

APRIL 2009 Newsletter

The Garden Dirt

Athens Area Master Gardeners Association



Executive Board

April 1st, 2009 - March 31st, 2010

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President's Perch

Thank you Merry Anderson, Janice Browning and Doug Lair for the delicious St. Patrick's day food and decorations. April's refreshments will be furnished by Ruth Smith, Karen Radde and Kay Petroff.

Stepping away from the President's job in 2009 leaves me with a smile and good feelings, knowing our new leader will be Merry Anderson. Merry is dedicated, responsible and an all around good volunteer!

Being President is not a one-person job, the support and help from this year's leaders has been amazing. I thank all of them for their continued dedication to AAMGA.

Thank you to Vice President Pat Brown: great job, Secretary Rachael Magnusson: I wonder if that cute baby helped her with the wonderful job of writing the minutes, Treasurer Susan Drinkard: always prepared and accurate.

Committee members, Publisher & Listserv: Elizabeth Thurmond - we are so fortunate to have you produce our beautiful newsletter, Projects Chair Kathy Lawler: developing forms and always smiling, Plant Sale: Anne Walker - jumped right in (I must mention her helper Bill), With great volunteers such as Keep ACC Beautiful: Bob Wolf, PAR Flower Garden: Carol Wolf- weren't we lucky when the Wolf's joined our group, Historian and Photographer: Shirley Baker - Miss Dependable always with camera and Plant-A-Row Merry Anderson and Pam Snyder: always on target, Rain Barrels: B.J. Garrett - we finally have money.

We owe Amanda Tedrow a big thank you for her helping ways and support.

Thanks to all who have stepped-up to help with whatever was needed to be done. Knowing who can be counted on is a secure feeling.

Brenda Beckham
Outgoing President

I need to say how much I have enjoyed working with Brenda. We have had a lot of productive, early-morning phone conversations after realizing we were both answering emails. We are fortunate to have her as our GMGA President!
Elizabeth

DUES and MEMBERSHIP

Our membership directory will be included in the May 1st newsletter mail-out. If you have not paid your dues, please fill in the attached form and send it in by April 15th with your check made payable to AAMGA. You will no longer receive a newsletter if your dues are not up-to-date.

APRIL MEETING

April 21st Meeting: Our April meeting will be at the home and garden of Jean Colquett. Come join us for a casual, outdoor event. Don't forget to bring a folding chair. We will meet at 6:00 PM. Jean's address is 395 Sandstone Drive in Cedar Creek subdivision. From Gaines School RD turn into Cedar Creek Drive and then turn right at the 3rd stop sign onto Sandstone Drive. Jean's home is the 7th on the left.

May 19th Meeting: Our May meeting will be at Thyme After Thyme at 6:00 PM. It is located at 550 Athens Road, Winterville, GA and you will need to bring a folding chair.

AAMGA Minutes -- March 17th, 2009

By Rachel Magnuson

1. The March meeting of AAMGA was held at the Athens-Clarke County Library. Andrew Saunders, Athens-Clarke County Community Forestry Coordinator, presented an informative program on his role and the care of trees.
2. Brenda Beckham, President, called the business meeting to order. There were no corrections to the February minutes.
3. Brenda Beckham reported on a Proclamation ceremony at our State Capitol that she attended along with Marco Fonseca, Georgia Master Gardener Coordinator. Sonny Perdue, Georgia's Governor, declared March 21st, 2009 as Georgia Master Gardener Day. It is the 30th Anniversary Celebration this year.
4. B.J. Garrett presented a timeline of the success of our rain barrel project over the last year. As of March 17th AAMGA has profited \$18,657 from the sale of rain barrels. Thanks to all who have participated.
5. Bob Wolf announced an MLK Adopt-A-Highway trash pick up will be scheduled for early April. Look for an e-mail announcement for the date.
6. Anne Walker announced sign ups for volunteering at AAMGA's Annual Plant Sale to be held on April 18th. Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday the 17th from 2:30 -6:00 p.m. and Saturday at the sale from 7:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The UGA Trial Garden has donated begonias and geraniums that need potting for the sale. If you are interested in helping with that please contact Anne. It's a great and fun way to help our community and earn volunteer hours. Cher Chen announced she has 1 gallon pots and 5-10 gallon pots if you need them, let her know.
7. Jackie Williams announced the Piedmont Garden Tour will be held on Saturday April 18th. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance at Cofer's Home & Garden Showplace, Southern Comforts or Week-End A'Fair at Charmar and \$15.00 the day of the tour. Contact Teddy (706) 548-5760 for more information.
8. Teresa Morrison announced our new slate of officers for the 2009-2010 term as Merry Anderson: President, Shirley Baker: Vice President, Susan Drinkard: Treasurer and Donna McPipkin: Secretary. There was a motion to accept and a second. The vote was unanimous in favor of our new officers.
9. Jack Eisenman announced the Winterville Marigold Festival will be held on May 16th, 2009. The Festival has offered a booth to AAMGA. He requested a chairperson to be in charge of our booth and to plan for this event. Please contact him if you are interested in helping in any way. jackeisenman@charter.net
10. Susan Drinkard presented the Treasurer's report. Cash on Hand as of March 17th, 2009 was \$17,194.85, total income was \$870.00 and total expenses were \$150.00

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS & MISCELLANEOUS

Brenda Beckham

Junior Master Gardener class at Gaines Elementary: The very prepared teachers have been the best; Randy Elmore, Stephanie Foss, Jean Colquett, B.J. Garrett, Robert Wyatt, Betty Jones, Sue Maier and Jackie Williams.

Bringing refreshments and staying to help: Merry Anderson, Jackie Williams, Helen McCoy, Ruth Smith, Shirley Baker, Albie Smith, Carol Wolf, Betty Justice and Doris Braswell. This has been an incredible class, the students are eager and interested and already loving gardening. Our teacher contact always stays and is eager to help. I would like to keep going with the students. If you are interested, please let me know.

There is interest from the parents, teachers and students for us to teach them how to do a vegetable garden in front of the school. Just like the White House garden. The newspaper is interested in doing a story. Now all I need is Master Gardener interest!! I will answer questions by telephone, email and/or at the April meeting. Don't forget your background check.

I just spoke to the fellows at UGA about the E-CO friendly garden. The place has changed to across the street from the horticulture green houses on Milledge to near the red barn. It shouldn't be long!!



The Easter Lily: Lilium longiflorum, the Latin name for the Easter Lily, is native to the Ryukyu Islands of Southern Japan. The Easter Lily industry is an American success story. Prior to 1941, the majority of the Easter Lily bulbs were exported to the United States from Japan. World War II eliminated the dependence on Japanese produced bulbs and commercial bulb production shifted to the U.S. The Japanese have never been able to regain any of their lost market share due to the superior quality of the U.S. - grown bulbs.

PAR WORK DAYS

When: Saturday, April 4th - Where: Plant A Row, located at Clarke Middle School - What: Summer crop bed preparations Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am (or finish, whichever comes first)

When: Saturday, April 11th - Where: Plant A Row, located at Clarke Middle School - What: Summer crop planting (tomatoes, peppers, squash, cukes) - Time: 9:00 am - 11:00 am (or finish, whichever comes first)

Any leftover plants from this day will go to the AAMGA Plant Sale the next Saturday, April 18th.

Directions to Clarke Middle School: From West Broad, go south on Baxter Street, just past the Alps Road traffic light. The Elementary school will be on your left. Turn left into the school grounds at the traffic light after Alps Road. Stay to the right on this drive and follow it to the back side of the Middle school. You should see other cars parked under the pine trees. My mobile number is 706-410-0330.

Please email me directly to advise of your ability to help out either one or both days.

Thank you,
Pam Snyder
pamsnyder.mg@gmail.com

I have never had so many good ideas day after day as when I worked in the garden. -- John Erskine

REIMBURSEMENTS

Susan Drinkard, Treasurer

Any member needing a reimbursement, please submit receipt(s) with total amount of reimbursement noted, along with what it is for, and to whom the check should be made out. If there are multiple receipts, please staple these together with a cover sheet with the said information given. This will help me tremendously in keeping our financial records straight. Please mail your receipts and cover sheets to me at 1081 Godfrey Place, Athens, GA 30605. Also, be sure to include your mailing address.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

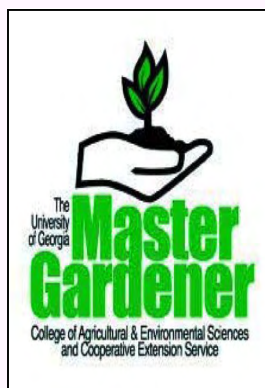
- Anne Walker - AAMGA Plant Sale
706.342.9471 WAWalk@netzero.net
- Bob Wolf - Keep ACC Beautiful
706.613.1122 RobertWolf@charter.net
- Carol Wolf - Flower Garden at PAR
706.613.1122 CarolWolf@charter.net
- Elizabeth Thurmond - Membership
706.354.0055 AAMGAlistserv@gmail.com
- Pam Snyder - PAR Vegetable Gardens
706.559.4896 pam.snyder@rocketmail.com
- Shirley Baker - Historian and Photographer
706.546.0325 ShirleyBaker555@gmail.com

Encore's Autumn Belle™ - Azalea x 'Robleo' PPAF
- With light green foliage and ruffled pale pink flowers embellished by delicate white lacing and magenta freckles, this variety is a gardener's delight. Great in mass with a robust, upright growing habit. (5'h x 4'w).

REALLY BAD PUNS

1. My wife works over-thyme in her herb garden before she decides it is time to cummin.
2. I will cut the grass only when I get mowtivated.
3. The research assistant could not experiment with plants because he had not botany.
4. Old gardeners never die they just vegetate.
5. Gardeners like to plant their feet firmly.
6. If you are a gardener you might call yourself a 'plant-manager'.

Compiled by Elizabeth



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

GMGA: www.georgiamastergardeners.com

APRIL GARDEN CHORES

- Divide over-wintered baskets of Boston fern into four sections. Plant new hanging baskets using two sections of fern in each.
- Plant dahlias, elephant ear, gladiolus and caladiums now.
- Examine the backside of euonymous and holly leaves for the white crust that signifies scale insects. Thoroughly spray leaves with horticultural oil.
- It is safe to plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in your garden now that the soil is warm.
- Remove withered flowers from florist's azaleas you receive for Easter to prolong their blooming.
- Move houseplants outdoors gradually. Never place them in full sunshine; filtered shade is best.
- Spray azaleas with insecticidal soap if you have had azalea lace bug problems in the past
- Remove guy wires from your fall-planted trees. Trees that move with the wind grow stronger than those supported for more than a few months.
- Plant Easter lilies outdoors after removing their faded blooms.
- Mulch tomatoes immediately after planting to prevent early blight fungus from splashing from the soil onto the leaves.
- "Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens" is a free booklet available at your local Extension Service office. Call 706-613-3640 or go to www.ugaextension.com/clarke .
- Water houseplants more frequently with the onset of more hours of sunshine and new green leaves. Begin monthly feedings with houseplant fertilizer.
- Plant the seeds of annual flowers such as marigold, cosmos, zinnia and celosia. Mix lots of soil conditioner in beds to help them be drought tolerant.
- Hang garden chimes on a tree branch so the wind keeps them constantly tinkling.
- Plant corn, bean and pea seeds now. Use a soaker hose to water vegetable rows - you'll prevent disease and weeds plus save water.
- Look for aphids clustered at the tips of fast-growing crape myrtle branches. Blast them off with a water hose and give a ground-dwelling spider a nice lunch.

Compiled by Elizabeth

It's Easy Being Green Companion Planting

It is far from an exact science, and results differ from garden to garden, so this key element of organic gardening is to plant as much diversity as possible. Companion planting takes this one step further by growing beneficial plants next to each other. This can benefit one or all of the plants in the grouping.

Companion plants mask the smells and shapes of plants which pests use to locate their favorite foods. If you plant carrots and onions together it confuses both the onion fly and carrot fly!

Generally speaking, the greater variety of herbs you have growing in your garden, the fewer insect problems you'll have. Some combinations that prove beneficial include: tomatoes, lettuces, cabbages, beets, carrots and parsley are all good companions. Tomatoes and basil are great companions (in the ground and in your cooking), as are eggplants and beans. Sweet corn, beans or cucumbers are good together. Lettuces are much better performers when planted next to French or African marigolds. Borage is liked by tomatoes, squash and strawberries, improving growth and flavor. While many plants benefit from growing next to certain plants, some have a negative effect. Some plants are antagonistic towards each other, such as legumes and members of the onion family; or cucumbers don't like being near potatoes or aromatic herbs.

Some plants attract useful insects to help pollinate the flowers of another. Basil attracts bees, which will pollinate your tomatoes. In this way they make good companions. I have also found that planting basil and tomatoes together gives my tomatoes delicious flavour and the basil is very pungent – this makes the best pesto! Growing a decoy crop can protect the valuable yield of a desired crop. Try growing garlic chives to attract aphids away from roses. French marigold kills harmful nematodes – grow them alongside your tomatoes.

Herbs play an important role in companion planting. Careful placement of them throughout your vegetable garden can be very beneficial. Here are a few more gems that you can try:

- * Basil should not be planted near rue as they inhibit each other's growth.
- * Chervil grows well with dill and coriander.
- * Chives and parsley grow better when planted together.
- * Dill and fennel like each other, but have a tendency to cross-fertilize.
- * Rosemary and sage grow well together.
- * Rue, as well as not being planted near basil, should also not be planted near sage.
- * Fennel should not be planted near caraway or coriander.
- * Coriander and anise seeds sown together will germinate more quickly.
- * Chillies help plants which are affected by root rot.
- * Horehound improves the fruiting of tomatoes.

Compiled by Elizabeth

 Please think before you print.