

The NEW LEAF



2010

Coweta County Master Gardener Association Newsletter
University of Georgia Cooperative Extension - Coweta County Office
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President's Notes

By Mike Merget

I hope everyone is having a great spring (finally) and digging in the dirt with gusto. Cindy Bruce has put together a terrific set of five gardens for the upcoming Garden Tour on May 22. Five gardens will be on display and their owners need all of our help to make the gardens beautiful beyond what they already are. Ann Rouse, Patricia Buck, Janet Robinson, Tim Davis and Bonnie Umberger have graciously offered their gardens for this special day. I hope everyone has chosen a place to work and that the weather gods are on our side this year. I got tired of holding an umbrella all day at Pat Odom's while escorting patrons through her property. Parking will not be an issue as we look to have a really fun time showing gardens and fellowship amongst good friends.

The Plant Sale was a huge success thanks to Ann Rouse and her committee in providing a terrific blend of plants for sale in cooperation with the Greenhouse Committee and all its hard work. The CCMGA raised a net profit of \$4,806 which is a tribute to teamwork and effort by lots of people. Kudos to everyone who participated in another fun day.

Don't forget the next business meeting to be held at the Fairgrounds at 7 pm on May 13. See you then.

Mike



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-SHOWCASE YOUR LITERARY TALENTS-



Remember you can write articles for this Coweta Master Gardener Association newsletter, *The New Leaf*, and earn volunteer hours for the time you spend.

Just send educational information or Master Gardener activities reports to me (Edie Scott) by the 5th of each month.



L-R: Carol Duffey & Edie Scott in front of the "How to Compost" display conducted at Lowe's.

How to Compost*...

The subject of a partnering project conducted by Carol Duffey, Director of Keep Newnan Beautiful, and Master Gardener, Edie Scott

By Edie Scott

Encouraging people to recycle is a big part of the duties/responsibilities of the Keep Newnan Beautiful agency director and more specifically its one woman staff, Carol Duffey. Carol has established the much needed and successful electronics recycling project which offers us periodic opportunities to bring in electronic equipment for recycling. Additionally Carol puts out and services bins for recycling our plastic and aluminum drink containers. Carol's most recent expansion in the field of recycling is encouraging people to compost household items.

Composting is a new venture for Carol, so she went about educating herself by attending our 2010 Master Gardener training session on composting; additionally, she requested our Extension Coordinator, Stephanie Butcher, to ask for help from the Master Gardeners to put on a composting demonstration at Lowe's. This is where I came into the picture. Stephanie forwarded Carol's request for assistance to our Agriculture/Natural Resources Program Analyst, Lana Jones, who promptly broadcast the request to our MG group. It was instinctual for me to volunteer for the project because I am a huge proponent of recycling and being involved with a one-on-one information exchange with people ranks near the top of my favorite MG activities. The timing was absolutely perfect in that during the process of going through old magazines looking for landscape ideas, my husband, Lew, found two great basic articles on composting. Carol and I had a couple of meetings and pulled together some comprehensive literature on the basics of composting. I put together some "attention-getters" – a poster using our MG professional poster case, a wheel barrow with home-made compost sieve and compost material demonstrating various stages of the compost process.

Carol coordinated with Lowe's gardening department, namely Helena and Shane, in establishing a demonstration location. We had two different types of composters on site. Carol provided her personal composter which is a sit-on-the-ground style while Lowe's brought out one of their hand-turn models. Our demonstration took place on Saturday, April 17 and we drew a good crowd. We were most impressed/encouraged by the fact that those who showed interest were seriously interested spending valuable weekend time asking questions and taking literature.

We were at Lowe's from about 8 am until noon. The Lowe's staff was totally supportive of the project coming outside on several occasions to offer support.

It was a good experience getting to know and work with one of the city of Newnan directors, Carol Duffey, as well as the staff of Lowe's. Carol believes in her missions and is very dedicated to doing her job by putting in as many hours as necessary to get the job done on a small budget.

I hope you are "composters" or will seriously consider starting the practice. It's not difficult to start a routine that works well for your household. The benefits will speak for themselves after you use that first batch to enhance your gardening soil. It's a green practice but best of all for us gardeners **compost is terrific for plants.**

* **Articles used for reference material:**

"How to Compost" by Luke Miller, *Garden Gate Magazine*, June, 1998

"Back to the Basics, A Compost Primer" by Barbara Fair, PhD, Landscape Extension Specialist with North Carolina Cooperative Extension





What would get me out of my jammies and on the road at 7:30 am? Our seventh annual Plant Sale, that's what.

I managed to arrive at the Fairgrounds on time and, after getting a cup of coffee and a donut, barricaded myself behind the Ask the Master Gardener table so I wouldn't get trampled by the stampeding hordes when the doors were opened.

Diane West-McHugh and I had fun. We answered a lot of questions. Are sunflower seed shells good for mulch? When do you prune crepe myrtles, lantana, and butterfly bushes? When do you divide iris and daffodils? We also furnished descriptions and care instructions for many of the plants people bought.

An elderly lady came up to me and said she heard me give my Gardening 101 talk at the library and got all enthused about gardening. Then she said her enthusiasm waned. She had difficulty coping with the hard soil. As she wiped away a tear, she asked "When do you have other people do the outside work for you?" "First of all", I said, "you have to be able to afford it. Secondly, if you are physically unable; and lastly, if you just flat out don't like doing it."

I went on to tell her how old I was and that I still do everything by myself. Just because we are getting on in years, we don't have to quit. I admitted I push myself, but I refuse to give up. I suggested she give it another try. I told her to start small. Select a small area in the sun, buy a couple six packs of annuals and some soil conditioner and give it another try.

About a half hour later she went by me with several plants in a wagon. She smiled and gave me a "thumbs up". I smiled and gave her a "thumbs up."

It was a good day.



Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and the Extension Staff for your kindness during my time of grief. I cannot express how much all of ya'll have comforted me; it is great to have such a nice group of friends.

I'm still trying to cope at times with the loss of my Mama, I became so close to her during the last 10 months, I know time will heal the hurt and I still have a lot of good memories. Thanks again to everyone.

Carol Rouse



Greenhouse Committee Report

By Dianne Teer

Did you hear a very loud sigh around 1:30 pm, April 10? That would have been the Greenhouse/Plant Sale Committee after the last plant was brought to the greenhouse and we knew it was officially over. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the sale the huge success it was. One of the byproducts of the sale is the new friendships formed by working together and the great sense of camaraderie and fellowship generated by all the hard work. We admit it---although at times it was grueling, it was also FUN. Prior to the Plant Sale there were the three last intake days (see accompanying photo of last day's intake team) which saw a huge contribution of plants. Our deepest thanks to all of the MGs and interns who contributed. Friday morning, April 9, saw the great migration of the plants to the Fairgrounds. This enormous task was accomplished in a relatively short time thanks to the advanced planning and hard work of all of the volunteers. Special thanks to non-MGs Larry Notho and Rich Duflo for all of their help throughout all the prep activities.

Although the plant sale is officially over, the greenhouse still remains busy. There has been an orientation for the new greenhouse committee members, and we gladly welcome all the interns who have joined the team. The I Team has cleaned pots, repotted plants, and set up the Magic Leaf watering system. There was a vegetative propagation class for a local Garden Club on April 27. Pat Farmer, Marian Seals, and Dale Senko prepared all of the materials, and Allen Summerlin and Ron Stephens taught the class. This was one of the first community based activities, and we look forward to more. Carol Fuller sold the last of the liriopie left over from the plant sale. As always, we are thinking ahead, and the repotted plants will be used for the 2011 Plant Sale.

We hope you have enjoyed the rain and that your gardens are growing beautifully.

Photos by Allen Summerlin



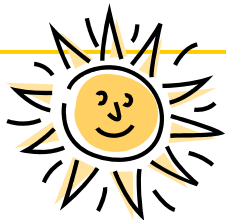
New Greenhouse committee members Cammy Tidwell, Jean Garner, and Janelle Richardson pot up plants for next year's sale.



Karen Evans, Carol Fuller, Joan Adcock, Allen Summerlin, Donna Dietz, Faye Haynes, Rich Duflo, Jean Duflo, and Rhett McCorkle work the final intake for the 2010 Plant Sale.



New I-Team Members (Interns that have committed to serve on the greenhouse committee). Kneeling, Allen Summerlin. L-R: Mike Whiteside, Cammy Tidwell, Jean Garner, Karen Shannon, Linda Schmidt, Janelle Richardson, Catherine Cage, Barbara Johnson. Back row: Don Laambeck, Dave Langhoff, Lauea Gregg, They are joined by veterans Carol Fuller, Donna Dietz, Ron Stephens.



Sunshine Committee Report

By Carol Fuller

Hello Master Gardeners, I'm enjoying spring and I bet you are too.

We extend our sympathy to Ann Rouse upon the death of her brother. MGs sent her a card.

A card was also sent to Carlos Montano (our garden art friend). His mother recently passed away.

We also extend our sympathy to Carol Rouse upon the death of her mother. A card and a gift card from Country Gardens was sent to her.

Be healthy,
Carol

2010 Plant Sale Recap

By Ann Rouse

It's over and there should be only rejoicing since we had a great sale day! A tremendous amount of work went into making this year's plant sale successful, and I can't thank everyone enough for being so generous with their time, effort and knowledge. The numbers tell the tale and here they are:

The bottom line shows a net profit of \$4,806. This is an increase of \$2,884 over last year's number (not including the courthouse hydrangeas). The experience gained last year in the greenhouse gave us the advantage this year. And next year should be even better. So far a total of 753 hours have been turned in for both the Plant Sale (392.5) and the Greenhouse Committees (360.5). However, these numbers don't even begin to show the amount of dedication and generosity for this group --- they are the tip of the iceberg.

We learned that for next year we should start the annuals and herbs earlier than we did this year --- they weren't quite ready yet. The tomatoes, however, were right on target; but we need to do more of them I think. Our hard winter hampered some of the plants from our own yards being gathered, so we will just have to wait and see what this next winter will bring. But the perennials that were there went first (probably before the tomatoes) so we need to keep that in mind for early digging if we can. The plants we bought from Mike Cunningham sold well (the begonias not quite as well as the geraniums and petunias, but still respectable) so I believe we should definitely think about doing that again. Also, having three cashiers at the beginning of the sale worked well to keep the lines moving nicely. All the Boy Scouts' blue bird houses were sold, and I understand Carlos had a good day too.

Overall, I believe we did a bang up job and kudos go to everyone. I can't put this to rest without saying a special thank you to the Greenhouse Committee for all their help. The Plant Sale really is a joint effort between Plant Sale and Greenhouse Committees so without both teams giving it their all, it would not have happened!!!

I enjoyed being the Plant Sale Chairperson this year and am now getting ready for the next hurdle --- the garden tour. What was I thinking? Thanks again for helping make this year's Plant Sale a tremendous success.

Happy gardening,
Ann



Graduation Day!

By Dale Senko, Intern Class Coordinator

We celebrated the graduation of the MG Intern Class of 2010 at a luncheon in their honor on April 6. At the pre-luncheon program, Committee Chairs and Stephanie introduced the interns to the various committees' activities and projects.

We had a wonderful turnout of Master Gardeners. Thanks to them for providing the delicious buffet and sharing many pass-along plants with the interns. Everyone's generosity was appreciated.

The MG Mentors (Jan Bowyer, Bonnie Umberger, Dianne Teer, Angela Natho, Donna Dietz, Marian Seals, Janet Robinson, Carol Fuller, Sarah Russell, Dale Senko, David Granroos, Dianne Massey, Carol Rouse, Jean Duflo, Mike Merget, Pat Farmer, Rhett McCorkle, Lana Jones, Eddie Manning, Allen Summerlin) provided gifts and plants for their interns.

The Intern Class Coordination Team (Beverly Maddox, Bonnie Umberger, John Secor, Pat Thompson, Greg Emerson, Steve Rydzewski, Carol Rouse, Ann Rouse, Lana Jones, Dale Senko) were acknowledged for their work in support of the class.

Below are some pictures of the graduates and attendees.



Food Table



L-R: Dayna Stevenson, Cammy Tidwell, Carolyn Gable, Barbara Johnson (back to camera), Nancy Olsen (pointing)