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Extension Solutions for Homes and Gardens

by Paul J. Pugliese

“Local Extension Programs on Gardening in the New Year”

If you haven't made your New Year's resolution yet, now may be a great time to do so! Your local Cherokee County Extension office has many opportunities for you to learn something new! Our '2010 Gardening with the Masters' seminars are now open for registration with several new and old classes back by popular demand! This is a great chance to brush up on your gardening knowledge or perhaps take on a whole new hobby. All of our gardening classes are taught by Georgia Master Gardener volunteers that are trained and certified by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension experts.

This year's classes include learning how to attract wildlife, birds, and bees to your backyard for wildlife enthusiasts. We also have classes that give you the basic skills for lawn care, tree planting, propagation, pruning, and composting. With today's economy, our county Extension offices have been receiving numerous calls from clients that want to save money on their home landscape maintenance budget. Many homeowners have opted to take on many of these landscape tasks on their own, rather than to hire someone to do the work. However, many homeowners lack the basic skills and knowledge to maintain that professional, manicured look to their homes. These classes might just be what you're looking for to take on this new challenge during tough financial times. Best of all, these classes are **FREE** as a service to our community!

For more advanced gardeners, we have seminars that go into more detail on growing fruits and vegetables, using native plants, growing roses, hydrangeas, winter flowers, herb gardens, and container gardens. We even have classes that may address some of your more difficult landscape settings such as shade gardening, dealing with erosion problems, using cacti and succulents in garden design, and water-smart gardening techniques so that you don't have to worry about water restrictions during the next drought! For the craftier garden hobbyists we even have classes on making fresh Christmas wreaths, growing houseplants, and building concrete planters.

No matter what your gardening ambitions may include for 2010, we have the classes and resources to assist you in Cherokee County. For more information or to register for upcoming classes, contact the Cherokee County Extension office or check out our website for updates on new programs and classes offered locally.

Paul Pugliese is the Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent for Cherokee County Cooperative Extension, a partnership of The University of Georgia, The U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Cherokee County. (770) 479-0418. For more information and free publications, visit our local website at www.ugaextension.com/cherokee

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