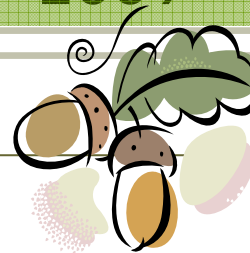


The NEW LEAF



2009

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



President's Notes

By Cindy Bruce

Hope you are all having a wonderful summer! It is hard to believe we are not in a drought, with as little rain we have received this summer. Guess we will just have to continue to pray for rain. On a better note, I saw Audrey and Richard Bray out shopping last week. It is so nice to see them feeling better and getting out and about.

As a reminder, the Annual Picnic has been rescheduled for October 27 so mark your calendars. The Social Committee will be sending the details out soon. Keep an eye out for that information.

We are still in need of a project manager for the Wreath Project this year; if you are at all interested, please give me a call as we desperately need your help.

Thanks for all your support!

Cindy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Notes	1
Interesting History	1, 2
Ask the Master Gardener	2
Annual Bar-B-Que	3
Sunshine Committee Report	3
Happy Birthday	3
Greenhouse Report	4
Extension News	5

INTERESTING HISTORY

By Ray Prior

I remember, as far back as 1997, that Carolyn Fjeran, our MG coordinator at the time, published a monthly newsletter called "The New Leaf". It contained articles about plants and related subjects written by various UGA specialists. It was distributed to the general public through local nurseries and garden centers and was mailed to Master Gardeners. Then along came Edie Scott.

Edie, who became a Master Gardener in 2000, thought it would be a good idea to publish a newsletter just for Master Gardeners. It took a bit of persuading but she finally won out. To the best of her recollection, the first issue, simply called the "Newsletter", was published late in 2000 or early in 2001. Most contributors sent their articles to Edie via e-mail. Those who did not have computers mailed it or left it for her at the Extension Office. She did the layout at home and took a hard copy to the office where copies were printed, folded and mailed to members of the association by a MG volunteer. Edie was the first editor of the "Newsletter" and has been the editor up to the time of this writing.

-Continued on page 2-

Interesting History, continued-

Jane Kluttz, who was president of the CCGMA in 2004 and 2005, was instrumental in having the “Newsletter” published on the Coweta County website. Going online not only saved money on postage and materials, but also greatly reduced the amount of work necessary to prepare and mail it. It was mailed only to those who did not have access to the Internet.

In 2006, the original “New Leaf” was discontinued and the name of the MG Newsletter was changed to “The New Leaf”. Coweta County Coordinator Stephanie Butcher suggested it be published on the Coweta County UGA website.

The January 2007 issue was the first published under the new name and the first to be available on the Coweta County UGA website. At that time editor Edie Scott began printing an oak leaf on the first page of each edition in honor of the Southern Live Oak which is the state tree of Georgia.

By my count, there have been over a 100 issues. Way to go Edie and thank you.

**ASK THE MASTER GARDENER**

By Ray Prior

Whenever I do phone duty, I learn something.

A man came in with a plastic bag of cow manure and a sorry looking wilted tomato plant about a foot high. He said he plowed his furrows, tilled in the manure he bought in Carrollton and then planted vegetables. When they got just so high they died. He said he watered, so what happened? He suspected the manure. “Can the manure be tested?” I told him that tests for something specific could cost as much as \$30 or \$40, and what would we test for? In the end, I said I would ask Stephanie if she knew what the problem might be; after all, her husband is a dairy farmer. She said it sounded like the manure was contaminated with an herbicide while in the pasture. That never occurred to me. I went online later and sure enough, I found a lot of info on that very problem. Good call, Stephanie.

A caller told me that, along with other critters, a raccoon lives on his property and that it has begun to eat at the bird feeder in the afternoon around 4 o’clock. His original question was “What can I do about that?” I gave my usual answer that as long as you provide food, it will continue to come around. But, he didn’t want to get rid of it, he just wanted it gone in the afternoon when the kids are out and about. He was worried about rabies. I had to admit I didn’t have a clue. Later in the day, he sent an e-mail that said instead of feeding at night which is normal, female raccoons feed during the day when they have nursing babies back in the den. Later I went online and sure enough I found the same information. Mom goes out for dinner while the kids are taking a nap. We learn something new every day.



Sunshine Committee Report

By Dianne Teer

The hot, dry weather of summer is upon us, and all the promises of our wet spring seem to be withering away. However, that does not daunt our MGs who know how to mulch, save water, xeriscape, and water wisely. The Sunshine Committee has not received word of any new Sunshine issues.

We wish a very happy birthday to our August birthdays:

Faye Haynes--8/15
Barbara France--8/18
Betty Jo Copelan--8/23
Ray Prior--8/29
Stephanie Butcher--8/30



Greenhouse Report

By Allen Summerlin

The Greenhouse Committee continues to upgrade and improve our greenhouse and its operation. With recent and soon to be added improvements, we will have 'full service' greenhouse operation capabilities. We purchased and installed a 'Magic Leaf' misting system (see photo below) in June that gives us the capabilities of doing cutting propagation 12 months of year.

Our last report in the newsletter in April stated our four objectives for the second quarter of the year. They are listed below with a progress report.

➤ **The greenhouse will be cleaned out/cleaned up following the plant sale.**

A combined effort of the all the greenhouse committee teams worked a Saturday in mid May to clean all the old plants out and sanitize the greenhouse. The greenhouse was then closed up with the cooling fans off to 'cook' the greenhouse for two weeks, destroying fungus and bugs.

➤ **Continue to upgrade the cedar building.**

Our team leader in this area, Donna Dietz, continues to improve the pot inventory and storage area. We are waiting on the county to allocate additional storage space so we can utilize the cedar buildings main room more effectively.

➤ **The Education Team will facilitate a class in June.**

The Education Team, lead by Dale Senko, organized and facilitated a great 'soft cuttings' propagation class in June taught by Mike Cunningham. We hope to get some of the students from this class to teach a similar class offered to the public. The plants propagated in this class are growing well the help of the 'Magic Leaf' system.

➤ **Develop an outside plant propagation/storage area.**

The Greenhouse Committee is scheduled to meet Saturday July 18, for the purpose of building a shaded plant storage area adjacent to the greenhouse. I hope to see you all at the greenhouse.

Allen Summerlin



Magic Leaf Misting System

Extension News

By Stephanie Butcher

We at the Extension Office hope you are having a wonderful summer. Thank you for your continued dedication to the phones! They have been busy at times this summer

The 4-H Office has also been busy! We sent 147 4-H'ers and leaders to camp at Rock Eagle during the week of June 22. Thanks to the Master Gardeners, we were able to offer scholarships to several deserving young people.

Now, we are getting ready for 4-H Adventure Camp. It will be held July 13 – 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Coweta County Fairgrounds. All students ages nine through 14 are invited to attend. Registration is \$75 each and discounts are available for each additional family member. Students will learn how to protect the natural world and all its hidden treasures. They will also create items that can be entered in the Coweta County Fair.

Our 4-H Forestry Judging team begins practices in July under the leadership of Don Morris and Sandy Smith. They are eager to identify trees and the insects and diseases that affect them.

We are calling all horse lovers, ages nine and up! The students will learn everything equine to participate in a game-show type competition. Horse Quiz Bowl Team practices begin weekly in August.

Go ahead and put September 5-7 on your calendar. If you haven't tasted 4-H's delicious barbecued chicken at Powers Crossroads, you need to give it a try! We can always use volunteers to help us cook or serve.

And don't forget the Coweta County Fair October 8th – 17th. 4-H and the Master Gardeners play big roles at the fair. Join us behind the scenes in the Ag Building or Food Booth. Your help is always appreciated.

Several of you have already been trained to drive the Extension Mini-Bus. If you would like to drive on MG trips or events, please call the office to talk about getting certified.

Enjoy your summer and safe travel!

Stephanie