



The NEW LEAF



2009



Coweta County Master Gardener Association Newsletter
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension - Coweta County Office
255 Pine Rd., Newnan, GA 30263 (770-254-2620)

Notations On Behalf of The President

As you know Cindy (along with her family) has been providing love and support in attending to the care and needs of her mother who has been in treatment for cancer. This is of course a stressful, time and energy consuming circumstance that takes Cindy away from reporting in the newsletter this month. In the place of a president's report for December, two announcements concerning major events for January are submitted.

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!!NOTICE!!!!!!

The Coweta Master Gardener Business Meeting for January has been re-scheduled to take place on: January 14 at 7:00 p.m.



2010 Master Gardener Course

**Begins in January
See p. 2 for details**

2010 Master Gardener Course

We are very excited about the 2010 Master Gardener Course and new interns! We have 21 new interns who are extremely excited about the course and ready to become full-fledged Master Gardeners so they can begin volunteering with our group. They are all very nice and many already have extensive gardening experience.

This year's course will be different from any before --- it is web-based. (The classes will be offered via an internet connection that is interactive between the speakers at UGA or Griffin and the locations where the classes are being held.) Although the speakers will not be coming to Newnan, we anticipate the course will be interesting; and best of all, we will have access to speakers who are renowned in their field. Walter Reeves and David Berle are only two of several who will be teaching classes. In addition to the lectures, there will also be opportunities for hands-on activities and field trips. Dale Senko will be coordinating the class with the help of several of our Master Gardeners. (You may be receiving a call or an email to help.)

Since the class is web-based, we hope that you will make plans to attend a few classes to get to know the new interns. Your first opportunity will be January 7 at the Orientation that will be held at the Coweta County Fairgrounds. Plan to come around 9:00 a.m. to meet the interns as the Orientation will begin at 9:30. We need a few folks to volunteer to bake some goodies for the morning of Orientation and for the first day of class, January 12.

We will post a class schedule on the website so that you can plan to attend any of the classes as a refresher or just to hear one of the popular speakers. We will always have a few extra seats, but it will be best if you call the Extension Office in advance (at least three days) to let us know that you are coming so that we can ask the Fairgrounds Staff to add extra seating.

We look forward to seeing you at Orientation!

The Coweta Extension Office



Sunshine Committee Report

By Dianne Teer

Is it really December? Where has this year gone? We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, "Green" 2010.

Martha Hendrix had rotator cuff surgery (seems to be one of the hazards of gardening). She is doing well and has started therapy. We have sent Martha a nursery gift card with the hope that she soon will be able to dig some holes.

We sent John Secor a card following skin surgery.

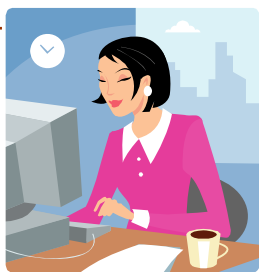
Roger Echols will have vein surgery Dec. 7. Let's hope this is the end of his vascular problems.

Susan Psalmonds is continuing to make progress following her heart surgery.

The MGs send our condolences to Teresa Allen and her family over the death of Teresa's father-in-law, James Allen

We send get well wishes to Alisdair Best, Denise's husband, who has had back surgery.

I thank everyone for their help in keeping me informed about Sunshine issues. Best to all.



ASK THE MASTER GARDENER

By Ray Prior

It's holiday time so I guess a story about holly is appropriate.

April 2002 - The man said nothing, just handed me a bunch of holly leaves. I saw no disease or insect damage; just a lot of powdery stuff that easily rubbed off. "What's the problem?" I asked. "That's pollen," he said. "How can I keep it off my hollies?" He said he had a yard full of large hollies and pollen from the pine trees in the area coats the leaves and eventually damages them. The only thing I could think of was to wash it off with the garden hose. He said he tried that but there were just too many plants. He asked me if there was anything he could spray on them. I said no. "Can I cover them?" "Pollen is carried everywhere on the wind," I said. "I don't know if covering them would help." He was upset that I had no solution to his problem (sometimes there isn't one) and asked to see Render (Ward) who was not in. To placate the man and bring an end to the scenario, I suggested he cover a couple plants and see what happens. When he asked me if there was anyone else he could contact, I suggested the Experimental Station in Griffin. He wrote down the directions and said he was going there directly! Sometimes I think we fuss too much about problems over which we have little or no control.

Greenhouse Report

Our greenhouse has had a well deserved rest on the last couple of months. During the first nine months of the year the greenhouse was the center of a bee hive of activity. With 42 work days in support of the spring plant sale, hosting five training classes and 14 general workdays there have been many blisters raised and liniments applied the day after.

The Greenhouse Committee set eight goals at the start of the year and I am proud to say that each goal was reached. Now understand that reaching these goals is not a statement of perfection but significant progress was made in each area. The 'Committee' worked diligently and each of the 23 members shares in a job well done. In addition to the 'Committee', 18 other Master Gardeners worked on various projects during the year. We are better prepared to meet next year's challenges than in the past and look forward to further progress next year.

Regards, *Allen Summerlin - Chairman*

Below are some random photos of Master Gardeners at play in the greenhouse.



L-R: Suzette Hendricks, Mike Meyer, Carol Fuller, Angela Natho



Kneeling: Wendy Patrick; Back, L-R: Stephanie Butcher, Jeannine Jackson, Allen Summerlin, Sandy Smith, Diane Massey



Donna Dietz



L-R: Carol Fuller, Donna Dietz, Barbara Cooper



Marian Seals with Angela Natho in background



L-R: Suzanne Caldwell, Carol Fuller, Jeannine Jackson



L-R: Edie Scott, Faye Haynes, Angela Natho

THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE

By Ray Prior

Thousands of people; well maybe hundreds; well really it was only me that asked Edie if she would like to reprint my Magic Christmas Tree story which appeared in the Nov. 2001 issue. She said okay. She accepts bribes.

“Do you know a child who loves to hear bedtime stories? Here’s one I dreamed up for my kids a long time ago. It was first published way back in December of 1960 in our subdivision’s monthly newspaper. Except for a word or two, it has not been changed in all this time. It begins as all fairy tales do:

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Jane who lived alone with her grandfather in a creaky, cold, drafty old house. Grandfather was getting old and could not find work. They were very poor and had only enough money to buy food and wood for the fire. There was no money for a Christmas tree or to pay Santa Claus for toys and gifts.

On this particular Christmas Eve, Jane knelt with her grandfather beside her bed and prayed “Dear Lord, I know there are others who are in need far more than Grampa and I, but couldn’t you, just this once, perform one tiny miracle: Somehow, someway, give us a wonderful Christmas with gifts for Grampa and me but most of all, a beautiful Christmas tree. Amen.” “Oh Grampa”, Jane said, “I just know when we get up tomorrow morning we will have a beautiful tree in our living room. I just know it.”

Grampa kissed her good night, tucked her in bed and walked from the room. Tears ran down his cheeks for he knew there would be no tree next morning. He didn’t have the heart to tell her now and he wondered how he could bear to see her disappointment on Christmas Day. He had faith too but he knew...suddenly he got an ideas! He put on his coat and hat and walked out into the cold clear night.

Everything was covered with beautiful soft white snow and the air was filled with huge flakes falling slowly from the black sky. It was quiet except for the crunch of the snow beneath his feet. You could see that Santa had already been to some houses because the lights of the Christmas trees were shining through the frosty windows. Grampa hurried down the street for he remembered that the owner of the store on the corner was selling Christmas trees and perhaps he would give him one and allow him to pay for it later by working in his store.

As Grampa neared the corner, high above him Santa Claus, with his sleigh and reindeer, was passing over head on his way to deliver his bag of toys. It so happened that, besides the toys, he had a sleigh full of special “Magic Christmas Trees.” These were trees he used when he was behind schedule and in a hurry. Indeed they were magic for all he had to do was place one in the living room and be on his way. Then at the stroke of midnight, it would suddenly turn into a beautifully trimmed tree with ornaments and lights and beneath it would be gifts and good things to eat.

Well, anyway, as Santa passed above, one of those tiny trees toppled from the sleigh and fell to earth. It landed among the trees the store owner had for sale.

When Grampa arrived the owner was just closing up and was more than glad to give him a tree. "Matter of fact," he said, "take them all if you want. I surely won't sell them on Christmas Day. Look, there's a beautifully shaped tree. Wonder why no one bought it? But suit yourself, take any one you want and never mind paying for it. You may have it as a gift from me. Good night and Merry Xmas." "Thank you" said Grampa, "Merry Xmas to you and God bless you."

Grampa took the little tree which, as you have probably guessed, was the one that fell from Santa's sleigh. He was very happy because now, even though he knew there would be no toys or gifts, at least they would have a tree and a very pretty one at that. He shook the snow from its branches, took it into the house, stood it in the corner of the living room and went to bed.

The house was dark and nothing happened until the clock began to strike 12 o'clock midnight. The little tree began to glow. Brighter and brighter it became until the room was filled with light. Suddenly the light was gone and there stood the little tree now beautifully trimmed with colored balls and lights and silver tinsel as only Santa can trim a tree. Beneath it were gifts wrapped in gay Xmas paper and tied with huge red ribbons. There were toys and clothes and candy and cookies and all sorts of good things to eat.

Grampa was awakened with a start early Christmas morning by Jane who was jumping up and down with joy. "Grampa, come and see the tree. It's beautiful and there are gifts for you and me and -oh it's just the most wonderful thing that has ever happened." Grampa didn't quite know what to make of all this as he was hustled off to the living room but sure enough, there it was, the most beautiful tree in the whole world. This truly was a miracle. They both cried as they set about the pleasant job of opening their packages.

End of story? Did they live happily ever after? Sure, why not. I myself like to think the magic of the little tree spread. I told the kids that the owner thought Grampa was a wonderful guy and offered him a job, etc. etc. But then, maybe you would like to make up your own ending.

