Sometimes I get a little bored with the same old plants so this year I decided to change a few things – add new and re-plant old crops. My changes really did pay off. I didn't become stagnant with this year's garden. And I am ready to plan for the fall crop.

Some changes included heirloom Patty Pan Squash – my regular summer squash was planted sequentially and gave me fresh squash for months. I tried new pole beans and found the sweetest beans that I have ever had. (Pole beans are becoming my favorite as my knees and back hate the bending needed for bush beans.) I still plant the bush beans and my beans have now lasted three months. I tried different types of peppers and different ways to pickle them. Since I could not find my regular Christmas Lima beans, I planted red pintos – great change, but I'll look harder next year for the Christmas beans.

I re-introduced oriental eggplant to my garden and found new ways to cook them. Corn has always been a problem in my garden. The first planting of corn was a success, but the second planting was a challenge to see who got more, the squirrels, the raccoons, or me. (After spectacular light shows and a blaring radio, I think I won.)

We visited the Trial Gardens to see how a previous student designed a great vegetable patio garden. The vegetables, mostly heirloom, were intermixed with flowering plants. The design effect was spectacular for a small

space. If anyone has a small space, but lots of sun, try mixing vegetables with flowering plants. It may be a complete success. If not a success, it will be fun.

The moral of the story is: Change things up in your garden every now and then. It makes for more fun and more challenge.



THREE COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER ASSOCIATION
TREASURER REPORT

By Ed Novak, Master Gardener and
Association Treasurer

Date	Type	Check Number	Description	Debit	Credit	Daily Posted Balance
6/1/2010	Balance					\$681.78
6/1/2010	Deposit		MEMBERSHIP		\$36.00	\$717.78
6/9/2010	Fee		DEPOSIT SLIPS	\$8.92		\$708.86
6/9/2010	Deposit		MEMBERSHIP		\$10.00	\$718.86
6/14/2010	Deposit		DEPOSIT		\$621.00	\$1,339.86
6/17/2010	Check	237	<u>Quarterly Meeting</u>	\$25.85		\$1,314.01
6/21/2010	Check	238	<u>Athens Wholesale</u>	\$246.00		\$1,068.01
6/24/2010	Check	239	<u>Athens Wholesale</u>	\$50.00		\$1,018.01
07/12/2010	Check	240		\$12.00		\$1,006.01
7/30/2010			Balance			\$1,006.01

June Three County Master Gardener Meeting

Minutes submitted for approval

By Shirley B. Turner, Master Gardener and Association Secretary

The meeting was held on June 10, 2010 at the Barrow County Extension Office. The Barrow County Master Gardeners hosted the meeting. The business meeting started after we finished the meal. President Rosemarie welcomed everyone.

Business Meeting Secretary's report was approved with changes. Treasurer report- \$718.86. Budget proposal from the Board was approved with changes. Don Sykes made motion, seconded by Roy Plott.

New Business Newsletter would be available at Quarterly Meeting and mailed to rest of paid members.

Reports from County Coordinators *Barrow*-John Gladney will work with retired Minister on planting; museum project is completed. *Walton*-Crepe Myrtle Festival; *Jackson*: Working with Keep Jackson Beautiful; Crawford Long and Marlowe Park

Introduction of speaker: Our speaker was Mike Sikes who is the NE District coordinator for the Georgia Master Gardener Association. He works for McCorkle Nurseries in Deering GA. He discussed the new plants to look forward to in 2010 and 2011. Great Presentation.

Meeting was adjourned.

Armyworms in the Landscape

By Britt West, Barrow County

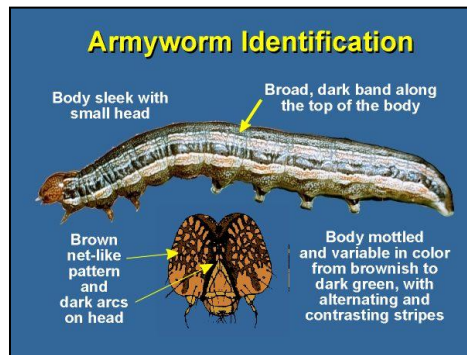
Cooperative Extension Service

Extremely dry, hot weather is the welcome mat that invites army worms to our area. Armyworm caterpillars are most active early and late in the day. These caterpillars are 1.5 to 2 inches long when full grown, and the color varies from light tan to green to nearly black. A tan colored stripe runs down each side of the caterpillar and as they become about an inch long they develop an upside-down Y marking on their forehead. You might see groups of light colored adult moths active at night dropping down momentarily laying eggs in bunches of 50 -100 on tall grass. Eggs hatch in 2 -3 days and the young caterpillars begin to feed. Feeding from young worms causes skeletonized leaves on grass blades but as the worms grow the entire leaf, mid rib and leaf stalk can be eaten. The caterpillars feed for 2 -3 weeks until they go into the soil and pupate. In about 10 -14 days adult moths emerge and start the egg laying process over again. The day you find worms in your yard; you can look on a calendar and predict the next outbreak in 4 - 5 weeks.

Armyworms attack pastures, hayfields, and even turf areas. The grass is not killed; however the plants' leaves disappear as the caterpillars consume the grass. In a lawn, there is no big deal; the grass will regrow in 2- 3 weeks. But for farmers, the loss could be a \$1,000 worth of fertilizer wasted and winter feed purchased due to lack of hay.

Most of us with only yards to look after, automatically grab the sprayer to fight the pests who dare consume our manicured lawns. There are many products for the homeowner to do battle with. Just about any insecticide labeled for outdoor use will control armyworms. The point to remember is that larger worms require larger volumes of spray, smaller worms can be controlled with lower concentrations and lower volumes. For homeowners concerned

with pesticide usage there is a great organic alternativeBacillus thuringiensis. Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) is sold under the names "Dipel", "Safer Caterpillar Killer", "Green Light BT Worm Killer", "Caterpillar Attack", and others. This is actually a naturally occurring soil bacteria that is deadly on most caterpillars but harmless to mammals and birds. It is also great on caterpillars in the vegetable garden as well. Sevin and many Pyrethrums (Ortho Bug B Gon or Bayer Complete Insect killer) based insecticides will also control armyworms. If you find an outbreak in your yard should you spray? Unless you have a newly established lawn, either by seed or sodding, the worms will probably not destroy your grass. However, worms that have been stepped on or driven over leave the most interesting colors on concrete.



Pest Control Recommendations

By Britt West, Barrow County

Cooperative Extension Service

How many times have you been stopped at the grocery store or at church and asked 'Will _____ work to kill _____? You fill in the blanks with a pest name (insect or disease) and labeled or unlabeled pesticide to control that pest. I hope you all remember you can refer to the Georgia Pest Control Handbook (<http://www.ent.uga.edu/pmh/>) to obtain the legal and labeled pesticides to control or stop plant pests. As a Master Gardener it is your duty to weigh the accuracy of information and old wives tales before you passing those on to non-Master Gardeners as FACT.

There is nothing wrong with offering personal experiences when giving advice but remember when making pest control recommendations as a Master Gardener you should offer suggestions from the Georgia Pest Control Handbook.

News from Walton County

By Jean Selph, Master Gardener

And Walton County Coordinator

It is so hard to believe that it is already August, my how time is flying. The members of Walton have been busy with a variety of projects. You are familiar with the Social Circle Post Office and the Walton Medical Nursing Home projects. The projects are going well despite the extreme heat we have all been experiencing. Shannon Horner and I decided to expand the planting at the nursing home this year. We planted an area with Iris, Daylilies and Daisies and those added some much needed color in that area. We also added an area of perennials of purple coneflowers, *rudbeckia* and Mexican petunias. This area has been a haven for butterflies and other pollinators. As the nursing home section will be moving to Walker Park this fall we will have to see how and if this project will continue next year.

The Walton County Master Gardeners hosted a booth at the Crepe Myrtle Festival in June. I want to thank all of you who helped make this a successful and fun event. It was a little "hot", but we sold a lot of plants and had a lot of positive feedback from visitors at our booth. We were introduced there to the committee chairman for the upcoming Friendship Festival in Social Circle on October 2. They have invited us to host a booth that day and are waving the usual vender fees. If any of you are available and need hours for this year, please come join us and have fun meeting people and sharing what being a master gardener is.

Our upcoming quarterly meeting will be on September 9th, and our speaker will be Donna Norris, the manager of Gravel Springs Nursery in Buford. Donna went the MG class in 1998 and was the first president of our Association. She started her career at Pike's Nursery and from there went to work for Denise Smith at Garden Smith, formerly in Jefferson. There she learned about and became a perennials and herb enthusiast. She has since expanded her career to management and design and is now the manager of Gravel Springs Nursery. Please come to our meeting and hear Donna speak and share her knowledge. Also, remember Walton County members are the host of our meeting which means we are responsible for bringing the food to the meeting. See you then!

An Awkward Month

By Dora Fleming, Master Gardener
& Newspaper Columnist

August is an awkward month in the garden. We have a whole month before the flowering perennials think it's spring again and begin to bloom with renewed enthusiasm. The fuzzy flower heads on the Joe Pye weed haven't opened; the swamp sunflower is a month away from bloom; and even the goldenrod isn't ready for its fall show.

Gardeners are more apt to choose air-conditioned shelter than a day braving the heat and humidity outside. New plantings are out of the question anyway. They will almost surely scald in the sun and perish from thirst. We've probably pulled most of the weeds we had the energy for anyway.

Make a mental note now (This can be done in the house where it's cool) to plant a clethra this fall. Next August when the crape myrtle and butterfly bush look a little tired, you will have a fresh new face blooming in the garden.

Clethra, *C. alnifolia*, grows into a rounded shrub with medium-sized leaves and doesn't require much pruning ever. Along about now the whole bush bursts into bloom with flowers that last until August's end. The blooms on most species are white



and borne in upright, six-inch panicles. They are fragrant and attract a great number of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Clethra, which is sometimes called “Summersweet”, will reach its full height of six to eight feet if planted in moist soil in sun or shade. It prefers an acid site, which isn’t much of a problem for us. It tends to sucker about close to the base of the plant, so if you have room you can end up with a good sized clump.

Fertilize it after bloom with the same formula you use on azaleas. Mulching with pine straw or leaves will help during the summer months and this can be left on through winter since it doesn’t mind wet feet.

Potted plants are available in most nurseries. The species I have is the dwarf selection, ‘Hummingbird’ whose flowers have a pink tinge to them. Clethra is easily rooted in moist sand and peat moss with a dusting of rooting hormone. It is well worth the trouble.

Clethra will give you something to look at while you wait for the chrysanthemums to bloom.

Clethra alnifolia ‘Hummingbird’



Clethra alnifolia ‘Ruby Spice’

