

The Plot

CARROLL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

January 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Master Gardeners and Friends,

We had a very busy December! Amazingly, we made it through wreath sales, our annual Christmas party, the installation of new officers, and were hopefully even able to do our Christmas shopping and some holiday cooking.

Finishing wreaths and potpourri was quite an accomplishment and I hope everyone shares the pride of a job well done. We had a great time working together: clipping, chopping, bundling greenery and listening to Dennis Holt's holiday music. Especially the Christmas rap songs, who knew *those songs* would be Marilyn Van Pelt's favorite, or was it 'The Little Drummer Boy', which she kept singing the rest of the day? Much fun was had by all!!

The Christmas dinner was delicious, many thanks to our chefs Elisabeth and Randy Coggins. Also, a huge thank you goes to Ann Lundin and her committee for all their hard work and to Kimber Pepper for suggesting our entertainment.

I am looking forward to the new year and all that 2012 will bring. It's hard to believe that 2011 is gone, but they say the older you get, the faster time flies. Apparently, that must be true - or is it that time flies when you're having fun - either way, 2011 flew by! All the new officers and committees are ready to begin work, please remember to say yes when we call for help and advice, you are our most valuable resource and we couldn't do it without you!

As I look forward to the upcoming year, my only worry is being able to keep up with Cherrie Glover (she is the Energizer bunny)!

As you know, our January meeting is the "business only" meeting so there will not be a program. The rest of the year we can look forward to interesting and informative presentations. If you have any suggestions for speakers, we would love your input. Please call or e-mail our new Vice President, Cherrie Glover at cgmq@bellsouth.net or (770) 214-9337.



A LOOK
AHEAD



Saturday, January 7, 9:00 AM -2:00 PM.
"Bring One For the Chipper," Recycle your Tree and wreath. Keep Carroll Beautiful event. Drop off at the Home Depot stores in Carrollton and Villa Rica.

Thursday, January 12, 6:30 PM. CCMG

Meeting: First Meeting of 2012.

Introduction of new agent and new board and committee chairs.
Presentation of 2012 budget.

The Georgia Botanical Society provides workshops, field trips, and a newsletter along with a monthly Name That Plant Contest. **Monday, Jan. 16 (MLK Day), 10 a.m.**, Remnant Montane Longleaf Pine at Roosevelt State Park in Harris County. **Saturday, Jan. 21**, Winter Woody Walk, South Canton, Cherokee County. See www.gabotsoc.org.

The Southern Garden Symposium will be held **January 27, 28, and 29** at Callaway Gardens and will feature sessions on shrubs, trees, hydrangeas and more! For details see www.callawaygardens.com.

The Atlanta Botanical Gardens will offer several major orchid programs beginning in February. www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org

Renew your state membership in the Georgia Master Gardeners Association online.

www.georgiamastergardeners.org.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10:30-noon, Dr. Arlie Powell will discuss "Small Fruits in the Home Garden" at Jemison, AL. For details see

www.petalfromthepast.com.

Saturday Jan. 28, at 10:30 a.m., Tracy Britnell will describe "Edible Landscapes" at Jemison, AL. For details see www.petalfromthepast.com.

FIRST WEEK:

[Prepare beds](#) for bare-root roses that will soon arrive in nurseries. Dig an area four feet wide and twelve inches deep for each plant, adding plenty of soil conditioner to the soil. see [Rose Buying and Planting](#)

Water poinsettias only as needed – when the top inch of the soil becomes dry to the touch. Keep them in bright light but cool temperatures. Do not fertilize until March. see [Poinsettia Care After Winter](#)

- It is easy to see the limb structure of trees now. Tie ribbon around the ones you think should be removed then step back for another look before [cutting](#) them off. see [Tree Pruning](#)
- If the ground is dry, [till](#) the soil in your vegetable garden. You'll eliminate lots of insects, weeds and nematodes.

SECOND WEEK:

• Small, leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now. Wait for a warm day when the ground is not frozen. see [Shrub Transplanting 1-2-3](#)

• [Prune](#) clumps of pampas grass down to 12 inches tall. Use a gloved hand to pull out dead stems in the clump. see [Pampas Grass Care](#)

• Water pansies and ornamental kale after a hard freeze so they can re-hydrate their wilted leaves. Remember to regularly water window boxes and other outside plant containers.

• Give houseplants a half turn every month so they don't lean too much in one direction.

THIRD WEEK:

• Amaryllis flower stems and their faded blooms can be removed now. Treat it like a houseplant for the rest of the winter then plant outdoors in a sunny bed in May. see [Amaryllis Outdoors](#)

• Use calcium chloride or potassium chloride instead of salt on icy sidewalks. Too much rock salt (sodium chloride) can burn nearby plant roots.

• If temperatures drop below 20 degrees after a week-long warm spell, cover gardenias and camellias nightly with black plastic anchored to the ground on all sides. see [Shrubs – Protection in Winter](#)

FOURTH WEEK:

• Plant pansies and English daisies in a sunny bed when the weather is mild. Use plants in three inch or larger pots to make an immediate impact in your landscape.

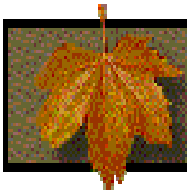
• Look out for poison ivy when working outdoors. Even the leafless vine and branches can cause a powerful skin reaction if touched.

• Watch for brown edges on houseplant foliage. Mist the leaves twice each day and move them from drafty areas. see [Brown Houseplant Leaves](#)

• Check on the tender bulbs (canna, caladium, dahlia) you stored indoors for the winter. If they are beginning to shrink, mist each one with warm water. see [Storing Elephant Ear](#)

• Prune apple and pear trees and grape vines. see [Fruit Tree Care](#)

Source: <http://www.walterreeves.com/seasonal-gardening-calendar/January 2012>



IN THE NEWS

Carroll County Master Gardeners Summary of Volunteer Hours for 2011

Thirty-two Carroll County Master Gardeners earned in excess of 100 volunteer hours this year:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Frank Bennett | 17. Jane Kingsley |
| 2. Sandra Bryant | 18. Jim Langham |
| 3. Angela Chriss | 19. Joyce McArthur |
| 4. Larry Cohrs | 20. Ginny McGee |
| 5. Juanita Crews | 21. Bill McGee |
| 6. Carol Daniel | 22. Grant McGukin |
| 7. Cherrie Glover | 23. Sylvia McNeil |
| 8. Roberta Graff | 24. Tommie Munro |
| 9. Flo Hayes | 25. Shelly Murphy |
| 10. Fred Hickson | 26. Alexandra Powers |
| 11. Carol Hight | 27. W. H. Smith |
| 12. Dennis Holt | 28. Annie Stewart |
| 13. Lynn Holt | 29. James Watson |
| 14. Wendell Hoomes | 30. Barry Williams |
| 15. Margaret Hughes | 31. Hildegard Wolverton |
| 16. Janet Kiczek | 32. Gail Woody |



Out of that number, twelve earned 200 hours or more:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Frank Bennett | 7. Janet Kiczek |
| 2. Sandra Bryant | 8. Bill McGee |
| 3. Angela Chriss | 9. Grant McGukin |
| 4. Roberta Graff | 10. W. H. Smith |
| 5. Florence Hayes | 11. Annie Stewart |
| 6. Carol Hight | 12. Gail Woody |

Eight earned in excess of 300 hours:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Frank Bennett | 5. Gail Woody |
| 2. Angela Chriss | 6. Grant McGukin |
| 3. Carol Hight | 7. Bill McGee |
| 4. Janet Kiczek | 8. W. H. Smith |

The member who earned the most volunteer hours is W. H. Smith, who logged 460 hours in 2011.

20 Friends of Master Gardeners turned in volunteer hours this year, adding 690 hours to our county's total.

Carroll County Master Gardeners **interacted directly** with **28,204** persons through our activities and service in the Extension office (way up from last year's 20,777). We responded to **15,149 phone calls or e-mails** (way up from last year's 6,170). We **traveled 43,970 miles** (up from last year's 42,182 miles).

And finally, the **total number of volunteer hours for our county this year** is **10,886** (slightly up from last year's 10,633). Since the beginning of the Master Gardener program in Carroll County, our volunteers have officially logged **80,076** hours of service.

FAST PAYMENT MAKES FAST FRIENDS!
It's time to renew your CCMGA membership for 2012.
Forms are available on the wiki or at the Extension office.



CCMGA's New Officers and Board Members for 2012

(Front: Carol Hight, Yul Anderson, Bill McGee, Becky Sullivan, Juanita Crews, Cheryl Dickerson, Cherrie Glover, and Sandra Bryant. Back: Ian Davis.)



County Extension Secretary Ian Davis Installs the New Officers for 2012

(From left: Bill McGee, Cheryl Glover, Ian Davis, and Sandra Bryant.)

Carroll County's new extension agent to begin working January 5, 2012

by Carole Scott

On January 3, 2012, Paula J. Burke will become the new Carroll County extension agent. She replaces Bill Hodge, who has retired. She is currently a senior resource educator with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Saratoga County, New York and was formerly president of the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of County Agriculture Agents. The Carroll County Extension she will be joining is a branch of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia. The Carroll County Extension is housed at the Ag-Ed Center on Newnan Road in Carrollton.

Burke's membership in 4-H as a child led her to choose a career in agricultural extension service. She says that 4-H provides both life and agricultural skills. Her focus as a member of 4-H was riding and caring for horses. Today she has an interest in raising livestock. She began her career with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Saratoga in 1992 as a 4-H summer assistant. Her career has provided her with a great deal of experience in a wide range of extension service activities. Her specialty is the most important sector of agriculture in Carroll County, livestock.

Indicative of one of the many skill sets she brings to Carroll County is that the title of the thesis for her Masters Degree from the State University of New York (SUNY), Plattsburg, which was "A Producer's Key to Successful Marketing: Understanding What Consumers Want in Animal Food Products Purchased Directly

from the Farm". To be successful, she says, you need "to know where you can sell it before you grow it".

In addition to her Masters Degree, she has a Bachelor of Technology in Animal Science from SUNY, Cobleskill and an Associate Degree in Applied Sciences in Equine Studies from SUNY, Cobleskill. Her career has provided her with a strong working knowledge of agriculture. She is experienced in providing resources to agricultural businesses, promoting agriculture to consumers, working with state legislators and farm-related groups, developing processing facilities for food products and livestock, communicating through both printed and electronic media, creating farm-to-chef connections, and applying for grants.

Every farmer, she says, should do what is best for their business. Diversification by some Carroll County farmers who raise cattle into growing grapes, which will stabilize and raise farm income over the years, might be what is best for them and the County. If enough farmers grow grapes, the County might become a producer of wine, an industry that is a natural for agri-tourism. But people who raise cattle probably know nothing about growing grapes. It is the job of the Carroll County Extension to provide farmers with the information they need in order to produce new products.

She says that her primary responsibility will be to provide the information all kinds of farmers need to be successful. She anticipates bringing in experts in areas

important to Carroll County farmers as speakers. Among her long-term priorities are farmland preservation and developing future farmers.

She is counting on local Master Gardener volunteers to provide the horticultural information needed by the county's residents.

She believes that her background makes her a really good fit here and is excited about the many opportunities and challenges her new position in Carroll County will provide.

Although she plans to hit the ground running, because her duties are so varied and she is unfamiliar with conditions here, she thinks it may take up to a year for her to become fully familiar with the land and her people and

their needs. However, her conversation makes it clear that during her interview here she was able to familiarize herself with the nature and prospects of agriculture in Carroll County, and that she was impressed with the staff she will be working with.



Paula Burke will replace Bill Hodge as county extension agent

Assignments for the Demonstration Garden Beds

Bill McGee	Espalier, Area bed near bathrooms.
Ginny McGee	Beds with hostas by signage.
Michelle Lewis, Cherrie Glover	Rose bed.
Shirley Vassey, Eleanor & Wendell Hoomes	Raised bed, front - vegetable.
Kathy Howell	Raised bed, middle.
Flo Hayes, Frank Bennett	Raised bed, back.
Alexandra Powers	Water Feature Area.
Lynn Holt	Bed with bench.
Diane Rooks, Joyce McArthur	Animal garden.
Marilyn Van Pelt, Lyle Garrett	Knot garden bed.
Debbie Novak, Margaret Hughes	Bed in front of Gazebo.
Shirley Gray, Carrie Tarpley	Tiered bed near parking area.
Tommie Munro	Bed to left as you face the Gazebo.
Shelly Murphy, Barry Williams	Bed with knock-out roses, Gazebo area.
Alyson Stober, Angie Stober	Back garden area next to Lynn Holt's bench garden.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CABBAGE FAT-BURNING SOUP

TRY THIS RECIPE TO WARD OFF THE CHILL OF WINTER AND TO HELP LOSE THOSE UNWANTED HOLIDAY POUNDS. IT MAKES 15 SERVINGS, SO INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO HELP YOU ENJOY IT!

5 CARROTS, CHOPPED
3 ONIONS, CHOPPED
2 (16 OZ.) CANS WHOLE PEELED TOMATOES, WITH LIQUID
1 LARGE HEAD CABBAGE, CHOPPED
1 (1 OUNCE) ENVELOPE DRY ONION SOUP MIX
1 (15 OUNCE) CAN CUT GREEN BEANS, DRAINED
2 QUARTS TOMATO JUICE
2 GREEN BELL PEPPERS, DICED
10 STALKS CELERY, CHOPPED
1 (14 OUNCE) CAN BEEF BROTH

PLACE CARROTS, ONIONS, TOMATOES, CABBAGE, GREEN BEANS, PEPPERS, AND CELERY IN A LARGE POT. ADD ONION SOUP MIX, TOMATO JUICE, BEEF BROTH, AND ENOUGH WATER TO COVER VEGETABLES. SIMMER UNTIL VEGETABLES ARE TENDER (25-30 MINUTES). MAY BE STORED IN THE REFRIGERATOR FOR SEVERAL DAYS. (90 CALORIES PER SERVING)

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM



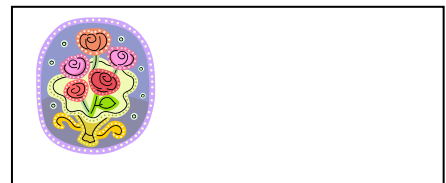
NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS HONORED

Four Master Gardeners will be awarded Lifetime Membership badges at the January 12th meeting in recognition of their Ten Years of Active Service.

BOBBY HOLCOMBE
JANET KICZEK
ELIZABETH ROMINE
W.H. SMITH



FLOWERS OF THE MONTH



Just like there is a birthstone associated with each month, there are one or two traditional flowers for each month.

The flowers of the month for January are carnations and snowdrops. Some scholars believe that the name "carnation" comes from the same root as "coronation" since it was one of the flowers used in ancient Greek ceremonial crowns. Today carnations are often used to celebrate special occasions.

Snowdrops are popular flowers for this season because of their early arrival, even weeks before crocuses. In the South snowdrops sometimes bloom all winter. Their Latin name "Galanthus" means "milk-white flower" which is appropriate because the blossoms resemble three drops of milk hanging from a stem.

Sources: www.gone-ta-pott.com
www.theplantexpert.com



From our Readers

Notes and Announcements

BOXES FOR PLANT SALE 2012

Please be saving boxes for the plant sale. When you need to store them, put them in the attic of the barn. PLEASE do not put them in the shed or in the lower part of the barn. They will be in the way for the next few months until the plant sale.

Also, if you have any blinds, we will need those for the plant sale. You can cut them into 7-8 inch lengths, with one end cut on the slant and earn some volunteer hours as work on the plant sale. If you don't have time to cut them, let me know and I'll find someone who wants the hours to cut them for you. You can also put these in the barn attic.

DECEMBER MINUTES

There were no minutes taken at the CCMG General Meeting, December 6, 2011. This was because it was the annual Christmas dinner and no formal business was conducted besides installation of officers. Publishing of the general meeting minutes will resume with next month's newsletter

SEED SAVERS TO MEET

We'll be getting up to full speed with the seed sharers program

after Christmas, so that the seeds will be catalogued in time for spring planting. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Carol Hight. She'll let you all know when we are ready to meet again.

WELCOMING NEW MG FRIENDS THIS MONTH

Nelson Gammans
Marilyn Marshall
Richard Marshall

BEST FACE FORWARD

Carole Scott will take photos of anyone who would like their picture included in the upcoming 2012 Membership Directory. MG's and Friends can get their photograph made at the January or February Meeting.

MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2012

Ian has already received applications from 27 Carroll County residents and several from surrounding counties who want to take the Master Gardener course in the new year. At least 25 interns are needed for the course to be offered. Tuesday, January 10th, and Wednesday, January 11th, have been scheduled to interview new students from 10 a.m. to noon each day. If you would like to help with the interview process, please contact Ian Davis at the Extension office. [770-836-8546](tel:770-836-8546) or uge2045@uga.edu.

JR MASTER GARDENERS MEETING

There will be a meeting of the Junior Master Gardeners Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Ag Center. The program will be about beneficial "pests", focusing on bats in Georgia. Junior Master Gardening is for children in grades 3 through 8. If your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or friends are not currently involved, you may want to consider enrolling them. If you have questions, contact Joyce McArthur by email at (joycemcarthur@gmail.com) or (678/464-1821).

GARDENERS ON THE MEND

These members are in recovery and we wish them a speedy return to the flowerbeds:

Shelly Murphy
Tom Warren
MaryLou Zigler
Tommie Freeman

Carol Hight, Ginny McGee and Jane Kingsley are all well on their road to recovery from their recent hospital visits.

GRANT APPS AVAILABLE ON THE WIKI

The grant committee is accepting applications for this year. CCMG application, budget and criteria guidelines forms can be found now on the Wiki FORMS page at this link: <http://carrollcountymastergardeners.wikispaces.com/Forms>

REUSE / RECYCLE TABLE

Please bring **ANYTHING** you are no longer using to our monthly meetings -- it does not have to be garden related!!! This is a part of our **Go Green** program. Please try to bring "at least" 1 item to give away to every meeting. Leftover items will be donated to Goodwill.



FEBRUARY MEETING

The next MG monthly meeting for 2012 will be on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 pm. The program will review Bill Hodge's accomplishments as the CC Extension Agent 2000-2011. This month (January) is a "business only" meeting, so there will be no after-dinner program.

PLANT SWAP

Check the Wiki regularly to find out what plants are available from other members. Be sure to post what plants you either need or want to share.

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration." ~ Lou Erickson

