



From the Ground Up

Although the long, hot summer is holding on with a vengeance, we know that Fall officially arrives this month. In Athens, we are assured that Fall is quickly approaching because students are returning to campus and football scrimmages are in full force. Our August meeting was a fun blending of both gardening and UGA football. Coach Vince Dooley graciously welcomed us, poolside, to his gardens and shared a little about his collection of plants. Afterwards, we strolled through the grounds and everyone got a chance to discover cool plants (the evergreen dogwood or the leopard plant), interesting garden art (metal guitars or a bulldog weather vane) and several water features.



My favorite part of visiting someone's garden is getting to see how they display their plants and layout their garden. There is always something wonderful to discover around each corner. I look forward to visiting Randy Elmore's garden during our October meeting. What about your garden? If you would like to open your garden for an upcoming meeting this Spring, we would love to come and explore! Let Jean Colquett know and she will put you on the calendar.



Speaking of calendars, hopefully you have a wee bit of room to squeeze in a few upcoming events. The Georgia Master Gardener Association (GMGA) Fall Conference will be in Macon October 21st and 22nd at the Macon Marriott City Centre Hotel and the theme is 'Autumn in Bloom'. Visit the GMGA website at www.georgiamastergardeners.org for more conference information. The deadline for an early bird rate of \$65 is September 22nd – the last day of Summer.

The State Botanical Garden has two upcoming symposiums: Georgia Gold Medal Plants – Wednesday, September 14th & Medicinal Plants – Tuesday, October 18th.

There is always something exciting and educational in the gardening community. Stretch out your roots and you will find new adventures!

Enjoy the journey!
Andrea Fischer



*To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves.
garden quote / saying by Mohandas K. Gandhi*

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Our meeting was called to order by President Andrea Fischer.

Our meeting was held at Coach & Mrs. Vince Dooley's lovely garden on Milledge Circle. Coach Dooley talked to the group about his many plant collections. After the business meeting, the membership toured the expansive gardens.

Minutes included in the newsletter and website: George Watson moved that the minutes be accepted and Frank Johnson seconded the motion. There were no objections.

Treasurer's Report: Teddy Lapaquette let us know that we have \$16,542.58 in the bank. The complete report will be in the September newsletter.

Projects: Alice Zwaagstra, Project Chair, asked for reports from the various chairs:

>**Clarke PAR** – Merry Anderson said they had produced 700 pounds so far and the muscadines were coming in.

>**Habitat for Humanity** –Jackie told us know about two completed projects in the past two weeks.

>**Keep ACC Beautiful** – Carole Holmes sent a message to let everyone know about a cleanup scheduled for Saturday, August 27th. It will start at 9 am and everyone will meet at the Greenway parking lot at the corner of College Ave. and MLK.

>**Rain Barrels** – Frank Johnson reported that we received the money for four barrels from Thyme after Thyme and Thomas Orchards turned in the funds for seven barrels. The committee has twenty-nine more rain barrels set up for completion.

Announcements from SBG: Andrea let us know about the numerous upcoming events at SBG. Check out their website for a complete listing. <http://www.uga.edu/botgarden/events.html>

Old Business: Andrea announced to the membership that the Executive Board agreed upon a one time \$1,000.00 donation to the GMGA Scholarship Endowment fund. No vote was required since the amount did not go over the \$1,000.00 needed for a general membership vote.

September Meeting: Our September 20th meeting will be held The Callaway Building at 5:30 pm with Cyndi Ball of Lazy B Farms presenting the program. For a complete listing of the programs through December, check out the Calendar of Events in the September newsletter.

The Business Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Thurmond, Secretary



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

GMGA: www.georgiamastergardeners.org



Meeting Schedule: September 20th, 5:30 PM at SBG with Cyndi Ball from Lazy B Farms presenting the program. Cyndi is a Master Gardener and she makes goat cheese, does organic gardening and keeps chickens.

October 18th - Randy Elmore's garden at 5:30 PM

November 16th - Sam Ingram - backyard critters @ SBG at 5:30 PM

December 20th - Christmas Party at the Garden Side Room at SBG. Specifics to be announced at a later date.

Jean Colquett

Oconee Plant-A-Row Update

Oconee Plant-a-Row continues to flourish with the help of master pickers Helen Wenner, Heather Gray-Jordan (and her girls), Lisa Douglas, Elizabeth Thurmond & John Killens. The zucchini & squash are fading, but the peppers, eggplant, okra & tomatoes are going strong. Action Inc. Food Pantry in the Bishop Community Center has been most appreciative of the veggies that are helping the hungry in Oconee. Oconee PAR has produced 313 ½ pounds to date.

John Q.... quack17@bellsouth.net

PAR – Clarke Middle School

Although the vegetables in several of the raised beds at Clarke Middle School are coming to the end of their runs, we are pleased to report that the peppers and okra are still producing and the new beds of bush beans will begin to produce soon. Through August 23, Clarke PAR has provided 730 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Athens Area Emergency Food Bank.

Thanks to Frank and Cheryl Johnson, Andrea Fischer, and Pam Bracken for their diligent work on the scuppernongs this year. Our first harvest on August 22 resulted in 15.5 pounds of the tasty fruit—that's almost twice as much as we picked in all of 2010. They are a lot easier to pick this year due to the new trellises and the major "haircuts" that Andrea and Pam provided. Keep up the good work volunteers!

Merry Anderson

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Adopt-A-Highway

Our Adopt A Highway project is in conjunction with Keep Athens Clarke County Beautiful. We meet four times a year on a Saturday morning to pick up trash on a stretch of Martin Luther King Parkway between North Ave. and the Loop. I have scheduled a clean up for Saturday, August 27. We will start at 9 am to beat the heat. We meet at the Greenway parking lot at the corner of College Ave. and MLK. KACCB provides "grabbers" and bright colored vests and bags. You should probably wear gloves, sunscreen, and a hat. I'll bring water and a snack. It usually takes about two hours.

E-mail me at cholmes_ccsd@yahoo.com or call 706-353-8568 to let me know you will be there or if you need further information.

Thanks,
Carole Holmes

PAR- Flower Bed Workday

There will be workday later in September. Be sure to watch for the details in one of the weekly announcements.

Deadlines: Announcements and Newsletter Contributions

Weekly Announcements:

By 8:00 PM on Mondays

Newsletter Contributions:

By 8:00 PM on the 23rd of each month

Written articles: in WORD

Photos: as jpeg attachments

To: AAMGAlistserv@gmail.com

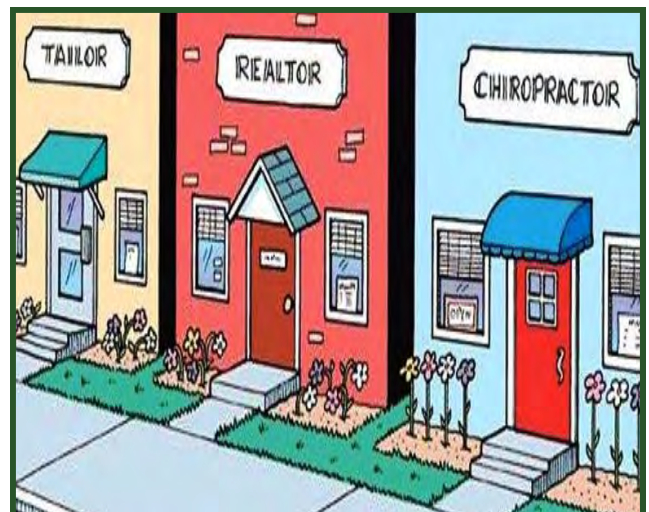
Any contributions received after the deadlines will not be published until a later distribution.

- ☀️ Divide perennials as hostas, daylilies, Shasta daisies, perennial phlox and cannas. After digging them up, wash the soil off to make dividing them easier.
- ☀️ Ornamental grasses should be coming into their prime, showing off dazzling seed-heads. Collect some for gorgeous dried arrangements indoors this fall.
- ☀️ Before herbaceous plants are cut down by fall frosts, place markers beside them so they won't be accidentally dug up next spring when planting time arrives.
- ☀️ Now is a good time to plant the seeds of such hardy annuals and biennials as lunaria, pinks, sweet alyssum, Johnny jump-ups and sweet peas.
- ☀️ Continue adding to the fall garden by planting such cool-season veggies as lettuce, kale, turnips, radishes and spinach. Since summer production took a lot out of the garden soil, don't forget to side-dress with granular fertilizer, rotted manure or compost at planting time.
- ☀️ By the middle of the month, begin to bring outdoor-vacationing houseplants inside for the year. Repot if necessary and check the plants and their soil carefully for immature insects and insect eggs that could be brought inside and cause problems in winter.
- ☀️ If you save plastic pots, before you put them in storage you should sterilize them by soaking them overnight in a solution of one part bleach and ten parts water.
- ☀️ September is the best time to fertilize lawns and to seed new ones, since young seedlings will be growing in moister, cooler weather. Use a fertilizer that is formulated for our region.
- ☀️ Daffodils, tulips, crocuses, and other spring-flowering bulbs should be planted as soon as they are purchased. This will prevent exposure to high temperatures and will ensure ample root development before cold weather.
- ☀️ Compost all raked leaves, garden trimmings, and vegetable scraps. By spring you will have a supply of valuable organic matter.
- ☀️ Collect and dry annual flowering seed-heads, such as zinnias, marigolds, cosmos, and Mexican sunflowers. Store seeds in a cool dry place and sow late next spring for your cutting garden.
- ☀️ Continue to pull weeds from your garden. Eliminating them now, before the seeds spread, will reduce work next spring.
- ☀️ Take a moment to write down your horticultural successes and failures over the past summer. These notes will come in handy next year when planning your garden.
- ☀️ Regional nurseries know fall is the best time for planting perennials, so take advantage of sales and new offerings.
- ☀️ Lawn and garden centers want to move out garden equipment to make room for holiday merchandise. Watch for sales on mowers, weed-eaters, trimmers, tillers, hoses and more.
- ☀️ Garden mums can be found in every shape, color, and size. For additional color, place them in fall beds, in containers, or in arrangements,
- ☀️ Clean and fill birdbaths and bird feeders to enjoy fall migration of our feathered friends. Hang several types of feeders to attract a variety of birds.

Compiled by Jean Colquett

AAMGA Treasurer's Report Activity

Beginning Balance:		\$16,292.58
Deposits:	Dues	30.00
	Rain Barrels	220.00
Debits:	no checks written this month	
	Total:	0.00
End Balance	\$16,542.58	Available Balance \$16,542.58
	*Not yet cleared or encumbered	



Help! How can I get rid of the armadillo in my yard?

Unfortunately, the nine-banded armadillo finally reached Athens. Armadillos are nocturnal and have an amazing sense of smell but poor eyesight. Whenever they smell their favorite foods, earthworms and grubs, they begin digging and often burrow under structures for shelter. Reducing the insect and grub population may reduce an armadillo infestation, but chances are the armadillo will not leave your area completely. If you would like to trap your own armadillo, you will need a Havahart trap and short fencing. Find a burrow hole and create a path with the fencing to guide the armadillo into the trap. This path should run from the burrow opening to the trap. Baiting the trap may help, but results are inconclusive as to what will attract the armadillo; earthworms or grubs in a sock is a possibility. The problem with trapping your own armadillo is the relocation process. You are not allowed to release them on public property and I don't know of any homeowners who would want the headache of an armadillo on their property. Contact a nuisance wildlife removal company for trapping and humane disposal fees.

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

If any of the members know someone who would like to take the Master Gardener classes, the applications for the 2012 classes are available online.

<http://www.caes.uga.edu/extension/clarke/anr/documents/MG2012AppSI.pdf>

Athens Area Master Gardener Association Committee Chairs and Other Leadership	Shirley Baker - Historian and Photographer 706.546.0325 ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com
Anne Walker - AAMGA Plant Sale 706.342.9471 WAWalk@netzero.net	Elizabeth Thurmond - Membership 706.354.0055 ethurmond@gmail.com
Carole Holmes - Keep ACC Beautiful 706.353.8568 cholmes_ccsd@yahoo.com	Heather Gray-Jordan - Hospitality 706.453.9757 hqheather29@gmail.com
Cheryl LaValley - Clarke PAR (Fall) 706.549.4461 celavalley@bellsouth.net	Merry Anderson & Pam Bracken - Clarke PAR Vegetable Gardens (Spring & Summer) 706.549.4121 merry.anderson@att.net 706.548.3861 pamb824@aol.com
Alice Zwaagstra - Projects Committee Chair 706.769.1435 alice@zwaagstra.net	John Quackenbush - Oconee PAR 706.202.2769 Quack17@bellsouth.net
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Plant -A-Row for the Hungry
at Clarke Middle School

Photos Contributed
by Carol & Bob Wolf

