MEETING SCHEDULE

The September 15th meeting will be held in the Gardenside Room at SBG at 6:00 pm for a covered-dish supper with the meeting starting at 6:30 pm.

Watch your email for more detailed information

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

Mike Sikes

As many of you know, Mike Sikes, one of our fellow Master Gardener volunteers and SBG gift shop manager, recently had major surgery. Thankfully, Mike is doing well and will be moved to a rehab facility in Athens soon.

I am sure that Mike would appreciate hearing from everyone to cheer him on during his recovery. I know I miss seeing his smiling face around the botanical garden!

Please send any cards and well-wishes to:
260 Luke Road   Bogart, GA 30622
You may also email Mike at: ..msikes9@gmail.com
Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

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 2
Minutes 3
Ramblings from the Field 4
Volunteer Opportunities & Reports & Attracting Pollinators Class 5-6
Athens Clarke PAR Photos 7
Gardening Chores, etc. 8
Connie’s Column 9
Monthly Meeting Drawings & Bold, Bodacious Trip 10

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

Photography: Andrea Fischer

Publicity:

AAMGA Projects

Projects: Barbara Turner, Chair
BarbaraTurner@mac.com
Co-Chairs: Gary Wade and Dortha Jackson

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

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: frankandcherylj@bellsouth.net

Junior Master Gardener Classes:

Gaines School Elementary - Brenda Beckham, Chair
BBeckha2@bellsouth.net
Dortha Jacobson: dorthafjacobson@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
Jul 22 to Aug 18, 2015

Beginning Balance 19,516.61
Deposit-Member Dues 0.00
Deposit-Bulb Sales 3.78
Deposit-Raffle Sales 34.00
Donations-Ed Novak 90.00
Total Deposits 127.78

Expenses:
Friends of Garden Donation 90.00
in Memory-Ed Novak
Oconee PAR 41.22
Clarke PAR 41.22
Speaker Gift 75.00
Exp-Barnyard Garden 77.45

Total Expenses 324.89

Ending Balance 19,319.50

Submitted by
Shirley Baker, Treasurer
Shirleybaker555@gmail.com

Petrichor (n.)
the smell of earth after rain.

(PET-ri-kuhr)
MINUTES FOR AUGUST 18th, 2015 MEETING
Kay Petroff, Secretary

President Anne Walker presided at the August meeting in the SBG Gardenside Room. She welcomed everyone and thanked members who brought food. Anne introduced Dr. Allan Armitage who demonstrated his Armitage App, introduced his online courses and read from his latest book. Copies of some of his books were available for purchase after the meeting.

Business Meeting:
Secretary’s Report – July minutes to be filed as reported.
Treasurer’s Report – July report to be filed as printed in the newsletter.
Unfinished Business – Anne encouraged members to remember Mike Sikes as he continues to struggle with health issues. Anyone wishing to contact Mike can get more information from Anne. (Check page 1 of this publication.)
New Business – George Watson reminded members that during fall garden cleanup, it is a good time to start growing plants for the spring plant sale.

Project Reports:
Clarke PAR – Merry Anderson reported about 900 pounds of produce has been harvested. A few weekly reports are missing so the total pounds may be more. She thanked all the great weekly volunteers who have been diligent in fighting various pests. Pam Bracken added that the garden looks great in spite of the insects.
Oconee PAR – Bob Quinn reported that 5 volunteers worked today and gathered 95 pounds of produce. The season total is about 1900 pounds of which 400 pounds are cucumbers.
Salvation Army Garden – David Hagaman reported a good workday last month. Plans are to put in a fall garden soon. He is not sure of the total pounds of produce harvested since the scale is broken but all of the food has helped feed the families involved in the project.
Horticultural Therapy Project – Madonna Roberts said 13-14 residents participate each week and everyone enjoys the projects.
UGArden – Shirley Baker said the garden is in maintenance mode. A workday is planned for gourd harvesting. She is not sure about plans for the garden in the fall.
Backyard Pollinator Garden at SBG – Jackie Williams reported plans for additional planting in the fall. A notice with details will be coming.
Athena Gardens Retirement Community Vegetable Garden – Cathy Roth reported that members will meet with the residents to plan the fall garden on August 26th. Two workdays are planned for September to remove summer plants and to plant the fall garden. Members can contact Gary Wade for more info.

Announcements –
- Barbara Turner has volunteered to be Chair of the Projects Committee to replace Brenda Beckham.
- Jackie Williams attended a GMGA conference recently and reminded members of grants of $500 that have been awarded throughout the state. She encouraged members to apply for a grant to start a new project or to expand an ongoing project. Applications are online and are due by March 15. Jackie is currently serving as district director but would like to have another member take this position. Responsibilities include attending 4 meetings per year and reporting on local activities. Contact Jackie for more information.
- Members are encouraged to join GMGA. For each member who joins at the fall conference or after, $5 will be given to the local group. The fall meeting will be in Dahlonega on September 11-12 and registration is online.
- Merry Anderson thanked all the MG members who helped setup the SBG Flea Market. The estimated total earned from the market is $9100.
- The September 15th meeting will be help in the Gardenside Room at SBG. Watch for program information online.

President Anne Walker adjourned the meeting.
Respectfully submitted, Kay Petroff, Secretary
I was not planning to spend my retirement pulling weeds, but mulberry weed is about to get the best of me. I try to spend at least an hour each week pulling it, only to find as much or more of it the following week.

If you don’t have it...yet...count your blessings! On the other hand, you may have it and don’t really know it by name, or perhaps you have already given it an alternate name, like I have; one that cannot be printed!

Mulberry weed, *Fatoua villosa*, first appeared in Louisiana in 1962 and was thought to have hitch-hiked on cargo ships from Asia, like a lot of other invasive exotic plants. Since then, it has spread, most likely via nursery containers, to states throughout the Southeast.

Also called hairy crabweed, mulberry weed grows as an upright plant about a foot tall. It has alternate triangular leaves, 3 to 4 inches long, that are coarsely toothed and hairy. The petioles are about half as long as the leaves. Pea-size flower clusters emerge from each leaf node along the stem. They turn dark grey as they mature. The plant is a re-seeding annual, producing copious amounts of seeds that are scattered nearby to form a new colony of plants that continues to grow as seeds are dispersed. Several generations of plants can be produced in a single season, and the population can explode in just a few weeks. The seeds also over-winter and germinate the following spring by the hundreds.

Fortunately, mulberry weed is pretty easy to pull, but you must be certain to get roots and all. If the stem breaks during pulling, it will branch and produce more seeds than the single stem alone. The plant can be killed with Round-up, but because it is usually found nestled among ornamental plants, the use of a non-selective herbicide, like Round-up, is not always possible. Pre-emergent herbicides, such as Dactal, Preen, Surflan and Gallery can be used to keep the seeds from germinating, but if you are opposed to using herbicides, a strong back is essential for bending and pulling, bending and pulling, then bending and pulling some more. I’ve found that muttering a few choice words while pulling really helps my attitude, it but doesn’t eliminate the problem.

Right now, I only have three populations of the weed in my landscape, so I’m following the three-prong approach in addressing the problem; pulling as I have time, spraying with Round-up where I can, and applying a pre-emergent herbicide to the infested area to prevent it from coming back.

Trust me, this weed is a nightmare! If you give it an inch, it will take a yard!
The Monthly Newsletter of the Athens Area Master Gardener Association

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

Athens-Clarke Plant A Row for the Hungry

Our Clarke Middle School Plant-A-Row has produced more than 900 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables through August 27. The tomatoes, peppers, and green beans are continuing to thrive, but the squash and cucumbers are down for the count. Some of our scuppernongs are ready for harvesting now that they have started to turn a lovely shade of mauve... of course, the best way to determine whether they are ripe is to pop one in your mouth!

Our giant green bean tepee looks more like the leaning tower now, but the vines are still producing. The other pictures this month include the beautiful yellow flowers on our tomatillos. I’m not sure how many of those will become tomatillos, but the plant itself is lovely. Also pictured are our very thorny blackberries that were planted this year. Gary Wade says they will produce huge berries but that we may need heavy leather gloves when we are harvesting. Our volunteers who have been coaxing them onto the trellises can already vouch for that!

We will be planting a fall garden this year so please watch for our request for volunteers. We definitely need your help! Our Clarke Middle School Plant-A-Row has produced more than 900 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables through August 27. The tomatoes, peppers, and green beans are continuing to thrive, but the squash and cucumbers are down for the count. Some of our scuppernongs are ready for harvesting now that they have started to turn a lovely shade of mauve... of course, the best way to determine whether they are ripe is to pop one in your mouth!

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We will be planting a fall garden this year so please watch for our request for volunteers. We definitely need your help!

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!

Merry Anderson

Athena Gardens Project Update
Gary L. Wade, project chair
GWade@uga.edu

This year was the first year Master Gardeners assisted residents of Athena Gardens Retirement Community with their vegetable garden. There are ten raised beds approximately 5 feet wide and 50 feet long. Residents who want to garden and are able to garden are assigned a garden space to grow their own produce. Master Gardeners assist them with obtaining seeds and plants, preparing the soil, planting and make weekly visits to the garden to help tend the crops.

The summer garden was a learning experience in that some residents planted too many different crops in the same area. As a result, the crops competed for space, and taller vegetables shaded out the shorter ones, affecting overall yield. However, we tried not to be critical and went along with their plans while building a relationship. We were there to help them garden, not tell them how to garden.

We will have a meeting with residents in late August to plan the fall garden. Then, in mid-September, we’ll have a work day to pull up and compost the old crops and prepare the garden for fall planting. On a second work day we will plant the fall crops. Recently, the apartment manager said he might have some money in the budget to purchase drip irrigation supplies, so we are going to follow up on that offer (currently they are hand watering).

We are searching for some new volunteers who would like to get involved with this project and who can commit a couple hours of their time each week to help the gardeners garden. Athena Gardens is located at the end of Dennis Drive, behind the Publix shopping center on the east side of Athens. Please contact Gary Wade at gwaade@uga.edu if you would can spare the time, need the volunteer hours, and would enjoy helping seniors garden.

Special thanks to Brenda Browning, Lamara Martin and Cathy Roth for assisting with the summer garden. I know the residents appreciated their assistance.

Gary Wade, project chair
Oconee Plant-a-Row Update  
Gary Wade and Frank Johnson, co-chairs

Oconee Plant-a-Row Having a Banner Year!

Despite planting a month late, the summer garden at Thomas Orchards has produced a phenomenal amount of produce, including over 400 pounds of cucumbers on just 12 plants! The cucumber variety was Sweet Success, an All-American Selection. It sure lived up to its name this year! To date the garden has generated 1,315 lbs. of produce for the Action Agency in Bishop that provides assistance to low-income seniors in Oconee County.

Special thanks to all those volunteers who have spent countless hours planting and tending the garden. We've had to pick on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday just to keep up with the okra and a few other fast-track crops. We even got creative and planted watermelons and cantaloupes on the compost pile. Although the worms and raccoons got to most of the cantaloupes before we did, the watermelons have enjoyed the recent rains and are getting larger day by day.

Plans are being made to transition to a fall garden in late September. We'll plant turnips, mustard, collards, cabbage, kale, spinach, Brussels sprouts, rutabagas and lettuce. We anticipate being done with the fall garden by Christmas, then we will give the garden, and the gardeners, a rest before the spring garden is planted in late April.

We always can use a few more volunteers on our work day, each Tuesday at 9 am. Three pickers are also needed each Thursday and Saturday at 9 am during peak production time. To sign up for picking, go to the Oconee PAR Web site at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dada92cabfa7-oconee

Roy Clark and Buck Owens aren't the only ones "pickin and grinnin" these days. We do it each week at Thomas Orchards.

Gary Wade and Frank Johnson, project co-chairs

Attracting Pollinators to the Garden Workshop

Wednesday, September 16 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Athens-Clarke County Library (2025 Baxter St. Athens, GA 30606)

Learn how to attract pollinators to your yard during this free workshop taught by an Athens Area Master Gardener. We'll review ways to create the ideal habitat for honeybees, hummingbirds and more. Open to gardeners of all levels. Please register by September 15 by calling (706) 613-3640 or email atedrow@uga.edu
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY
SEPTEMBER GARDENING CHORES

☼ 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.

Vegetable Gardening Resources

Vegetable Gardening in Georgia:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C963

Soil Testing for Home Gardens, Lawns and Wildlife Food Plots:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C896

Growing Vegetables Organically:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1011

How to Convert an Inorganic Fertilizer Recommendation to an Organic One:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C853

Disease Management in the Home Vegetable Garden (includes information regarding crop rotation):
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C862

Irrigation for Lawns and Gardens:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B894#Drip

When to Harvest Vegetables:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=C935

To find more publications, go to UGA Extension Publications site:
http://extension.uga.edu/publications/
Cottingham: Some great low perennials for groundcover

Phlox

The creeping phlox bloomed with abandon this year. A beautiful low groundcover when in bloom, it is great for stabilizing a slope or creating a display at the end of the driveway, where it blooms happily without asking much in return. At the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, there is a blanket of creeping phlox at the base of redbuds, blooming at the same time - a display of just how beautiful our native plants can be.

But the evergreen foliage on creeping phlox is rough. This plant would not be my first choice near a front door or at a patio. There are many low, blooming, evergreen perennials that look great in front of a perennial or shrub border, softening the edge of a sidewalk or spilling over a retaining wall. This week I will tell you about a few of my favorites.

Dianthus

This is one of my favorite plants, blooming now. The blooms - white, pale pink, neon pink or red - float above a dense mat of deep green or gray foliage. The foliage of Dianthus is an even mat that compels you to pet it. This plant is like a creeping phlox that has been to charm school. With time it can fade out and have to be replanted, but still, it is well worth the small investment of time and money. Other forms of Dianthus include carnations and sweet williams.

Veronicas

Many of the Veronicas have wonderful purple spires, including "Goodness Grows," named for the nearby nursery. But there are a few Veronicas that are great low perennials. V. peduncularis "Georgia Blue" has bright blue blooms in very early spring, with loose foliage and tiny leaves. V. spicata "Waterperry" blooms a little later, with light blue flowers on a plant about five inches high. I would place these where they get great morning sun and afternoon shade.

Purple Ice Plant (Delosperma cooperi)

What a fun plant! This is a low succulent with vivid, neon purple blooms all summer. The two-inch bloom has a daisy form, only with many thin petals, creating almost a fringed look. There are also white and yellow ice plants, but I much prefer the purple. This plant laughs at the Georgia sun - the more the better. It is also deer- and drought-resistant.

Herbs

Do not ignore the herbs, which often offer beautiful evergreen foliage, plus blooms, fragrance and a harvest. Some herbs have been developed more for their ornamental value than flavor, such as the ornamental oreganos and variegated thymes. I am very impressed with my prostrate rosemary, thriving on a south slope with little extra water and a beagle that insists on sunbathing beside it. It is deep green, lush and smells wonderful.

Humidity and moisture are the main problems for mat-forming plants in Georgia. If there is not enough sunlight, drainage or air circulation, mat-forming plants may suffer from root rot or mildew. Fuzzy leaves or very tight foliage is especially susceptible to these problems. If a plant fades after a few years, do not automatically take the blame, it may be our climate.

All of these plants are deer-resistant and worth trying. When planting low perennials, plant several to make a statement and place them close together to create a seamless flow of plants (space about 2/3 the mature width). An evergreen carpet can balance deciduous shrubs or dormant perennials during the winter. When the plant also offers blooms or fragrance, that is all the better.

Originally published in the Athens Banner-Herald in April, 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.
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

Wonderful trip to the Big, Bold and Bodacious Garden of Barbie Colvin in Milledgeville.