

# The NEW LEAF



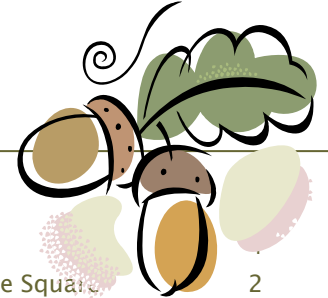
2010

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

## President's Notes

By Mike Merget

I begin this note expressing how hot and dry it has been and hopefully by the time this New Leaf issue has been released, we'll all have had some relief due to a good rainfall. Summer doldrums, after the Plant Sale and Garden Tour have gone by, gives us time to re-energize and get ready for our next general meeting and other activities of a personal, family nature. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the general business meeting Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Remember, this will be an important meeting because we're trying to find a way to spend some of our funds for scholarships or any other worthy project related to the extension office. For example: 4-H projects, summer camp for underprivileged children, Habitat homes landscaping, school landscaping etc. In order to approve or select programs, we need to have a quorum but ideally would like to have everyone at the meeting so we all can participate in spending the money wisely. Please e-mail me at [mikemerget@att.net](mailto:mikemerget@att.net) with your ideas. I will bring them to the Board Meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> for review and the ideas selected will be presented at the general meeting. Until then have a safe, fun summer.



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**NOTE: The July Master Gardeners picnic will be held on Thursday, July 22, at the Fairgrounds at 7 PM.**

RSVP to the extension office is essential/required by July 15<sup>th</sup> because Dave has to place his order for meat. Everyone needs to bring their favorite dish, the meat will be catered. Contact Judy Lippman or Edie Williams to coordinate the food being brought to the party. Additionally please bring non perishable items for donation to One Roof. Donated items can include toiletries and cleaning supplies as well as food. See everyone then for some good food and fellowship.

*Mike*

## MARKET DAY AND 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION ON THE SQUARE

By Edie Scott

As a follow-up to my compost demo with Carol Duffey, Director of Keep Newnan Beautiful, Linda Bridges-Kee, Business Development Director, and Tina Darby, Main Street Coordinator, invited me to set up the demo for Market Day. Carol, Linda and Tina all work for the City of Newnan.

I was loaned a tent and was provided space on the square. I had a nice banner made which was printed with Coweta Master Gardeners and University of Georgia Extension Service logo – all in red or black colors, of course. I think the banner drew a lot of attention. My husband, Lew, helped me pull everything together and stayed on-hand for the session. We had a lot of visitors to the booth with interest in the composting as well as extension service handouts – they pretty much exhausted my supply.

It was a fun day on the square. A lot of our friends and fellow Master Gardeners stopped by.



**Edie**

## IN DEFENSE OF BUFFALO - II

By Ray Prior

We lived in one house, in the suburbs for seventeen years. We had a Kentucky Bluegrass lawn. By the way, there are no warm and cool season grasses up there. Only three times did I have to top dress with top soil and over seed. There were a few weeds but no diseases thanks to cooler climate and low humidity.

The growing season is short and so is swimming pool time. Memorial Day was the day the men of the family braved the chilly water for the first time. The women were too wimpy. Swimming was great until the last couple of weeks in August when the chilly nights cooled off the pool. We guys would take our last dips on Labor Day. Again the gals were wimps. Short season but it was a great place for our kids and their friends to gather close to home and stay out of trouble.

When we first came to Georgia I couldn't figure out why pansies were sold in October. In Buffalo, we planted them Memorial Day weekend. They lasted until the first frost. It wasn't until I learned about climate and heat zones that I realized pansies can't handle the extreme summer temperatures here but they can survive the mild winters. Up yonder it is the just the opposite; they can handle the summer heat but not the long cold winters.

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IN DEFENSE OF BUFFALO – II, Continued

Speaking of winter, there is more to do than shovel snow. You can ski, go tobogganing and ice skating, make snowmen and have snowball wars. And what is prettier than outdoor colored lights shining on the snow on Xmas Eve!

I know someone will say "If you like Buffalo so much, why don't you go back?" My answer is because I don't want to. I'm like a pansy; I can't handle the winters any more.



## Sunshine Committee Report By Carol Fuller

Hello Master Gardeners,

The drought was supposed to be over but it's still going on at my house. No rain since the 1st week of June and it was only 3/4 in. then. My rain barrels are empty and I'm doing a rain dance everyday. I hope all of you have been getting some showers.

Beverly Maddox really had everyone concerned but her stay in the hospital was inconclusive. At least she's feeling lots better. A gift card to Country Gardens was sent to Beverly so she can go shopping soon.

Rusty Sharp's husband, Phillip, was hospitalized for several days with a blood clot in his leg. They hope to dissolve it with meds but he is having a lot of pain so remember him in your prayers. A card was sent to Phillip.

A Thank You from Barbara France said: "Thank you for the cards and phone calls and especially the Country Gardens gift of a plant in memory of my mom. She loved her garden and enjoyed meeting my Master Gardener friends on the trip to Bellingrath Gardens. Warmly, Barbara"

A Thank You was also received from Sandy Smith which said: "Thank you so much for the gift card after my surgery. Thank you for thinking of me. The surgery went well, I am back at work and feel fabulous! Sincerely, Sandy"

Be healthy,  
Carol

*Thank You for the  
Thoughtful Gift,  
CCMGA.*



*Some people have  
such special ways --  
A kind of magic touch --  
They always do the nicest things  
That means so very much..*

Created  
by  
Beverly Maddox

**Thank You!**

*Thanks so very much to each of the CCMGA  
members and Extension Office Staff for the  
Prayers, calls, and E-mail well wishes.*

*I would be remiss if I didn't mention that  
Karen Ray was my first responder. My recovery  
wouldn't have come along so swiftly had it not been  
for Dr. Allen Summerlin, Edie Scott and  
Mrs. Ruth Seaton kept me entertained by phone,  
my librarian. JoAnn Burns, keeps me supplied  
with books. Mrs. Ruth Fahl threatens to take a  
taxi over if I don't behave, Marcia Callaway is  
making our mail carrier do overtime . . . and oh  
my, our*

*Lady Sunshine, Carol Fuller, keeps check  
frequently. The cards and phone calls from many  
others are abundant. Thanks so much Master  
Gardeners you are great!*



*And the gift card was appreciated --  
More than these words can say --  
So there's a world of special meaning  
In the thanks this brings your way!*

*Best regards,*

*Beverly Maddox*



## ASK THE MASTER GARDENER

By Ray Prior

Last month I heard the worse idea so far for getting rid of overgrown brush and weeds.

The caller said his property abuts his neighbor's and there is a fence on the property line. The area under and near the fence was badly overgrown. The neighbor has decided to get rid of it all and plans to use muriatic acid. The caller asked "Is it okay to use muriatic acid and what effect will it have on the soil and on my well water?" "Are you serious? That's the worse idea I've ever heard." I said. "That's dangerous stuff." UGA Extension unequivocally does not recommend using it."

Muriatic acid is another name for hydrochloric acid. It is highly corrosive and irritating to living tissue. It can cause damage to respiratory organs, eyes, skin and intestines. It has many uses among them tanning leather, cleaning masonry, driveways and metal but it is not something you want to mess with in your yard.

I suggested he try to talk his neighbor into using a non-selective herbicide such as Roundup. I also suggested he call the EPA to find out what effect it would have on the soil and on his well water. It can't be good.

## GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Dianne Teer

George Gershwin certainly wasn't thinking about a Georgia drought when he wrote, "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." However, we should be used to this by now, and it takes more than a drought to dampen the enthusiasm of the intrepid Greenhouse Committee members. After a short lull, greenhouse activities are beginning to get cranked up, and June and July saw a flurry of activities.

The GHC welcomes the newest member of the I Team, Valerie Duke. We also appreciate the work of Nancy Harrelson who has joined the Education Committee. I Team members Cammy Tidwell and Jean Garner have volunteered to water the outside plants. Wow! Now that's a job. Thanks ladies. We all appreciate your support.

The I Team had a work session on June 5 to prepare for the first public propagation class which was held on June 12. Cammy Tidwell, Linda Schmidt, Don Lambeck, Laurea Griggs, Jean Garner, and Valerie Duke helped prepare the greenhouse for our visitors. The class had sixteen students and was deemed a huge success. We hope this is the beginning of many classes to come. Allen Summerlin and Ron Stephens taught the class with the support of the Education Team of Dale Senko, Marian Seals, Pat Farmer, and Nancy Harrelson. Special thanks goes out to Ron Stephens, not only for his donation of plant material but also for his gardening expertise which he is always eager to share with others and to Donna Dietz who is always there to do whatever is necessary to make the greenhouse run smoothly.

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Greenhouse Committee Report, continued-

A softwood cuttings workshop was held July 3 which yielded 78 gardenias, 222 Pee Gee hydrangeas, and 94 Butterfly Roses. All of these will stay in the greenhouse over the winter and will be available at our yearly plant sale.

Hope everyone enjoyed their Fourth, and we look forward to more time in the greenhouse.

Photos by Allen Summerlin



A SCENE FROM THE JUNE WORKSHOP



PROPAGATORS AT WORK



CATHERINE CAGE, JEAN GARNER, MIKE WHITESIDE



MARIAN SEALS HELPS STUDENTS IN THE CLASS



DON LAMBECK, CAMMY TIDWELL, JEANNINE JACKSON