

It's a brand new year! Did you make any resolutions? Time management will be a big one for me in 2012. On the surface that goal doesn't seem very gardening related but stick with me. Better time management means that the gardening projects I've started will finally be complete. Of course this will simply allow time for additional gardening projects. Those who know me well are laughing so hard right now that their sides are splitting. You see, most of my ideas for gardening projects around my yard are trapped in my head still in the idea phase.

On the few occasions that I've been somewhat efficient with my time, I've noticed that making a very short list is the best. After all, tasks can always be added once the others have been checked off.

So here is my short list for 2012:

- *learn 10 new plants a month - this will be easiest in spring when blooms are prolific.
- *plant more bulbs - yes, bulbs can still be planted in January although they will bloom later than normal.
- *stop being timid about pruning - especially my barberry bushes!
- *relocate all plants currently in black plastic pots to real homes around the yard - complete with lovingly dug holes and tenderly mulched plants.

With such carefully laid out time management practices, this means that my monthly articles for the AAMGA newsletter may actually arrive before the deadline, which will make Elizabeth Thurmond stand up and cheer!

One can only dream!

Happy New Year!

Andrea Fischer

He who plants a tree, plants a hope. -Thomas Jefferson

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Meeting Schedule

January 17th - The Greenup for interns at SBG at 5:30 pm and will be held in the conservatory.

February 21st - Jack Eisenman - raised bed gardening at 5:30 pm at SBG

Organized by Jean Colquett, Vice President/Program Chair

Membership Renewal

It is time to renew memberships in our Athens Area Master Gardener Association.

A renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter. Per our bylaws dues need to be paid no later than the last day of February.

Please send in ASAP so you won't forget!:)}

Adopt A Highway Project

We had another successful day picking up litter on MLK Parkway on December 3. The crew of Master Gardeners found two blown tires, 2 deer carcasses (we did NOT pick those up), ear-buds, a washcloth, a sock, and a glove, and the usual litter. It was beautiful weather and a quick job with the usual crew: Carol and Bob Wolf, Jimmie and Jack Vanderlip, Harold Neal, Cheryl Autry and me. New folks are welcome in 2012!

Carole Holmes

December, 2007



December, 2011



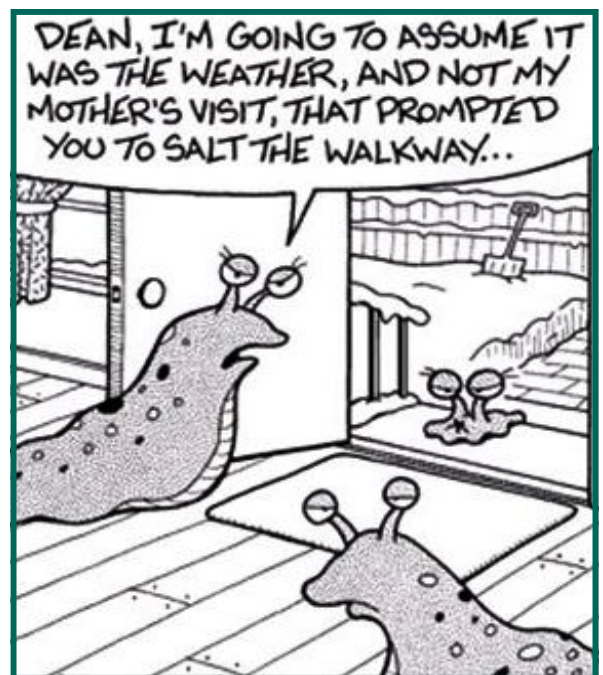
AAMGA Treasurer's Report
As of December 20, 2011

Beginning Balance:	\$15,663.61
Deposits: Plant Sales -	212.50
Member Dues -	<u>210.00</u>
	\$422.50
Checks: 1416 11/11 Speaker	50.00
1417 Supplies	<u>57.28</u>
	\$107.28
Ending Balance:	\$15,978.83

Teddy Lapaquette, Treasurer

Wayne Dyer has a suggestion for keeping your New Year's resolutions:

"Be as patient with yourself, through all of your successes and disappointments, as you feel God has always been with you. When you can turn a problem over to a higher authority to which you are connected, you immediately shift to that knowing state of infinite patience."



- 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.
- 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.
- Now is a great time to drain and replace the oil in your mower and to have the blade sharpened or to replace it completely.
- 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.
- On a sunny day fertilize pansies and ornamental cabbage with a product that contains "nitrate nitrogen". This nutrient is best for plants growing in cold soil.
- Small, leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now. Wait for a warm day when the ground is not frozen.
- Chop unwanted kudzu, English ivy and bamboo to the ground. Follow with weed killer on the leaves in April.
- 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.
- Check indoor plants for insects like spider mites, scale, and mealy bugs. Remember to spray insecticidal soap or indoor houseplant insecticide on the *undersides* of leaves to get good pest control.
- 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.
- 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.
- Call or email for your yearly supply of garden plant and seed catalogs. Buy an issue of a gardening magazine for phone numbers or websites
- 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.
- Check on the tender bulbs (canna, caladium, dahlia) you stored indoors for the winter. If they are beginning to shrink, mist them with warm water.

Compiled by Elizabeth

Gardening is the purest of human pleasures.- Francis Bacon

Will freezing weather damage camellias?

Camellias prefer to live in zones 7, 8 and 9, but there are varieties that will grow in colder temperatures. The darkened leaves are probably just winter color and should green up as spring arrives. But if you want to check to see if they are still alive, you can scratch the stems or undersides of the leaves with your fingernail. A healthy living stem will reveal green tissue in the scratched area.

These large shrubs prefer a part-sun exposure with moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soil. The flower buds are the most likely part of the plant to be injured by cold temperatures. According to Alabama Cooperative Extension, "camellias in a northern or western exposure, unless otherwise protected from intense morning sun, will usually stand more cold weather than those in an eastern or southern exposure."

So you may want to check the placement of your camellia plants. If the shrubs are newly planted or if they are receiving excessive amounts of sun or winter winds, their acclimation may be less than ideal.

• *Do you have an agricultural or natural resources question? Contact Amanda Tedrow, Athens-Clarke County Extension agent, at (706) 613-3640 or atedrow@uga.edu.*

Athens Area Master Gardener Association Committee Chairs and Other Leadership	Carol Wolf - Flower Garden at PAR 706.613.1122 CarolWolf@charter.net
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AAMGA: www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/aamga.html
GMGA: www.georgiamastergardeners.org



AAMGA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Athens Area Master Gardener Association

January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012

Dues need to be paid no later than the last day of February.

Please check one of the boxes below and include your name even if your contact info hasn't changed.

AAMGA Member (\$10)

Friend of AAMGA (\$20)

Lifetime Georgia Master
Gardener (dues optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ GA Zip: _____ - _____

Best Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

(Be sure to put AAMGAlistserv@gmail.com on your safe list in your email program.)

Make checks payable to AAMGA, fill in this form and either bring to our next meeting or mail with the completed form to:

Teddy Lapaquette
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