



Congratulations to the Master Gardener class of 2011! You did it! You worked hard completing your volunteer hours and now hold your official MG name badge, certificate and the coveted 'green thumb'.

I urge each of you to renew your membership into the Athens Area Master Gardeners (AAMGA) – if you haven't already. It is a wonderful way to stay connected with your classmates and with graduates from previous classes. I also encourage everyone to remain active gardening volunteers and to include new and seasoned master gardeners on your favorite projects. As we all know, a project is more fun when you team up and work alongside someone. The 2012 MG class is now in full stride and with lectures being in the morning we will hopefully see several students attending our monthly meetings. When you get the chance, introduce yourself and perhaps invite them to join you on a volunteer project.

The MG class is not the only thing moving quickly along. 2012 is as well! January is on the books and Valentine's Day is only a few weeks away. While the day is most often associated with roses and chocolate, there are other plants which have some very descriptive and fun (common) names. Here are just a few for fun!

Passion Vine	Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate
Tropical Bleeding Heart	Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Love in a Mist	Love Lies Bleeding
Diamond Frost	Never-never Plant
Hearts a bursting	Only the Lonely
Korean sweetheart tree	Bridal Wreath

Andrea Fischer

To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves.
- Ghandi

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The January meeting of AAMGA was held in the conservatory of the State Botanical Garden. The "Green-Up Ceremony" was celebrated for all 2011 Master Gardener interns who completed the required 50 hours of volunteer service. Congratulations new members!

Andrea Fischer called the meeting to order and let us know our February meeting will be in the Callaway building, but we would not always have access since they would be doing a lot of paid rentals. The meeting location will be announced on a month to month basis.

Our Treasurer, Teddy Lapaquette, reported our available balance of \$15,890.70. The detailed report is located on page three of this newsletter.

Merry Anderson let us know that a group met at the Plant-A-Row for the Hungry Garden at Clarke Middle School. There is now lots of interest and they hope to add 3 more raised beds. She assured us that the winter garden would not be closed down!

Anne Walk said there was a tentative date of April 28th for our annual plant sale. It was suggested that a committee be formed to plan this event.

Randy Elmore was disappointed to discover Shroud Elementary's garden project is going to be concreted over (see page 3 of this newsletter). He is going to see if he can rescue the raised beds to use in another one of our projects.

Connie Cottingham told us about the many interesting events planned for SBG and she also let us know the garden is now open every Tuesday evening until 8:00 pm. Please go to www.botgarden.uga.edu for all the details.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Thurmond, Secretary



AAMGA: www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/aamga.html

GMGA: www.georgiamastergardeners.org



Meeting Schedule

February 21st - Jack Eisenman will present a program on raised bed gardening at 5:30 pm at SBG.

March 20th - Someone from Athens-Clarke county will be speaking on Mosquito Control. It will be at our usual 5:30 pm time slot, but the location will be announced.

April 17th - We will visit the home and garden of Randy Elmore.

Jean Colquett, Vice President/Program Chair

Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your membership in Athens Area Master Gardener Association for 2012, please send in ASAP so you won't forget!}]

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

AAMGA By-Laws

www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/aamga.html

Please go to the link above and click on the AAMGA By-Laws link. It is getting close to our own election time (not just the national elections) and everyone needs to be aware of the many officer and committee opportunities available in our Athens Area Master Gardener Association!

Plant A Row - Clarke Middle School

Harvesting continues at Clarke Middle. Thanks to all the people who have stepped up to volunteer to keep the garden producing through the winter. We still have three beds with winter vegetables—collards, mustard greens, turnips/turnip greens, and onions.

For 2011, the garden produced 894 pounds of fruits and vegetables for the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank. That, however, is only one small part of the great work our members are doing. According to information provided by the Food Bank, our members, working in their own gardens and the UGA Hort Farm, provided another 2,068 pounds of food to the Athens Area Food Bank. But there's more! According to B.J. Garrett, another 3,845 pounds of produce was harvested at the Hort Farm and taken to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia. That's a total of almost 3-1/2 tons of good, healthy food for families in our area.

It will be hard to top those numbers in 2012, but we are certainly going to try. With Dr. Gary Wade's help, we'll be planting some early spring crops and will be asking for volunteers in mid February to plant lettuce. We would also like to put in a four more raised beds this spring—another work day to watch for!

Merry Anderson

AAMGA Treasurer's Report
As of January 17, 2012

Beginning Balance:	\$15,838.83
Deposits: Membership Dues	\$670.00
Checks:	
1418 Holiday Party	158.53
1419 Ham for Party	29.60
1420 Café rental	<u>[300.00]</u>
	\$188.13 [\$300.]

Ending Balance: \$16,190.70

Available Balance: \$15,890.70

Teddy Lapaquette, Treasurer



- **Prune** apple and pear trees now - but postpone peach pruning until mid-March.
- **Look** for blooms on your Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*). Few other plants can supply the year-round interest of this evergreen groundcover.
- **Redesign** your lawn for easier mowing. Eliminate sharp angles and narrow turf areas. Use mulch, new flower beds or a groundcover like mondo grass there instead.
- **Water** poinsettia, Christmas cactus and amaryllis plants with houseplant fertilizer diluted to one-half strength.
- **Prune** one-fourth of the branches from your overgrown fig bush. Removing any more will reduce the number of fruit this summer. Concentrate on saving the horizontal ones.
- **Bring** branches of spirea, forsythia and flowering quince indoors. Placed in a vase, they will bloom in just a few days.
- **Remember** to turn houseplants 180 degrees every two weeks to prevent uneven growth.
- **Remove** guy wires, stakes and trunk wraps from small trees you planted last fall.
- **The** brown foliage on pampas grass and maiden grass can be pruned away now. Leave only a "crew cut" of brown stems twelve inches high.
- **Plant** sweet pea now for fragrant flowers later. Plant English peas, onions, asparagus or elephant garlic for your spring vegetable garden.
- **Overgrown** Burford holly shrubs can be pruned severely now. Even if it is reduced to twelve inches tall, this shrub will resprout plenty of new foliage by summer.
- **Plant** a large container for your patio. A small boxwood surrounded by variegated ivy and blooming pansies would look very nice!
- **Plant** a winter daphne (*Daphne odorum*) near your home's entrance or front walkway. The scent will greet you each day when you arrive at your abode this spring.
- **Clean** out bird boxes so they will be ready to welcome new residents in a few weeks.
- **Build** raised beds for vegetables, roses and herbs. It's easy to do with four pieces of 2x8 wood planks. Choose lengths that fit your space; bolt them together at the corners.
- **Reduce** the size of your butterfly bush by two thirds to one half to encourage new growth (and big blooms) this summer.
 - **Set** your mower to its highest setting and cut off the tattered leaves of liriopé (monkey grass). They will quickly regrow in March.

Compiled by Elizabeth



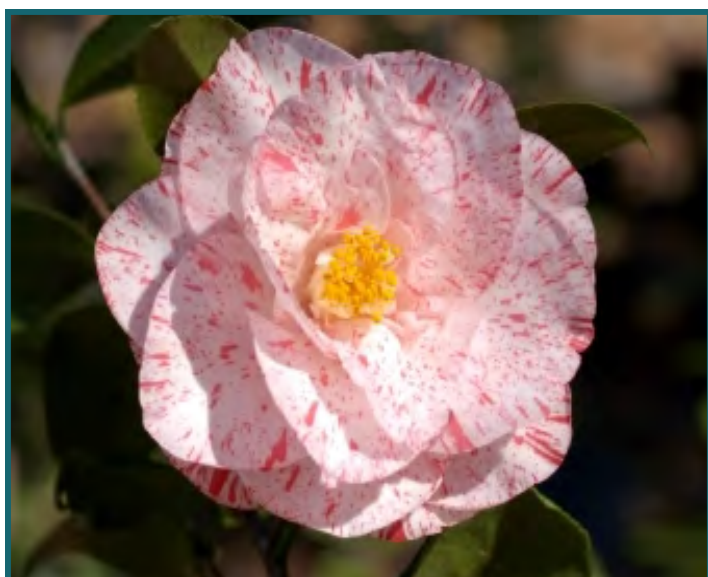
On every stem, on every leaf,... and at the root of everything that grew, was a professional specialist in the shape of grub, caterpillar, aphid, or other expert, whose business it was to devour that particular part. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

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.



Camellia japonica 'Betty Foy Sanders' is named for wife of former Georgia Governor Carl Sanders. It is an excellent garden variety - blooming in January-February in the Southern regions. It's large white blooms have red flecks and streaks throughout making the winter display of intense beauty!

Family: **Theaceae** (tee-AY-see-ee)
Genus: **Camellia** (kuh-MEE-lee-a)
Species: **japonica** (juh-PON-ih-kuh)
Cultivar: **Betty Foy Sanders**

Athens Area Master Gardener Association Committee Chairs and Other Leadership	Anne Walker - AAMGA Plant Sale 706.342.9471 WAWalk@netzero.net
Alice Zwaagstra - Projects Committee Chair 706.769.1435 alice@zwaagstra.net	Elizabeth Thurmond - Membership 706.354.0055 ethurmond@gmail.com
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Carol Wolf - Flower Garden at PAR 706.613.1122 CarolWolf@charter.net	Shirley Baker - Historian 706.546.0325 ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com

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
129 College Street
Fairmont, GA 30139



2011 Master Gardener Graduates' Green Up Ceremony

Front row (kneeling) L-R

Anisa Taylor - Mary Frey - Lisa McKinney - Linda Stephenson - Jean Ryan - Pat Van Gorder - John Aitkens

Middle Row (standing)

Joyce Waller - Karen Krusemark - Courtney DiCarlo - Brendan Nordgren - Stacy Smith - John Killens - Helen Wenner - Cassy Young - Ginny Jackson - Judy Newton

Back Row

Deborah Callahan - Teri Taylor - Brenda Trowbridge - Marsha Baxter