



Three County Master Gardeners' Association

Newsletter

Winter 2010

Our Executive Board

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

Vice President: Donald Sykes, 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

Season's Greetings Master Gardeners!

This beautiful fall is leading us right into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Decorations and lights are going up all around the town and there is a hint of celebration in the air, but I don't want to rush by the changing of the seasons. To God be the glory for the glorious colors I see in the trees. Indeed this is a time to be aware of our blessings and be thankful to our Creator. I hope there are good family times ahead for you and yours.

The Three County Master Gardeners have had some great family times together this year as we have worked together on volunteer projects, programs, festivals, and field trips. Special thanks to Don Sykes and Britt West for arranging a wonderful field trip for us on Nov. 16th to Buck Jones Nursery and the Vines Botanical Gardens in Gwinnett County. Thanks be to Jackson County Extension for our transportation.

Looking ahead to December, we will have our Christmas Party and business meeting on December 9th, 6:30pm, Shelter B at Fort Yargo. Bring your favorite covered dish and your spouse or friend if you like. You will hear about all the great things that have gone on this year and enjoy the warmth of good company---none other than the Three County Master Gardeners.

See you there! Rosemarie

Association Treasurer's Report

By Ed Novak, Treasurer &
Master Gardener

Master Gardeners' Association Checking Account 1305 (Checking...61305)

Available Balance \$1,381.79

Posted Balance \$1,381.79

September Three County Master Gardener Meeting

Minutes submitted by Shirley B. Turner,
Master Gardener and Secretary

The meeting was held on September 09, 2010 at the Barrow County Extension Office.

Walton County Master Gardeners hosted the meeting.

The business meeting started after we finished the meal. President Rosemarie welcomed everyone.

Secretary's report was approved. Treasurer report-\$1,006.01 Don gave report in Ed's place.

We had several new people attend the meeting. They were welcomed warmly from the group present.

Rosemarie did a skit about Country and City Girls. We also got a great recipe for pickled okra.

A Volunteer Time Sheet was available for Art in the Park at Hurricane Shoals.

Friendship Festival in Social Circle was discussed.

Glen Blair with 4 H in Walton County discussed things that we can do for hours as Master Gardeners with the 4 H groups.

Britt is retiring on September 30, 2010.

Donna Dixon (also known as Donna Norris to the class of 1998) gave an entertaining presentation on perennials. She is manager of Gravel Springs Nursery. After her great presentation, there were prizes for everyone.

Meeting adjourned by President.

Ft. Yargo Update

From Nancy Kinsey,
Master Gardener

I have sprayed the nutsedge a couple of times in the past month or two. Hoping the Image will do the trick and help us get rid of it once and for all. I have been looking at plants for the butterfly garden area but this is not an effort I want to be in charge of but will be glad to work on it. I was reading about abelia (not sure spelling is correct) but I think it is a Georgia native plus evergreen so that would keep a little interest during the winter months before the Miss Huff Lantana and the butterfly bushes come alive again in the spring.

Greeting's From Walton County

By Jean Selph, Master Gardener
& Walton County Coordinator

I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and or now looking forward to the Christmas season.

Due to the nice spring rains most of us started out with beautiful hydrangeas and roses in our gardens, but once we got into the long and extremely hot and humid summer we began to see nature's disease and pestilence start to take its toll. I know many of us fought these pests and disease in our vegetable gardens and still lost our beautiful plants to them, but we will not be defeated because we are resilient group of people and we will plan for next year and get out there and give it our all.

The Walton County members gave our Association much of its time and work ethics this year and we achieved much. We started out with a plant sale at the Crepe Myrtle Festival and went on from there to help the Jackson members with Art in the Park and ended with The Friendship Festival in Social Circle. Along the way we continued to help with work and knowledge in other projects in Walton and let the residents of our county know that Master Gardeners are alive and well.

I am looking forward to working with many of you again in 2011 and want everyone to be looking for projects and ideas that we can become involved in next year.

Happy Planting!



Three County Master Gardener Association 2011 Annual Dues

Please complete this form and give your payment to Ed Novak, Treasurer, at the Association's Christmas Party **or** include the completed form with your payment and mail to Ed Novak, 5725 Kings Court, Bethlehem, GA 30620
The deadline for payment is March 1, 2011.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone # _____ Include area code, please.

E-mail Address _____

New Master Gardener Training

Amanda Tedrow of Athens/Clarke County Cooperative Extension Service has announced their schedule for new Master Gardener Training for 2011 from January 4 – March 29, on Tuesdays and Thursdays nights, 5:45 – 8:15PM. If you know someone who is interested, ask them to call the Athens/Clarke County office for more information at (706) 613-3640. The daily schedule has been e-mailed to all Association members.

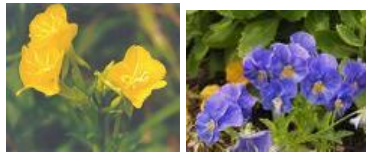
Monthly Birth Flowers



DECEMBER Holly, Narcissus, Poinsettia



JANUARY Carnation, Snowdrop



FEBRUARY Primrose, Violet

Recognize this bush?

It has dark green leaves until fall when it has brilliant red to purple leaves. It has “wings” on its stems. In spring it has small greenish yellow flowers. It has reddish capsule-like fruit which burst revealing orange fleshing seeds. Native to northeastern Asia, it travelled her in the 1860s.



This plant is *Euonymus alatus*, common names are winged burning bush, winged euonymus, or burning bush. It is considered an invasive plant to watch for in Georgia. A native plant substitution is *Euonymus americanus*, strawberry bush or hearts-a-bustin.

Native Color All the Year Through

By Donna Hut Master Gardener &
Jackson County Coordinator

To keep some color in your landscape all year long, there are a number of native trees and shrubs to consider. Of course, there are trees and shrubs that bloom in the summer or have colorful leaves in the fall – but thinking outside the box can produce some interesting-but-unexpected sources of color as well.

I hesitate to mention American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) – as surely everyone knows this “beauty” by now! But, in case there *is* someone who has yet to make its acquaintance, I would be remiss if I failed to include this medium-to-large deciduous shrub. For much of the year, it is either covered in fairly unremarkable green foliage or has no leaves at all, but in the fall it is covered with the most lovely shade of purple berries you have ever seen. And, once seen, this plant will not soon be forgotten.



clustered on bare

planting of winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*), a medium size shrub, can make a striking statement. Before they drop, the leaves turn a lovely yellow – a beautiful complement to the red berries which can persist well into the winter (hence the name, one would suppose).

Not much is blooming in the fall and winter, but exception – witch hazel. Actually there are three, but they



ovalis, *H. virginiana* and *H. vernalis*. A deciduous shrub or something of a rarity in the that the fruit, flowers, and next



appear on the branch simultaneously. *H. virginiana* blooms in the fall, the other two produce flowers on leafless stems in the winter – the flowers of all three have interesting strap-shaped petals, pale to dark yellow, orange, or red.

And speaking of yellow, orange, and red, there are a couple of natives that have, in addition to spring blooms, truly beautiful fall leaf color and, in my opinion, are very much underutilized in the landscape. Dwarf fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*) is a small, deciduous shrub and is a member of the witch hazel family mentioned earlier. In north Georgia the plant produces honey-scented white flowers in spring; the foliage is pest-free and turns a brilliant orange-scarlet in the fall. Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), a medium-sized deciduous tree, produces masses of drooping white blooms in spring, and in the fall the leaves turn a beautiful red to red-purple color.



you've planted!

Include some (or all!) of these natives in your landscape for some unexpected splashes of color – your neighbors will wonder what “exotic” things



Little Patience

By Dora Fleming, Master Gardener &
Newspaper Columnist

The tulip magnolia hasn't much patience for waiting until an optimum bloom time every spring. Just about every year it begins to put on buds while all the sensible trees around are happily dormant. The inevitable happens, of course. The buds freeze and turn an unattractive brown color and plop off. Not a happy thing.



The blooms, which don't look all that much like tulips to me except in bud, can be pink, purple or white. It is often called "Saucer magnolia" because of the big, cupped petals. My research assures me the blossoms are fragrant and attractive to bees and butterflies. Maybe in Miami when the bloom time would coincide with the feeding time of these insects?

Unlike most magnolias the tulip magnolia is deciduous. The leaves when they appear are smooth textured and light green. The tree has a pleasing growth habit—multi-stemmed and sprawly. Give it room. It can grow to a height of twenty to thirty feet and should be planted on twenty feet centers. Pruning is not a good idea unless it is pushing the house over.

Tulip magnolias prefer sun to partial shade and I've often wondered if partial shade would delay the flowering a bit and give the emerging buds a fighting chance. It needs consistent water, but can easily be over-watered if it is in the path of automatic sprinklers.

Tulip magnolias can be propagated from woody stem cuttings, but it is probably easier to buy a potted specimen since woody stem cuttings take forever and are not always successful. It seeds sparsely, if at all, but the seeds are viable if the fleshy coating is removed before planting.



The tulip magnolia, *M. soulangiana*, is a hybrid bred in Asia. A Napoleonic soldier who survived the defeat at Waterloo later became director of The Royal Institute of Horticulture and is largely credited with promoting the popularity of this tree. (I don't care, but I have told you everything else I know about tulip magnolias.)

This tree is hugely popular in the northwestern United States, probably because the long, cold winter keeps it dormant longer in spring.

(Newsletter Coordinator's comment: I have grown the tulip magnolia in this area and it did quite well.)