MEETING SCHEDULE

Our July 21st meeting will be in the SBG Gardenside Room with a potluck supper at 6:00 pm and the meeting at 6:30. David Freed from Danielsville will present a program about “Growing Japanese Maples.”

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
Athens-Clarke County Extension Agent: Amanda Tedrow

Inside This Issue

Meeting Schedule & Executive Board 1
Committees/Projects, Treasurer’s Report & Shade Gardening Workshop 2
Minutes 3
Ramblings from the Field & Remembering Ed Novak 3
Volunteer Opportunities 4-5
Gardening Chores, etc. 6
Connie’s Column 7-8
Monthly Meeting Drawings

DID YOU KNOW?

GARDENING FOR 30 MINUTES DAILY:
• Increases flexibility
• Strengthens joints
• Decreases blood pressure
• Regulates cholesterol levels
• Lowers risk of diabetes
• Slows osteoporosis

CALORIES BURNED PER 30-45 MINUTES:
Digging - Men: 197 calories, Women: 150 calories
Planting - Men: 157 calories, Women: 135 calories
Weeding - Men: 157 calories, Women: 136 calories

Elizabeth Thurmond
Newsletter Publisher & Listserv
AAMGAlistserv@gmail.com
The Monthly Newsletter of the Athens Area Master Gardener Association

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

Photography: Andrea Fischer

Publicity:

AAMGA Projects

Projects: Brenda Beckham, Chair
BBbeckha2@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: awoodall58@gmail.com  Jean: greent39@yahoo.com

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

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

TREASURER’S REPORT
May 20 to June 16, 2016

Beginning Balance 20,742.24

Deposit-Member Dues 10.00
Deposit-Bulb Sales 975.84
Deposit-Raffle Sales 32.00
Deposit-Plant Sales 4.00
Total Deposits 1,021.84

Expenses:
Hostess Expense 28.58
Plant Sale Expense 16.39
Garden Parties Expense 166.36
Oconee PAR 146.82
Clarke PAR 0.00
AFM-Booth Sponsorship 300.00
Total Expenses: 658.15

Ending Balance: 21,105.93

Submitted by
Shirley Baker, Treasurer
Shirleybaker555@gmail.com

Shade Gardening Workshop

Athens-Clarke County Extension is holding a free Shade Gardening Workshop on Wednesday, July 15 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Library (2025 Baxter Street, Athens, GA 30606). Attend this workshop to learn what plants will tolerate shade as well as tips for soil preparation, planting and maintenance. To register, please call 706-613-3640 or email atedrow@uga.edu. For more information, please visit www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr.
MINUTES FOR JUNE 16, 2015 MEETING
Kay Petroff, Secretary

The June meeting was held at the SBG Callaway Building with President Anne Walker presiding. She thanked everyone who participated in the delicious potluck before the meeting.

Program: Anne Walker introduced guest speaker Barbie Colvin from Milledgeville, Georgia, who contributed 4 of her plants to the end-of-meeting raffle. Barbie’s presentation was entitled ‘Big, Bold and Bodacious – Jurassic Park Gardening.’ The slides from her garden showed favorite tropical imposters for our area. Her presentation ended with audience questions and a reminder of the chance to visit her garden on Friday, August 14 at 10:00.

Business Meeting: Anne thanked Kristi Sego for opening her garden to members for the recent garden party and for her efforts in creating the garden at the Extension office.

Secretary’s Report: May minutes were filed as recorded by Secretary Kay Petroff and printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report: No corrections were made to the report filed by Treasurer Shirley Baker in the May Newsletter.

New Business: Gary Wade reminded everyone of the recent loss of member Ed Novak and his many contributions to AAMGA. He proposed taking up donations from members and presenting them to the SBG in memory of ‘Farmer Ed.’ Jean Colquett stated currently $100 is budgeted to be given to SBG at the end of each year in remembrance of members or family members. After further discussion, Gary Wade proposed that members be notified in the newsletter so they can make memorial donations for specific individuals at meetings. George Watson seconded. Andrea Fischer will check on SBG policies for remembrance plaques.

Project Reports:

Bulbs: Andrea Woodall reported the order went out today with an expected gross of about $800. Thank you to everyone who worked on this project.

Clarke PAR: Jean Ryan reported that the garden looks beautiful with squash, cucumbers, green beans, peppers and green tomatoes taken to the Food Bank. Jean Ryan, Andrea Fischer and Carol Holbert are in charge this week. Volunteers are needed for weeks in August and September.

Oconee PAR: Gary Wade and Frank Johnson reported the garden is using drip lines for watering and squash, zucchini, and cucumbers have been harvested. So far 185 pounds has been taken to Action in Bishop. Due to funding cuts, Action is open Monday-Thursday so produce needs to be taken earlier in the week. As a result the workday has shifted from Thursday to Tuesday which means volunteers are needed to harvest on the weekends and take the food to Action on Monday. Members are encouraged to volunteer and are notified by emails sent on the list serve.

Horticultural Therapy: Brenda Beckham reported that Petty Thomas is in charge this week. Activities are scheduled for Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Contact Brenda, Gary Wade or Petty Thomas to volunteer.

UGarden: Petty Thomas reported lots of growth since last month’s meeting. There is always a need for volunteers to help with watering and weeding. Contact Petty to help.

Pollinator Garden: Jackie Williams reported the garden is fine.

Athena Garden: Gary Wade said two Master Gardeners go over each Friday morning to work with 6 residents to help with watering and harvesting. The produce is for the residents use so no records are kept for the amounts harvested. The residents overplanted the 12-14 beds so better planning is needed for next year.

Announcements: Andrea Fischer said Mike Sikes had a surgical procedure at Athens Regional and will be hospitalized until the end of the week. Members can contact him by texting.

Members going to Barbie Colvin’s garden on August 14 must make individual transportation arrangements or coordinate with others.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00. Raffle tickets were drawn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kay Petroff
Secretary
Timing is Everything!

-Ramblings from the Field-

Gary L. Wade, Ph.D., retired UGA Extension Horticulturist

Timing is Everything!

No matter where I go, I always seem to be running late. I like to think of it as being fashionably late. I don’t plan it that way. It just happens. When I was a child my mother used to say “Gary, you’re always pushing the clock...pushing the clock!” Of course she had to say it twice for emphasis, sometimes three times when I missed the school bus in the morning. That’s how mothers get their point across. They figure that if they repeat something again and again, one of the times will surely register in their child’s brain. Another one of my mother’s famous phrases was that I was “going to be late for my own funeral.” Now that one is a stretch of the imagination, but she realized early on that I had a poor sense of timing and that I needed to work on it.

When it comes to certain gardening activities, I’ve learned that timing really is important! Let me give a few examples:

1. Pruning and tying up tomatoes is a mistake in the morning hours when dew is still on the foliage. Many foliar diseases are spread more readily from leaf to leaf when the foliage is moist. The fungal spores cling to clothes and hitch a ride from plant to plant. Moisture is a great vehicle for transporting fungal spores and helping them stick to their host, whether it’s clothes or plant leaves. It’s best to wait until late morning when the foliage is dry before working around tomato plants.

2. Liquid feed is best applied in the mid-morning hours on a sunny day. If you remember from the basic science portion of Master Gardener training, plants transpire moisture through their stomata or breathing structures on green leaves, stems and fruit. They also absorb foliar-applied liquid nutrients through their stomata. These stomata are open for business when the sun is out and photosynthesis is occurring, and they close at night. Therefore, liquid feed is less effective when applied in the late evening when the sun is going down because the stomata are closing up shop for the day and are no longer absorbing nutrients. Early morning and late day applications of liquid feed also should be avoided because it increases the time the foliage is moist, thereby creating a favorable environment for the spread of foliar diseases.

3. I’ve always direct-seeded squash, okra and cucumbers in the garden, but this year I’ve discovered that pre-seeding them in cell packs 2 to 3 weeks before planting, then transplanting them into the garden gives them a head-start on the growing season and decreases their time to maturity and fruiting once they are in the ground. I also think it helps the squash and cucumbers produce their crops before stem borers become an issue and cause the vines to decline.

4. Palms transplant best during the summer months, which is just the opposite of woody ornamentals that are best transplanted during their dormant period in winter. Palm growers have found that palms planted in summer become established before winter, thus increasing their winter hardiness.

Time for me to stop...I’m late for another appointment and I’ve got to be going!

Happy gardening!

Remembering Ed Novak, AAMGA Master Gardener

On May 29, 2015 the Athens area Master Gardeners lost a lifetime member, friend and colleague. Ed Novak, a Barrow county Master Gardener, will be greatly missed by all those who knew him and worked with him. He had no enemies, loved life, and his jovial attitude was contagious. He loved sharing his time and gardening talents at the State Botanical Garden where he was a volunteer tour guide. He particularly loved children and teaching them about gardening. They called him “Farmer Ed”. At age 74, Ed was way too young to leave us, but we understand there was a shortage of gardeners in heaven, so he volunteered for the job.

At the July AAMGA meeting, donations will be accepted so that a special memorial contribution honoring Ed can be made toward the new Children’s Garden at the State Botanical Garden.
Oconee Plant-a-Row Update

Despite not being able to plant the garden at Thomas Orchard until May 21 due to the relentless rains of April that prevented us from plowing the garden, the crops are growing like gangbusters! To date, 265 pounds of cucumbers and summer squash have been delivered to the Action agency in Bishop which provides assistance to low-income seniors in Oconee County. Okra is just starting, and bush beans will soon follow. All crops are irrigated with drip lines, and there appears to be no lingering effects of the herbicide-contaminated compost that affected the crops last year. We have 20 rows of assorted crops in the ground and all look tremendous!

We are most grateful to Paula and Jerry Thomas for providing us the land and irrigation water, and for plowing the garden for us.

We have moved our weekly work days from Thursdays to Tuesdays at 9 am to accommodate the Action’s agency’s request to get produce to them earlier in the week so they can distribute it more efficiently to the clients. We also picked up a few new volunteers who could help on Tuesdays, but not Thursdays.

You don’t have to be an Oconee Master Gardener or even live in Oconee County to work at the garden. All Master Gardeners are welcome. So come and join the fun each Tuesday at 9 am. If you can’t volunteer on Tuesday, we also need two weekend pickers during peak production times.
Athena Gardens Community Garden Update
By Gary L. Wade, Project Chair

“You all are like angels sent from heaven” said one of the gardeners at Athena Garden Apartments. Over that years while working at UGA I was called a lot of things, but an angel was never one of them. How flattering it is to be recognized for our good deeds. Makes one want to keep on doing what we do best - help people garden.

Special thanks to Cathy Roth, Lamara Martin and Brenda Browning who help keep the garden going. Two of us meet the gardeners each Friday at 9 am to assist them with any garden task needed. So far they have just needed assistance with weeding, tying up tomatoes, fertilizing and helping the corn stand upright.....corn, by the way, is a bad choice for raised beds...that corn is really as high as an elephant’s eye and still growing! I think we may have to stake each corn stalk before it’s all over.

The residents are also learning that it is NOT OK to plant too many different crops in a small space because they compete for light, choke each other out and produce fewer fruit. We had no influence on what they planted or where they planted it. We just help them garden and provide assistance. Perhaps as we gain their trust, they will let us help them make better gardening decisions. One mistake we did help them avoid was the desire to plant turnips and other greens in April! They were not particularly happy when we told them greens were fall crops, but we helped them avoid disappointment of planting a fall crop in spring. They are learning each time we visit, so our efforts seem worthwhile....and it doesn’t hurt to be called an angel once in a while!
**JULY GARDEN CHORES**

**Regularly** remove faded flowers from salvia, zinnia, coneflower and especially petunia. This will encourage bushiness the production of more flowers. **Remove** all stems that support faded flowers on your blue and pink hydrangeas; shorten droopy, flowerless stems by one third. The new growth that occurs between now and winter will produce next summer’s blooms. **There** is still plenty of time to plant seed of marigold, cosmos, cleome and dwarf sunflower. They’ll make a spectacular flower show in six weeks. **Support** tall flower stems prone to flop over after a rain. Use a thin stick or a length of bamboo and some jute twine to tie the plant upright. **Cut** back by half herbs like basil, mint and oregano. This prevents them from producing seed and promotes more fragrant leaves. **Check** the houseplants you’ve stationed outdoors for insect pests. Use insecticidal soap to manage insects if you find any. **Pick** squash, cucumbers and okra regularly. One over-ripe vegetable, left on the vine, stops bloom production. **Wood** chips make great mulch by saving moisture and controlling weeds! Spread a layer 2 inches deep under trees and shrubs out to where the branches end. **Going** on vacation? Most houseplants will grow just fine while you’re gone if placed on a wet towel in your bathtub with the curtain drawn. **Cut back** dahlias to half their height. Fertilize and water the plant to produce a crop of fall flowers. **Water** spring-planted trees and shrubs weekly: 2 gallons of water per foot of height. **Fertilize** houseplants. They are getting much more light now and can use the food to grow bigger.

**Standing Cypress**

*Ipomopsis rubra*

Standing Cypress, *Ipomopsis rubra* is a stunning wildflower native to the southeast part of North America. The impressive red spikes of tubular flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and many insects. Standing Cypress is a biennial plant that generally takes two seasons to mature and bloom. It is happiest in sunny areas with well-drained soil in drier conditions. It is even occasionally found growing on sandhills and dunes. Depending on conditions, the flower spikes can range from 2 feet (60 cm) to 6 feet (1.8 meters). Sow seeds in the spring after danger of frost has passed. The small seeds should be barely covered and the area kept moist until germination. Once established, *Ipomopsis rubra* is quite drought tolerant. It is generally hardy type of plant: Annuals, Perennials

**Spacing:** 3-6 in. (7-15 cm)
**Hardiness:** Zone 6a to Zone 11
**Sun Exposure:** Full Sun
**Bloom Color:** Red, Red-Orange
**Bloom Time:** Late Spring/Early Summer/Mid Summer
**Foliage:** Herbaceous
**Other details:** This plant is attractive to bees, butterflies and/or birds Average Water Needs; Water regularly; do not overwater
**Soil pH requirements:** 6.1 to 6.5 (mildly acidic) 6.6 to 7.5 (neutral) 7.6 to 7.8 (mildly alkaline)
**Patent Information:** Non-patented
**Propagation Methods:** From seed; direct sow outdoors in fall

---

AAMGA:  [www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/aamga.html](http://www.ugaextension.com/clarke/anr/aamga.html)

GMGA:  [www.georgiamastergardeners.com](http://www.georgiamastergardeners.com)
**Cottingham: Prune most of your hydrangeas before the end of July**

News Flash! The time to prune most hydrangeas is before the end of July. In other words, if you want to prune your hydrangeas, get outside this weekend and do it.

Actually, I wish it were that simple, but hydrangeas are a diverse family, ranging from the familiar pink and blue mophead to the bold, architectural oakleaf to the summer blooming Annabelle. There is even a climbing hydrangea vine.

Remember the old rule of thumb: Prune spring bloomers after they bloom, because they set their buds in late summer and fall and bloom on old wood.

Prune summer bloomers before they start their growth spurt in spring, because they form their buds in spring and bloom on new wood.

Hydrangeas fall in both categories, with the mopheads, lacecaps and oakleafs blooming in spring and scheduled for pruning now and the Annabelles and PeeGees blooming in summer and scheduled for pruning in early spring. Since the buds have not formed yet, summer bloomers are not damaged by late frosts.

Hydrangeas do not necessarily have to be pruned, but if you want a smaller plant to fit within your landscape, a stockier plant to support large flowerheads or more blooms, you will want to prune.

* Mopheads and Lacecap hydrangeas (H. macrophylla) - The mopheads have pink or blue (sometimes white or red) round clusters of blooms at the end of the branch. Lacecaps have flat clusters of flowers, also at the end of each branch.

Now that the plant has bloomed, the buds for next year's growth will start to form. These plants should be pruned in July, because next year's flower buds will form in late summer and fall. People often prune these plants in early spring and then wonder why their plant never blooms.

To prune mature mopheads and lacecaps, cut back weak shoots and up to one-third of the older shoots all the way to the base or above a strong pair of buds near the base. The remaining shoots can be cut back to right above a pair of fat buds, cutting up to 12 inches back.

What about the new repeat blooming hydrangeas, like Endless Summer, that bloom on both old and new wood? Andy Rogers of McCorkle Nurseries recommends just deadheading these shrubs, which will encourage reblooming in six to 12 weeks. Pruning tips can be found at www.endlesssummerblooms.com.

* Oakleaf hydrangeas (H. quercifolia) - These are dramatic, beautiful creatures that offer a long blooming season, bold foliage, red fall color and rugged bark.

They have a fantastic form that looks best left alone, but can overwhelm a landscape if not put in the right place. I am excited about Pee Wee, which matures at a tame 5 feet tall and is easier to incorporate into the home landscape.

Oakleafs do not need to be pruned, but you can cut back one-third of the foliage, spent flowers and dead wood.

An oakleaf will revive from hard pruning (back to above two buds at the base of each stem) in early spring, but might be slow to recover and will not bloom the following spring.

* PeeGee hydrangea (H. paniculata) - Panicles of blooms similar to the oakleaf appear in summer. The buds are formed in spring, so pruning is best done in early spring before the plant leafs out.

This plant does respond well to hard pruning, cutting back to about 2 feet tall, or the lowest pair of buds. Like the butterfly bush and crape myrtle, it still will grow several feet in a season after a hard pruning or do just fine left alone.

Hydrangeas continued on the next page
Cottingham: Hydrangeas continued

Paniculatas also can be pruned into a tree form, by training to a single trunk and removing the lower side shoots.

* Annabelle hydrangeas (H. arborescens "Annabelle"). Annabelles can be pruned anytime from right after they flower to when they leaf out in spring. You may want to cut them back to about 6 inches above the ground in fall for a neater look instead of waiting until early spring.

There are so many hydrangeas available to homeowners, everyone should grow a few.

Both Endless Summer and Lady in Red hydrangeas were introduced by Michael Dirr of the University of Georgia.

Last fall, Endless Summer was sold through independent nurseries in the Southeast before hitting a big nationwide marketing campaign and sale this spring.

This year, Lady in Red will be available locally in independent nurseries. Lady in Red is a lacecap that opens pinkish white and matures to a burgundy rose.

In addition, it has red stems and veins and reddish-purple fall foliage.

The nationwide campaign, including advertising in Southern Living and Sunset magazines and nationwide distribution, will happen next spring. So to be ahead of the crowd, plant a Lady in Red this fall.

To extend the blooming season of your hydrangea collection, plant one of the summer bloomers, such as Annabelle.

Lady in Red  Annabelle  Endless Summer

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you can not see a shadow."
Helen Keller
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

cell: 404.852.8910
home: 706.342.9471
gardenanne1@gmail.com