



# Coweta Master Gardeners

YOUR UPDATE ON MG ACTIVITIES

Don Morris, Extension  
Coordinator  
Georgia Extension  
Coweta County Office  
275 Pine Road  
Newnan, GA 30263  
770-254-2620  
www.coweta.ga.us

# NEWSLETTER

## July, 2006

### President's Notes

CONGRATULATIONS to our new "Certified Master Gardeners"! Ten have earned their Master Gardener Certificates, and those who attended the Coweta County Master Gardeners Annual Picnic on Friday, July 7, were given their badges and certificates. Mia Ramey, Ann Rouse, and Diane Teer earned their certificates in June. Others are getting very close and should have their hours for certification in July.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Fahl and Ray Prior who have both given Coweta County more than 2400 volunteer hours of service since the organization was formed in 1996. As of December 31, 2005, Ruth had given 2,494, and Ray had given 2,423. How about that for records! Certificates of Achievement were given to both.

Twenty-seven Master Gardeners gave more than 100 hours of volunteer service in 2005 and were also given Certificates of Achievement. Martha Hendrix came up with an interesting statistic - 27 out of 80 Master Gardeners gave 76% of the total hours.

The Picnic was very well attended. Barbara France did a great job of planning and set-up. Janet Robinson did the flower arrangements, which were beautiful. The table centerpieces were given as door prizes. Linda and Tim Giles showed a DVD of the Garden Tour and Fish Fry. Jane and Mike Klutz picked up the Barbecue (which was

delicious). All the food was wonderful and we all ate too much!

Martha Hendrix compiled all the hours for the certificates, and Joan Faletto prepared all the certificates. Joan received a Certificate of Appreciation for all her assistance to the Master Gardeners Association. She is always willing and ready to help and has a smile for us all.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

We had door prizes, which Ray Prior put together in a fun way. Thank you Ray. You always add a spot sunshine to any event. Gary and I provided a door prize consisting of a garden basket filled with vegetables, blueberries and blueberry jam. Gary grew them; I harvested and made the jam. John Secor was the winner of that prize. (Hope it all tasted good, John.)

Mark your calendars for our next Master Gardener Association meeting to be held Thursday evening, August 17, 7:00 P.M. at the Fairgrounds on Pine Road. We will have door prizes at the meeting. Our committees will report on upcoming events such as the Coweta County Fair Exhibit in September and the Wreath Making Project in November. Let's make this a well-attended meeting.

Happy Gardening!

## My Personal Summer

You may remember that Stan Krawczynski wrote a very interesting article last year on gardening vertically. I was curious to know how long he had been a "Master" gardener to be able to accomplish such a feat. Although, I must have known, because, he wears a Lifetime badge. I have been gardening for quite a while and this year it seemed as though I could not even master gardening horizontally!

It started with this cute pair of baby rabbits. My husband dutifully plants two rows of Snap beans each year (that's all he wants to harvest). So, one day when he came in swearing to never garden again, I knew this was serious. He said, emphatically, "Those rabbits have ruined my garden". When I saw the barren spot where the plants once stood, I too became angry. We thought of every trick in the book, even some Mr. McGregor hadn't thought of, to keep the Bunnies away next year. If I should have a taste for a nice dish, Mrs. Ruth even offered to make Hasenpfeffer from the rabbit meat, but, when I actually saw the culprits in 'fur' person, I couldn't bring myself to harm them. I didn't even want them to go away. Each morning the cute little things would come to the same spot in the yard. Hopping and playing with each other, they would then stop for a snack on my *Liatris* and *Liniope*. They had become a source of free entertainment for Ziggy, my cat, and for me.

After the rabbit incident then came the drought which had me watering by moonlight. One night when I came inside at 1:15 a.m. wet and tired I knew the very meaning of *Moonlight Madness!* My water bill for June was almost as much as my car note.

You would think that with such devotion to the plants and wildlife, they would perform with some appreciation. Well, let me tell you . . . my two watermelon plants are about two feet long, end to end with blooms, the tomatoes, which are Beefsteaks are the size of cherry tomatoes and the cherry tomatoes need props to support their branches (thanks Edie Scott). The Daylilies are non-blooming, yellow clumps, so the Knock-out Rose has taken this opportunity to dominate that area. The Zinnias were so pitiful that no self-respecting butterfly would even think about them as a source of nectar or risk landing there for a sunbath. We all know that *Hydrangea* will faint at the slightest rise in temperature, but who would think this deceiving trick would be emulated by

my *Viburnum!* The Shasta *Viburnum* was a frequent fainter, the Burkwood *Viburnum* started to do a strip-tease right there in the front yard and the David *Viburnum*, well, several of them went so far as to actually end it all!!!

Oddly enough, I just received my replacement Master Gardener name badge, now I wonder was that such a good idea.

This all may sound like a total wipe-out to a non-gardener, but please know that this is one walk of life where opportunity knocks as many times as you want to dig and start anew. And that was my "*Personal Summer*".

Beverly Maddox

---

### ASK THE MASTER GARDENER

by Ray Prior

The caller told Joan Faleto that there was a white egg speckled with brown in with the robin's eggs and asked what to do about it. Joan said it was probably a Brown-headed Cowbird egg. The lady was skeptical because she heard that Cowbirds only hung around where there were herds of bison and there are no bison in Georgia.

The two species of cowbird are the only North American songbirds that are brood parasites i.e. they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and leave them to the care of the foster parents. The young cowbird grows quickly at the expense of the others taking most of the food or pushing them out of the nest. It has been suggested that cowbirds became parasitic because they followed roving herds of bison and had no time to stop to nest. (Poor parenting). Well, there may not be any bison around here but I have had cowbirds at my feeders for years. Maybe they hang out with all the cattle we have in the County. The book says their habitat includes farmland. Anyway, Joan suggested that if the caller didn't want the egg in the nest she should remove it without touching the other eggs.

"You got to be kidding," Joan thought to herself when the caller asked what she could do about a constipated chicken. No, I am not making this up. "How do you know it's constipated?" "Well, there's, you know, no poop in the cage." If I had received that call, "Eat Mor Chikin" would have come to mind. Joan told her to talk to a vet.

Remember the Japanese Maple I wrote about last month? Well, I stopped by the other day to see how it was doing and it was gone. The homeowner said no one really knew why it died. She did say the lawn service people are going to replace it.

## Good Girls go to Heaven. . . . .

Bad girls go everywhere!..... Johannesburg, New York, London, Florence, Sydney, Bahamas, Sharpburg. . . . . and possibly even Purgatory! Yes, I've been to a lot of places, *and hey I have been to Purgatory! (in Colorado!)*, but if Purgatory is as Ray described it in June's newsletter, then I'd be happy to linger – a long with John! Ray obviously never had a "pet rock", that's why he doesn't like xeriscaping! "Come on, Ray, get you a rahk!!" (That's Southern for buy a pet rock!)

When I was young, my parents would pack my brother and I into the car and embark upon the annual 1,000 mile journey to visit my grandparents. On the way to Cape Town, we would pass through a semi-desert area called the "Karoo". There was nothing, absolutely nothing to see in this area (or so I thought as a child). It never rained, you saw the odd sheep grazing on some very bare scrub – and it was as hot as Hell, one might even call it Purgatory! This was never an interesting part of the journey for us, until one day. . . . .

It was springtime when we did this trip and as we came around a bend of a valley, the vast plain opened up before us and there was this magnificent carpet of colour on display, splashes of orange, yellow, indigo, cerise, as though someone had spilled tins of coloured paint over the desert land – strong, strong colours - stretching from one end of the horizon to the other. It was an

amazingly beautiful sight, one which made an everlasting impact on my view of a "desert". Clearly there had been a rainfall in the area a few days before and what we witnessed was Namaqualand Daisies in bloom.

In the Karoo, as is likely the case in many semi desert areas of the world, because rainfall is mostly limited to the winter, plants must quickly germinate, grow, flower and set seed before the summer. None do this faster than the succulent "eight day" or "miracle" grass, which germinates, flowers and produces seeds within eight days of rain.

The world has 10,000 species of succulent plants, who needs lawn? What about the drought tolerant flowers? When you've got these wonderful plants that look after themselves, don't need to be constantly watered and mown and fertilized and do actually come in different colours – so you can get some green varieties if you need a "lawn fix" – why not embrace what works in the environment? What about native grasses and cacti (the cactus will keep the neighbour's cats out!)? And rocks are cool! They are the bed of this earth. We just have to take the time to look for the treasures a harsh desert environment provides and have an open mind to embrace the challenge of a new existence.

I say Ray definitely needs to spend a little time with me in Purgatory. Who knows? He might even enjoy it, come back a changed man and repent his definition of the old desert!

## INSECT COLLECTION

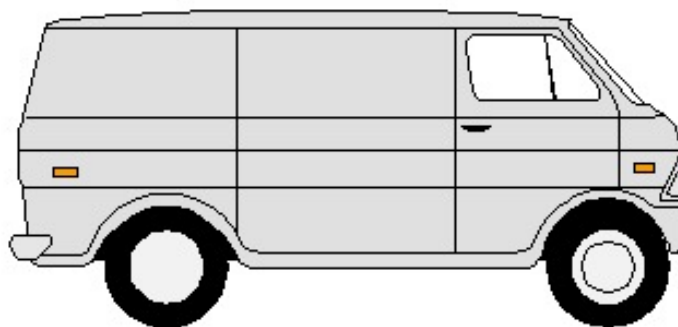
The idea of an insect collection has come up several times in the past. It could be used for educational purposes and as an identification aid. It would be on display at the office and perhaps at functions such as the Backyard Assoc. or in our booth at the County Fair. It would certainly come in handy for the Entomology class if we host the MG Training Course next year.

MG's, office personnel, anybody, could add to the collection by bringing in specimens they find in their yards. County residents who bring in bugs for identification might even donate them to the cause. Maybe some of you have a collection of your own that you wouldn't mind getting rid of.

We have a good start. 4-H teen Laura Massengill has donated her collection of about three dozen insects. Next time you're at the office, take a look at it.

We need two or three people to take charge of this project. As part of this team you would learn about collection, preservation, mounting, displaying etc. of insects. If you are interested contact me. I'm at the Extension Office every Monday.

Ray Prior



## TRIP

**Charleston, SC**

**October 24, 25, 26, 2006**

**Coordinated by Ruth Fahl**

**Call @ 770-251-1811 for details**

**Ruth needs responses ASAP so that she can complete negotiations for group room rates.**

**Coweta County Master Gardener  
Financial Report  
June 2006**

Beginning Balance 5-31-2006 \$13,464.12

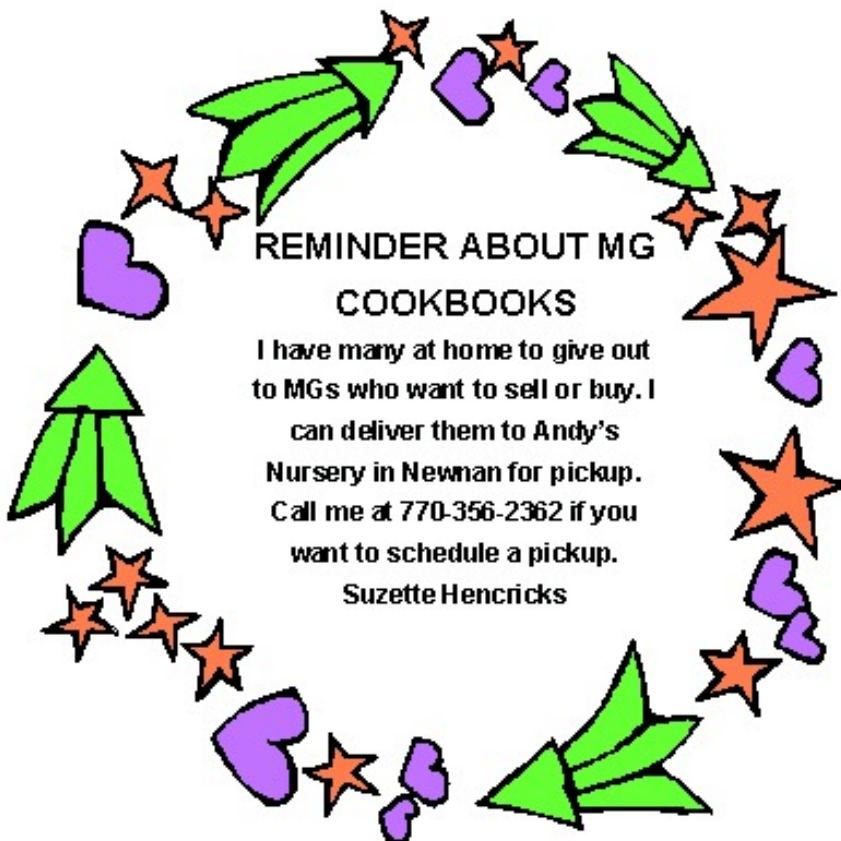
May Deposits

Dues	20.00	
Backyard	144.00	
Cookbooks	1,155.00	
		1,319.00

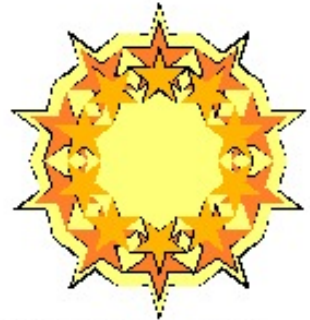
May Expenses

Backyard	\$ 35.00	
Garden Tour(FF)	118.23	
Sunshine	144.92	
Cookbooks	3,314.32	
Supplies(Postage)	33.80	
		3,646.27

Balance On Hand 6-30-2006 \$11,136.85



**SUNSHINE  
COMMITTEE**



This month was thankfully a slow one for the Sunshine Committee.

Dianne Teer took a plant to Bonnie Umberger after Bonnie had periodontal surgery. Dianne is doing a great job helping with this committee.

Barbara France's Mother in Law died, and she requested only a nice card, which I mailed with our condolences.

Hopefully, things will stay quiet on the sickness/death front!

Happy summer everyone  
Susan and Dianne

# Extension Office Update

**Greetings, Master Gardeners!** I sure missed seeing everyone at the MG Picnic. After a week at 4-H Senior Camp, I was barely coherent by the time I made it back to the Extension Office on Friday. It seems I don't handle late nights and lack of sleep quite as well as I used to handle them. I heard it was a great time, and I'm so sorry that I missed it. I look forward to seeing you at the next MG event.

**The Greenhouse.** I know. I know. You're tired of hearing about the non-existent greenhouse, but at long last the new greenhouse is halfway completed. We are watching its progress from the windows of the Extension Office, and we frequently take a walk down to the construction site just to take a closer look. Rest assured it shouldn't be long before the greenhouse is up and running. Go ahead and think about some programs and classes you would like to see held at the new greenhouse, and let us know about your ideas.

As Coweta County Master Gardeners, you are an elite group. You have some of the best facilities in the state with which to work, and I hope you are already thinking about some class topics for this coming fall. Many of you need to put your knowledge and expertise to work by planning and/or teaching classes. You are a great help to us at the Extension Office, and we sincerely appreciate your volunteer efforts. Go ahead and start building up those MG hours by joining the greenhouse committee or helping teach classes. We are looking forward to some new educational opportunities with the construction of the new greenhouse.

**Turfgrass Field Day.** If you haven't already heard, the 2006 Turfgrass Field Day is being held on Tuesday, August 15 at the University of Georgia's Griffin Campus. Dr. Clint Waltz, Dr. Tim Murphy, and other UGA specialists will be presenting such topics as: Tall Fescue Disease Management, Insect Management, Pre-emergence Weed Control Management in Ornamentals and Crabgrass Control in Turfgrasses. The Field Day is broken into two Research Tours (Research Tour 1 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Research Tour 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.) with a wonderful Bar-B-Q Lunch from 12:00p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Additionally, if you need pesticide recertification credits then this is the place to get them. Six hours of recertification credits will be offered for both Category 24 (Ornamentals and Turf) and Category 21 (Plant Agriculture) licenses. Registration cost is \$40 before July 28 and \$55 after July 28. Sign up early so that you can save \$15. There are also group discounts. For more information about the Turfgrass Field Day, please give us a call at the Extension Office or visit [www.georigaturf.com](http://www.georigaturf.com).

**Surplus Vegetable Market.** Don't forget... for only \$1 you can sell your fresh veggies and cut flowers at the Surplus Vegetable Market on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Market is located at the Expo Center on Temple Avenue. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 770-254-2620.

Stephanie A. Ray

---

Learning *for* Life

## GARDENING AT GAGE GLEN

### ***Rosalie B. Gage***

Mist and fog hang in the trees on this July morning. We have received a much needed three inches of rain during the past few days, and we have the promise of more this week. All the plants are revived by the moisture and stand tall in the morning's light. Days are occupied with picking blueberries, beans, squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes.

In the "Bench Garden", Hostas are beginning to bloom. Their foliage along with the Ferns and Selaginella are a cool oasis in the Summer heat.

As we exit this garden and walk to the "Island Garden", orange blooms decorate the Trumpet Vine where Hummingbirds enjoy the nectar. The lacelike white blooms of the Hydrangea 'Sumida no Hanabe' and Mama's Phlox paniculata are the stars of this area. The stately Boxwood in this garden add a cooling touch of dark green. The tall Crepe Myrtle is filled with dark pink buds.

The new "Sanctuary Garden" has really taken off with new foliage appearing on the plants. It is anchored by an 'Athens' Sweet shrub and a Styrax, both happy to finally be released from their containers and planted in the ground. Vinca maculata, Tiger Boston Fern, Impatiens and Hosta fill an old bird bath and spill from the sides. Strawberry Begonia scrambles at the base. A bird house hangs from a pole which has climbing Rothchild Lilies blooming and reflecting its red and yellow colors. Sedum fills a large container and soon St. Fiacre will bless the area with his presence.

On to the "Step Garden" filled with the native blue petunias (Rueilla) and tall Four O'Clocks yet to bloom. Japanese Maples, Ferns, and Hosta fill in here and there.

The "Bay Window Garden" is filled with blooms of Phlox paniculata - 'Bright Eye' (Pink), 'David' (White), 'Miss Mary' (Red), 'Little Boy' (Blue), 'Miss Margie' (Lavender), and many shades of their seedlings. Salvia guarantica hosts Bees and Hummingbirds. Agastache and Red 'Knock-Out' Roses welcome the bees also. The perimeter is planted with red and white Vinca and Dianthus. It is a pleasant view from the kitchen window.

At the blue front door, a collection Begonias and Geraniums welcome you. A mixed basket of pink Impatiens, variegated Ivy and Fern and a basket of Boston Ivy hang from the eaves of the Porch and Overhang. Jewels of Opar's tiny pink blooms and red bead-like seeds line the walkway.

The "Swing Garden" boasts Pink Echinacea, Petunias, purple Aster, Double blooming Balloon flower, Rose Campion, and Clethera 'Hummingbird'. Another beautiful Rothchild Lily climbs the arbor at the entrance. The last blooms grace the Lacecap Hydrangeas.

The mossy path to the "Friendship Garden" reveals blooms on the Beautyberry Shrubs. The planter on the twig table between two chairs is filled with the colorful foliage of Coleus, Chartreuse Alternanthera and 'Blackie' Sweet Potato Vine. The stars of the this garden are the Hostas. Four new ones have been added. 'Baby Bunting', 'Gypsy Rose', 'Sum and Substance' and 'Lime Twist' were planted as well as a red Hydrangea (a gift from Roger Echols) and two Autumn Ferns. A few more Autumn Ferns need to be added for winter interest. Ranunculus 'Susan's Song' covers the ground along the stone pathway.

We end our morning stroll on the deck where containers are doing well. White double Begonias, Carex buchananii and Ivy fill one deck planter, while Heuchera 'Amber Waves' and Birdsfoot Ivy fill the other. A Hayrack Planter is filled with White double Begonias, Caladium and Bacopa. Containers of Herbs and a container of variegated Ivy are placed below. A very large cobalt blue container is filled with Angel Wing Begonias with pink blooms. A container of Dianthus which smell of cloves, decorates the small tea table. Visible from our bedroom is a long rectangular container featuring 'Miss Muffet' Caladiums and many hues of Impatiens.

Thank you for walking with me this cool damp morning. Come on in and enjoy a cup of coffee.

Happy Gardening!