MEETING SCHEDULE

Our May 19th meeting will be at the Barnyard portion of the UGarden on Milledge Avenue which is the third driveway past the Botanical Gardens. It will start at the usual time at 6:00 pm. Please bring a chair.

Mark your Calendars

There are two, planned garden parties. May 15th we will tour the Extension Office garden with Kristi Sego and John Aitkens. On June 5th we will enjoy Kristi Sego’s wildflower garden located on Cleveland road in Bogart.   (See page 12)

Unless otherwise notified, our meetings will take place at 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month and in the Gardenside Room downstairs below the Conservatory level.

Mike Sikes
Vice President & Program Chair

Executive Board

President - Anne Walker
Vice President - Mike Sikes
Secretary - Kay Petroff
Treasurer - Shirley Baker
ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com

Athens-Clarke County Extension Agent: Amanda Tedrow
atedrow@uga.edu

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Elizabeth Thurmond
Newsletter Publisher & Listserv
AAMGAlistserv@gmail.com
**AAMGA Committees**

Audit: Ruth Smith, Chair  
Members: Jackie Williams, Susan Drinkard

Budget: Doug Lair, Chair  
Members: David Hoechst, Merry Anderson

By Laws: George Watson  
Members: Bob & Carol Wolf

Historian: Kay Petroff

Hospitality: Heather Gray-Jordan  
Cheryl & Frank Johnson

Membership: Jean Ryan, Chair  
Members: John Aitkens

Nominating: Jean Colquett, Chair

Programs: Gary Wade, Chair  
Members: Mike Sikes and Jean Colquett

Photography: Andrea Fischer

Publicity:

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**AAMGA Projects**

Projects: Brenda Beckham, Chair  
BBeckha2@bellsouth.net

Members: Gary Wade and Dortha Jackson

Clarke PAR: Merry Anderson & Pam Bracken, Co-Chairs  
Merry: merry.anderson@att.net  
Pam: pamb824@aol.com

Winter Garden: Gary Wade Gwade@uga.edu

Flower Garden at Clarke PAR: Jill Hyche, Chair  
jillhyche@gmail.com

Flower Bulb Project: Andrea Woodall & Jean Colquett, Co-Chairs  
Andrea: aawoodall58@gmail.com  Jean: greent39@yahoo.com

Oconee PAR: Gary Wade & Frank Johnson, Co-Chairs  
Gary: Gwade@uga.edu  Frank: frankandcheryljl@bellsouth.net

Junior Master Gardener Classes:  
Gaines School Elementary - Brenda Beckham, Chair  
BBeckha2@bellsouth.net  
Dortha Jacobson: dorthaf.jacobson@yahoo.com

AAMGA Plant Sale: Heather Gray Jordan & Donna McPipkin, Co-Chairs  
Heather: hgheather29@gmail.com  
Donna: DYates01@yahoo.com

Horticultural Therapy Project: Brenda Beckham, Chair  
BBeckha2@bellsouth.net

Backyard Pollinator Garden at SBG  
Co-Chairmen: Jackie Williams, Shirley Baker  
Jackie: jkwill82@hotmail.com  Shirley: ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com

Barnyard Demonstration Garden at U Garden  
Co-Chairmen: Shirley Baker, Petty Thomas  
ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com  PettyThomas@gmail.com

Salvation Army Vegetable Garden  
Chairman: David Hagaman  
dchagaman@gmail.com

Athena Gardens Retirement Community Vegetable Garden  
Chairman: Gary Wade  GWade@uga.edu

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mar 18 to Apr 20, 2015

Beginning Balance: 16,226.80

Deposit-Member Dues: 325.00  
Deposit-Bulb Sales: 729.74

Expenses:

- Hostess Expense: 63.14
- Plant Sale Expense: 42.80
- Oconee PAR: 657.20
- Clarke PAR: 144.12

Total Expenses: 907.26

Ending Balance: 16,374.28

Submitted by: Shirley Baker, Treasurer  
For additional details, contact: Shirleybaker555@gmail.com

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**ALL ABOUT COMPOSTING**

Athens-Clarke County Extension is holding a free Composting Workshop on Wednesday, May 20 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Library. The workshop will review composting methods suited for the backyard or the apartment, proper equipment, uses of compost, troubleshooting problems and more. Beginner and experienced composters are welcome! To register, please call 706-613-3640 or email atedrow@uga.edu. For more information, visit www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr.
President Anne Walker called the April meeting to order and thanked Jean Colquett for hosting the Spring Potluck. She encouraged members to enjoy Jean’s gorgeous garden.

Immediate Past-President Jackie Williams presented a garden sign to thank each of the officers who had served with her. Vice-President Anne Walker-1st year, Gary Wade-2nd year; Susan Drinkard-Secretary-1st year, Carol Wolfe-2nd year; Shirley Baker-Treasurer.

March Minutes: There were no corrections to the report in the Newsletter.

March Treasurer’s Report: There were no corrections to the report printed in the newsletter.

**Project Reports:**

Clarke Middle PAR-Gary Wade reported that 10 of the raised beds were planted during the workday. 4 beds with too much shade were moved recently. The soil for these beds is coming and then the Clarke students will plant seeds in them.

Oconee PAR-Gary Wade reported that the garden is on hold since it is an in-ground garden and it has been too wet for Jerry Thomas to plow. The plants and seeds are ready for planting and hopefully the garden will be in by May 1.

Junior Garden Club-Heather Gray-Jordan and Brenda Beckham are enjoying the children’s humor as they learn about butterflies, try new foods, and plant herbs. Members were asked to contribute snacks for the students.

Horticultural Therapy-Brenda Beckham said the program is going well but they would like to have more help. The group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:00 for about an hour.

Barnyard U Garden-Shirley Baker reported the areas have been plowed and a workday is set for April 28 since this is the last day for student volunteers to be involved. She hopes to get a lot done and will send an email with details.

Salvation Army Garden-Dave Hagaman thanked Gary Wade for helping plant and mulch on the last workday. The garden won Athens Land Trust’s Community Garden of the Year award. Another workday is scheduled for May 2.

Spring Plant Sale-Heather Gray-Jordan has more fliers to advertise the sale and an announcement will be made on a local radio station. Connie Cottingham will do a mass email. Members are also encouraged to spread the word on social media. In case of rain, she has 3 tents but would like to have more. Plants can be dropped off between 2-6 pm Friday. They should be labeled and reasonably priced. Volunteers have been contacted and are paired so a veteran and intern will work together at a station. Anyone having boxes and bags for plant purchases, please bring them. Parking for workers is in the medical building parking lot behind the Extension Office. The goal is $3000 with $2000 used for scholarships. Amanda Tedrow announced that Melanie Parker of the State Botanical Garden of Georgia had donated 18 flats of plants for the sale. Shirley Baker read the list of herbs they want for the medicinal herb table.

Flower Bulb Sale- Andrea Woodall had the poster on display at the meeting and said 10 orders had been received with many more needed. Deadline for ordering is June 15 but order early. The order form is on the website and in the newsletter. It should be printed, complete with amount due and mailed to Shirley Baker or bring it to the next meeting. A reminder that this year members can buy for friends but there are no outside sales.

**Garden Parties**: John Aitkens, Kristi Sego, Amanda Tedrow, and Liz Mohuller will host the next party Friday, May 15 at 6:00pm at the Extension Office. Parking is in the medical office behind Extension.

Kristi Sego will host the June 5 party at her house on Cleveland Road at 6:00pm. There is plenty of parking and hopefully there will be wildflowers blooming.

**Membership**: Jean Ryan reminded everyone to check to correct the membership list she emailed. The total is down 30 members this year so encourage those who have not joined to do so.

**Refreshments**: Heather Gray-Jordan and Frank and Cheryl Johnson have been in charge of refreshments for quite a while. The same arrangement will be in effect for the May meeting but after that they will take a break and each meeting will have a potluck format.

**New Project**: Gary Wade announced a new garden project at Athena Gardens Apartments. The retirement community has funds from Athens Land Trust for raised bed vegetable gardens. The food is for the residents and the project encourages exercise and nutrition. Gary met with 5 residents who are interested and helped them plant tomatoes. He needs 2 others to help on Fridays from 9:00-11:00. The project has been approved for credit toward yearly hours.

Guest-Jean Colquett introduced Wesley Smith, retired State Botanical Garden Greenhouse Manager, who had native azaleas for sale and encouraged members to enjoy her garden.

There was a last call for raffle tickets before the numbers were drawn.

Anne Walker adjourned the meeting.
Athena Gardens Retirement Community Vegetable Garden
A New AAMGA Project

Gary L. Wade, Project Coordinator

Athena Gardens is a United Church Homes retirement community on the eastside of Athens, behind the Publix shopping center. The residents there are all self-sufficient, mobile and able to care for themselves. Four years ago the complex obtained a grant from Athens Land Trust to install approximately 15 raised beds for vegetables, all surrounded by a chain-link deer fence. The garden originally was a community garden in which the residents all cooperated in growing all the crops and shared in the harvest. Currently, residents with a desire to garden are assigned a bed or beds on which they can produce vegetables for their own consumption. They decide what to grow in their bed.

So far we have helped them obtain seeds (from Amanda Tedrow) and plants they want to grow. David Berle from the UGarden delivered a load of compost, and we helped them add 2 inches of the rich organic to their beds and tilled it in. Most summer crops are planted now.

As Master Gardeners, our role is to assist them with their gardens, not to garden for them. We'll weed, fertilize, tie up tomatoes, water, and give them advice on growing their crops. The residents need to show up if they want our assistance and we won't touch their beds without consulting with them as to what needs to be done. We will need to use their push mower from time to time and mow around the raised beds.

Currently, we are meeting them at the garden at 9 am each Friday (weather permitting – I told them we won't garden in the rain). I don't anticipate needing to be there over 2 hours per week.

The project has been approved by AAMGA and Amanda for volunteer hours. Anyone wanting to help can join us on Fridays at 9 am. Directions: From College Station Rd., turn left on Barnett Shoals Road. Pass all the fast food restaurants, then turn left at the light where Barnett Shoals Road becomes Gaines School Road (there is a Rite-aid Pharmacy on one corner and Bank of America on the other corner). After turning left onto the continuation of Barnett Shoals Rd., take the first road to the left (Dennis Road). Follow the road until it ends and you will be at the garden.

Hope to see you there!
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

HOPE Garden

At Athens Greenfest 2015, The Athens Land Trust awarded The Salvation Army the Community Garden of the Year. Heather Benham (ED) and Alfie Vick (Board Member) presented a Golden Pitchfork to Adrienne Bumpers, Director of Social Services, and Janie Day Whitworth, H.O.P.E. Garden Intern, to signify the award. In the photo are Dave Hagaman, AAM-GA project director for the Salvation Army Hope Garden, Adrienne Bumpers, and Janie Day Whitworth.

Athens-Clarke County Plant a Row for the Hungry

Despite the more than 6 inches of rain in the first three weeks of April, we were able to get in three workdays at Clarke Middle School Plant-A-Row. The first two days were spent moving four of the raised beds so as to avoid the shade from the tree in the center of the garden. A huge thank you goes out to Bob Quinn, Dave Hagaman, Frank Johnson, Dennis Calbos, and Gary Wade for taking on that task. On the third workday, we had a record 17 volunteers who cleared, tilled, and raked the beds and then planted 10 of them. We have another workday scheduled for 4 p.m. on April 29 to fill the last four beds to get them ready for planting by some of the students at Clarke Middle. Please load up your wheelbarrow and shovel and come on out! Also, please consider signing up for a week or so of tending the garden as the plants grow and produce. It’s a fantastic way to get in your volunteer hours while learning about, or sharing your knowledge of, vegetable gardening with your fellow master gardeners. Please contact Pam Bracken to get on the schedule.

Check out pages 6-7 for photos from the workday.

Please let Pam Bracken know if you can help! Just zap Pam Bracken an e-mail at pam.bracken@georgiacenter.uga.edu and she will add you to the schedule!

Oconee County Plant a Row for the Hungry

Gary Wade and Frank Johnson, co-chairs

We’ve met one time, made new tomato cages and took inventory of what supplies we had and what we need. Jerry Thomas has not been able to plow the garden due to the wet weather, so we are on vacation until the plowing is done. We hope to get some crops in the ground by the first week in May.

GWade@uga.edu

frankandcherylj@bellsouth.net
The Monthly Newsletter of the Athens Area Master Gardener Association

Athens-Clarke County Plant a Row for the Hungry
Workday Volunteers

Zito Portillo, Cindy Allen, Andrea Woodall, Jill Hyche, Beth Anfinson, Linda Cooper, Jean Ryan, David Hagaman, Rebecca Ricks, Cheryl Autry, Shelley Hulland, Cynthia Prosser, Juanita-Broom, Bob Quinn, Merry Anderson, Gary Wade & Pam Bracken
PLANT A ROW Workday, Continued
GAINES SCHOOL ELEMENTARY – AFTER SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

Cecil Smith (Cher-Chen’s husband) is a retired entomologist from the University of Georgia. He brought some really neat insects and arachnid’s to show the children.

Cecil talked about all the neat critters he has helped collect all over the world. We enjoy hearing his stories of adventure in far-away lands, sleeping under the stars in sleeping bags on cots, swatting at mosquitoes probably big enough to tote you off for a midnight snack.

The children cringed when he told a story about a spider that crawled on his face. Oh yes, and a story about the cock roach. Cecil reaches around to get the roach off the back of his neck when it falls down into his shirt. He does a jig and catches the roach! The coolest thing about the story is that the cock roach is in the display case he is showing us. The huge moths, majestic butterflies and shiny beetles brings the ewe’s and ah’s out of all of us. They are absolutely beautiful!

The children are just busting with questions! Brenda and I find ourselves raising our hands asking questions as well. This is my fourth year helping Brenda Beckham with this program. I love it every time Cecil shares this extensive collection of insects and arachnid’s with us.

Brenda and I have so much fun with our garden club every year. It’s so neat to have some of the same children in the club each year. We must be doing something right, because the children come back every year. We learn something new each week. Their little brains can come up with some interesting questions! We teach the children that gardening is a life long journey. You never stop learning and you make some of the best friends along the way.

Happy Gardening,

Heather and Brenda
MAY GARDENING CHORES

- Treat for azalea lace bugs if you've had problems in the past. Insecticidal soap, horticultural oil and synthetic insecticide chemicals all work well, sprayed under the leaves.
- Look for tiny "toothpicks" on the trunk of your Japanese maple, Kwansan cherry and other small landscape trees. The Asian ambrosia beetle is spreading death-dealing fungus inside the trunk.
- Plant begonias, coleus, geraniums, petunias and vinca for summer-long color in your landscape.
- Apply Bacillus thuringiensis to cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower to ward off cabbage looper caterpillar damage as these plants mature.
- Snip off sprouts from the base and lower trunk of crepe myrtles that are being trained to grow in an upright tree form.
- Remove leafless limbs from shade trees. If they don't have leaves by now, they won't be coming back.
- Dig, divide and transplant your crowded irises to a better location, if needed, after they bloom.
- Prune early-flowering azaleas now that they have finished blooming. Remove tall sprouts at their base, inside the shrub.
- Pinch out the growing tips of rhododendron limbs now that flowers are gone. You'll get many more flowers next year.
- Plant rosemary, basil, oregano, dill and other herbs for savory summer meals.
- Place a newspaper mulch 10 sheets thick under tomato plants to prevent leaf diseases. Cover with pine straw.
- Plant corn, squash, beans and peas now that the soil is quite warm. Make another planting of corn in two weeks.
- Drill a one eighth inch hole in the cap of a two liter soft drink bottle. Fill the bottle, cap it and upend it in the soil of your patio plants to slowly water them during the day.
- Get in the habit of wearing a hat and sunscreen whenever you work in the sun. Skin cancer cases are on the rise.
- Plants need an inch of water per week. What's an inch of water? If rainfall or irrigation fills an empty soup can to a depth of one inch, that's just what plants need.

IT IS EASY BEING GREEN

Beneficial insects play a very important role in the environment. Although honeybees are known as pollinators and not usually grouped in this category, we need to keep them in mind as we plan our garden. Their needs are similar and they will benefit by the reduction of pesticides and careful practices in the garden. Ladybugs, ground beetles, lacewings, parasitic wasps and hover flies are an important part of the team. They consume large amounts of pests, but some rely on nectar and pollen. The key to attracting beneficials to your garden is diversity. Plants should be of various heights. Try to have some of their favorites available most of the year for a steady supply of food and shelter.

The health of the plants is important to keep them less susceptible to a pest infestation. Keep them well watered and fed. Avoid over crowding; plants need ventilation to keep them healthy. Keep a close eye on your plants so that you can take care of pests before they become a problem. If you feel you must use a deterrent, there are many safe, non-toxic products you can use. Be sure to read the label carefully to be sure it is safe to use around children or pets. Sometimes a good blast of water is all that’s needed to rid a plant of aphids.

A patch of the following plants will provide color in the garden as well as attract the beneficials so that they are ready to go after the pests if they are needed:

Fennel, Dill, Feverfew, Tansy, Yarrow, Angelica, Cosmos, Daisies, Prairie Sunflower, Marigolds, Sweet Alyssum
The Monthly Newsletter of the Athens Cottingham: Gaura offers hardy color

I picked five books off my shelves to start researching an article on Gaura. Three did not mention the plant while two references on perennials from the late 1980s gave it a paragraph in their 600 pages. I went back to my library and pulled out the most recent perennial books, which all praised this worthy perennial.

Gaura lindheimeri is native to Texas and Louisiana and has everything it takes to survive there: heat tolerance, humidity tolerance, drought tolerance. It also has attractive white flowers from late spring until frost. The 1-inch white blooms float above the foliage on thin stalks, leading to the common name "Wandflower." The entire plant seems to sway in the breeze and intermesh with neighboring flowers. I like the way the delicate, airy form intertwines with bright pink roses.

But this 5-foot tall by 3-foot wide perennial wasn’t getting much attention until those clever horticulturists and marketing folks started working their magic. Blooms in shades of pink, varying plant heights and variegated foliage are all now available in an assortment of Gaura lindheimeri varieties. The ‘Crimson Butterflies’ gaura by my front door has burgundy foliage and bright pink blooms on a compact plant.

Gaura grows well in zones 6 through 10, demanding only sunshine and good drainage. Some varieties can grow in Zones 4 and 5 with a good winter mulching. It can take light shade, but thrives in those hot, sunny spots. As with most ‘drought tolerant’ plants, it does need nurturing during its first season and will bloom better if it does have sufficient water.

Deadheading is not essential but makes the plant more attractive. You can cut off spent stalks or just shear it for another flush of blooms. You may want to cut back the larger varieties (hard prune) in spring. This will delay the first blooms but discourage the plants from getting too leggy. The blooms not only look like little butterflies dancing in the breeze, but attract the real butterflies to its nectar.

Gaura has a long taproot, which means it is well equipped to handle drought, but not a plant for dividing or transplanting. It would be best to go back to the nursery for more plants. The species Gaura lindheimeri does self sow, so little plants can be transplanted to other parts of the garden.

Gaura is still hard to find in plant books, but luckily it is not difficult to find in area nurseries. I found a good selection online at www.bigdipperfarm.com.

Gaura varieties available now include:

‘Blushing Butterflies’ (2 feet) - Pale pink blooms.

‘Corrie’s Gold’ (2 feet) - Green leaves have a gold edge. White and pink flowers.

‘Crimson Butterflies’ (1 1/2 feet by 2 feet) - Deep pink blooms and burgundy foliage on a compact plant.

‘Dauphine’ (5 feet by 5 feet) - Flowers open white and age to pink.

‘Old Faithful’ (7 feet by 5 feet) - Large form. Needs to be planted by another plant that can help support it.

‘Passionate Pink’ (2 1/2 feet tall) - Pink flowers and red foliage.

‘Pink Cloud’ (2 1/2 feet) - Upright form with pink blooms.

‘Pink Lady’ (2 feet) - Pink blooms on a compact plant.

‘Siskyou Pink’ (2 1/2 feet by 3 feet) - Deep pink blooms and burgundy foliage.

‘Sunny Butterflies’ (2 feet) – This is a variegated sport of ‘Siskyou Pink.’ Green leaves have a creamy edge. Rich rose pink flowers.

‘Whirling Butterflies’ (3 feet) - More upright form and whiter flowers than the species.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald in July, 2004. Written by AAMGA member Connie Cottingham. Sign up for her free weekly garden tips: Love Notes from the Garden at conniecottingham@gmail.com. Connie is a landscape architect, registered in Georgia, who lives and gardens in Athens.
ANNOUNCING!!
2015 Dazzling Daffodil Bulb Sale
(Exclusively for AAMGA Members and SBG Staff)

The Athens Area Master Gardeners Association and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia are co-sponsoring the first-ever daffodil bulb sale in the Athens area. The 2015 sale is exclusively for members of AAMGA and the staff at the SBG. It is not open to the public this first year while the group experiments with the process. If successful, a public sale is planned in 2016.

AAMGA members and staff at the SBG can take orders from their friends and families, but **only members of these two groups can submit orders. Please DO NOT copy and distribute the descriptions and order form to the general public. Orders coming directly from the public will be returned.**

The objectives of the bulb sale, beyond its obvious fund-raising potential, are to provide top-quality bulbs well-suited for our southern climate as well as new and unusual selections local gardeners may not have tried.

Descriptions and order form for the 2015 daffodil selections are printed in the AAMGA newsletter and on the AAMGA web site: [http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/anr/aamga.html](http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/anr/aamga.html)

Orders must be accompanied by a check to reserve bulbs. **Deadline for ordering is June 15, 2015.** Bulbs will be available for pick-up at the State Botanical Garden during a one-week period in early October. Specific dates and times for pick-up will be announced to purchasers by email or post-card in late September.

Questions can be directed to Andrea Woodall, [aawoodall58@gmail.com](mailto:aawoodall58@gmail.com) Ph.706/510-3708, or Jean Colquett, [greent39@yahoo.com](mailto:greent39@yahoo.com) Ph. 706/548-6612, co-chairs of the bulb sale.

*Both the bulb poster and the bulb order form are attached to this email.*
AAMGA members, spouses, significant other: Please plan to join us for wine and cheese and tour the beautiful demonstration gardens at the ACC Extension Office. If you wish to sit and relax, please bring your lawn chairs as seating is limited. Please park in the medical clinic parking lot behind the extension office from which there is easy access to the garden. Parking at the office is limited, so please save it for members with limited mobility. However, if you are having dinner afterwards at Longhorn’s, you can park in their lot.

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**Garden Party**  
June 5th at 6 p.m.

Kristi and Charlie Sego  
670 Cleveland Rd. Bogart  
(1 mile off Atlanta Highway, turn at the light near Bojangles)

Charlie and Kristi are inviting AAMGA members, spouses or significant others for our show of spring wildflowers. Enjoy wine and cheese while wandering through the flowers. Parking is ample but please bring a lawn chair and wear walking shoes.

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**Drawings at Monthly Meetings**

If you want to bring something for our drawing at the next meeting, please give Anne Walker a call. She wants to be sure we don’t have more than 20 prizes at a meeting.  
3 tickets for $2!

Anne Walker  404-307-6954  
gardenanne1@gmail.com