

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

I understand everyone had a great time at the picnic last month and that the food was wonderful. Sorry I was not able to attend. I had already planned a trip to visit my granddaughter. "Big Thanks" to all that helped in the preparation of that event.

The Christmas holidays are quickly approaching and so is the Wreath Project. Sandy Smith and the Wreath Committee have been very busy getting everything lined up and the wreath orders have already begun to roll in. Remember the deadline for ordering is November 16.

We need your help to make this project a success. Thanks so much to all of the folks that have been making bows. Most of the bows are completed; some were stored from last year and others were made by what seemed to be elves. Lana said that as she arrived in her office each day another bag of completed bows had just magically appeared. We all know the elves were dedicated Master Gardeners working diligently behind the scenes. We still need your help. The lattice is set up at the Ag Building ready to hang bows. We need helpers to prep (fluff and possibly re-make some of the stored bows) and hang them so that they will remain beautiful until placed on the wreaths. If you are available, plan to join us at the Ag Building this Friday, November 13 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and Monday, November 16 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. If you have questions please call Lana Jones at 678-850-7268.

Janet Robinson is handling the work schedule this year and has been very busy calling Master Gardeners trying to get enough workers for each day. I know it is a very busy time for everyone, but please try to schedule some time to help make wreaths.

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We have two shifts each day. The morning shift from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and the afternoon shift from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. with lunch for everyone from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. As always we ask that everyone bring a dish to share during lunch time. The Wreath Schedule is as follows: Tuesday November 24 through Saturday December 5. Of course we will not be making wreaths on Thanksgiving Day; however, we will be on Sunday afternoon, November 29. So, if you can spare a few hours or days we could sure use your help with this project. Remember, this is our largest fundraiser and we cannot be successful without everyone's help! Please call Janet at 770-251-1742 to schedule your shift or shifts. Just imagine the smell of Christmas trees along with the enjoyment that comes from working side-by-side with new and old friends.

Please mark your calendars for the Christmas Party December 8 at 7 p.m. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Thanks,
Cindy



Fall (Almost) Picnic

Despite the lack of cooperation by the weather, the Fall (Almost) Picnic was a huge success. Those of you who couldn't attend missed a great time. From the moment folks started to arrive, the room was filled with the buzz of pleasant conversation as MGs chatted with each other and old friends who hadn't seen each other in a while reconnected. Kudos to Rhett McCorkle and her crew for organizing this event. The amount of planning and preparation that went into it was obvious as it went off without a hitch, even though the location had to be changed at the last minute due to the inclement weather. We extend a heartfelt thank you to MG David Granroos, our BBQ chef extraordinaire. The menu was fabulous. In addition to being a wonderful gardener, David is also an outstanding cook. We also offer special thanks to his wife Nancy for procuring the Bank of Coweta Annex for us and all of her help in so many areas. It was a true family affair as Dave and Nancy's son David was also put to work on the serving line. Janet Robinson's table decorations were perfect for the event, and Greg Emerson and Allen Summerlin were a terrific help with transporting tables and food. We also thank Linda Henry and Dianne Teer for their help with setting up and cleanup. Thanks to all who brought donations for One Roof. We are sure they will be used and greatly appreciated. Now, we all need to hit the gym to work off all of the scrumptious desserts.



Sunshine Committee Report

By Dianne Teer

Susan Psalmonds is recovering from heart surgery. She had a blockage and doctors put in a shunt and pacemaker. She is home from the hospital and doing well. However, as per doctor's orders, Susan needs to take it easy for the next six weeks or so, and this will not be easy for this active lady. The MGs sent her gift card to Barnes and Noble. We wish Susan a complete and speedy recovery.

Marian Seals is recovering from shoulder surgery. The MGs also sent her gift card to Barnes and Noble.

Here's wishing everyone a bountiful Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe the holidays are upon us. However, one look out the window at the falling leaves, which seem to be beautiful this year, and cloudy sky lets us know fall is really here.

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A very happy birthday to our Master Gardeners who were born in December:

Janice Wise--Dec. 1

Sandy Smith--Dec. 7

Judy Cunningham--Dec. 15

Mike Meyer--Dec. 17

Virginia Duflo--Dec. 25

Harvey Garcia--Dec. 1

Ron Stephens--Dec. 10

Don Morris (retired Extension Agent)--Dec. 15

Pat Farmer--Dec. 21





ENOUGH ALREADY

By Ray Prior

Me: Moan, grumble, #*^x@\$, bleep.

Rita: Now what are you crabbing about. Is it the leaves thing again?

It's not only leaves, acorns, hickory nuts and sweet gum balls, I've had it with insects, weeds, deer, squirrels, diseases, cutting grass, you name it.

So?

We're going to move to an apartment!

What? Move? Are you serious?

You bet. I can take it easy for a change and not have to put up with all that stuff.

Have you thought this through? I mean, next fall you won't get to ride around on that mower you love so much admiring the trees in their glorious autumn colors.

Yeah. I do love fall. I can work outside for hours when it's cool.

Next spring you won't see the serviceberry and native azaleas in bloom. You said yourself there aren't very many serviceberry trees around.

That's true and I remember planting the azaleas ten years ago.

What about the fountain and the statues of Mary and St. Francis? We can't take them to an apartment.

Never thought about that. We've had them a long time.

You know living in an apartment means no more vegetable garden. Say goodbye to beans cooked fresh from the garden, dripping with butter and to a BLT or a salad with home grown tomatoes.

A store-bought tomato on a BLT? Yuck!!

I know you won't miss raking up tons of sunflower seed shells but no bird feeder means we won't get to see the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks when they stop on their way south or the bright yellow Goldfinches in spring.

Yeah and I just put a new door on the bluebird box. Oh well.

You won't see the Turkey Vultures with their wings spread out warming themselves on the roof on a sunny, frosty February morning.

It is quite a sight. Sometimes there as many as two dozen.

You recently divided and replanted dozens of daffodil and crocus bulbs by the lamppost. If we move you won't get to see how they do next spring.

That was a lot of work. I tried that "naturalizing" thing too.

You have told me many times that, no matter how hard you work and how tired you are that after a shower and dinner and you sink into your chair, that you have a feeling of contentment, that it is great to be alive and "today was a good day." Are you going to feel that way after a day in an apartment?

Hmm. Well, the way the housing market is today, maybe we should wait a while before we put the house on the market.

Yes dear, whatever you say.



I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. As I often go outside in the morning with my coffee and sit in the garden, I have started a redesign in my head. Does this happen to everyone or am I the only one that loves to change things.

I want to remind everyone that the end of the year is coming fast and everyone needs to submit your hours for the year, if you have not done this on a monthly basis. Also, with the New Year coming everyone will need to sign a new Memorandum of Agreement for 2010 and also pay their dues by March the 3rd of 2010.

When doing administrative task (code 17) please provide the type of task that was preformed (committee meeting, calling tree, etc.). I have also listed below some things that do not count toward your MG hours.

What does not count as Master Gardener volunteer service:

Any service for which you receive pay.

Attending general Local Association, GMGA or International Association meetings unless you are helping in some capacity.

Advanced or other training which you were not involved in setting up or teaching; attending flower shows, events, classes, activities etc. that you did not help to set up or teach at.

**The only time these hours are approved through the Coweta Extension office is if you take the course and then teach a similar course in Coweta County based on what you learned at the class. But if you teach a class, you must communicate that with Stephanie before that class is taught.

I have provided a copy of the 2010 Memorandum of Agreement, sign and return to the Extension Office. Hope to see all our members at the January meeting.

Carol Rouse
VP and Membership Chair

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER
2010 Memorandum of Agreement for Veteran Coweta County Master Gardeners

I wish to **be recertified** as a Coweta County Master Gardener for the year 2010. I agree to donate **25** hours of public volunteer service to the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Office during the upcoming year. I understand that the Master Gardener Badge is only to be worn in a volunteer capacity and is not to be worn to work or in any other moneymaking capacity. I will not use my Master Gardener status to promote any commercial activity or private business. I understand that violation of this policy may cause immediate withdrawal of all certification privileges. I understand that, as a Georgia Master Gardener, I am a representative of the University of Georgia and, as such, discrimination of any kind is not acceptable and could result in immediate loss of certification privileges.

I agree that any non-commercial pesticide or cultural recommendations given by me will be in accordance with published UGA Cooperative Extension recommendations.

I understand that if I wish to continue my membership with the Georgia Master Gardener association, it is my responsibility to renew it directly with GMGA. I understand further, that membership in GMGA is not mandatory although, if I am not a member in good standing, I could be excluded from participation in GMGA activities such as Advanced Training Certification, annual conferences, receiving newsletters, etc.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicant's Printed Name

County Agent's Signature

Date



ASK THE MASTER GARDENER

By Ray Prior

The e-mail read like this: “Can you possibly assist me in locating a sunflower that meets the criteria my mother says she saw between Southern Indiana and Columbus, Ga.? She didn’t remember where she saw them along this route but said they were not over two feet high with only one enormous bloom; the size of a dinner plate. She also mentioned that these were the sunflowers who bear the seeds which folks eat. I have looked a lot over the internet, but haven’t found one meeting all of these qualities. Thanks so much for anything you can do for my mother.”

Far be it for an MG to not want to help somebody’s mother. It seemed like a daunting task at first; after all, Mom traveled several hundred miles and didn’t know where she saw them. *Southern Living Garden Book* to the rescue. There is a variety of the common sunflower *Helianthus annuus* ‘Sunspot’ that grows to two feet in all zones. I also had no trouble finding a ton of information on line by going to sunflower (*Helianthus*) ‘Sunspot’. This variety does have a 10 inch wide flower and the seeds are indeed edible provided you get to them before the squirrels and birds do. Sounded like what Mom was looking for. I answered the e-mail and furnished the websites.

I read that there are 56,699 seeds per pound. If that’s true of the seeds I buy for the birds, that equates to over 2 million per 40 lb. bag. It’s no wonder I rake up a gazillion seed hulls in the spring.

**Coweta County Master Gardeners' Association
Business Meeting
October 15, 2009**

President Cindy Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:37a.m.

Approval of Minutes from August 20, 2009 - Cindy requested the minutes be approved. Roger Echols made a motion the minutes be accepted. Ann Rouse seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

By-Laws - Steve Rydzewski requested the changes proposed in the August 20 business meeting be adopted. The membership voted to accept the change. Bylaws now reflect the 10 years of service required to become a lifetime Master Gardener need not be consecutive.

Plant Sale Committee - The Plant Sale committee Chair is vacant for 2010. Cindy Bruce requested a volunteer to assume the chair as soon as possible as planning begins in December for the plant sale in April.

Garden Tour - Cindy stated the 2010 tour is on track. Five gardens have been selected; however, the date for the tour remains to be determined. She is waiting for the Coweta County School system to announce graduation dates. The tour will occur late May or early June.

Hospitality Committee - Rhett McCorkle announced the Master Gardener picnic is being held at David Granroos's house October 27 at 6 p.m. Reservations must be made by October 16. Rhett passed a signup sheet for those planning to attend. A map was included in the October newsletter. MGs are to bring a dessert to share. David Granroos stated he had five parking spaces in his driveway for handicapped. There would be plenty of parking on the street. If it rains, the picnic will be held in the Annex building of the Bank of Coweta.

Sunshine Committee - Rhett McCorkle reported Marian Seals was recovering from shoulder surgery.

Greenhouse Committee - Allen Summerlin stated the Greenhouse Committee has two remaining projects for this year: massive cleanup of the greenhouse and repotting plants from the June propagation class. He will not overwinter MG plants this year because of electrical problems in the greenhouse. He is coordinating with the county on scheduling the repairs.

Fair Committee - The Training Team of the Greenhouse Committee assisted by Diane West-McHugh conducted a Plant Propagation Demonstration Saturday, October 10, in the Exhibition Hall at the Coweta County Fair. The demonstration highlighted seed harvesting and overwintering plants, how to take hard and soft tissue cuttings, how to construct your own mini greenhouse out of "on hand" materials, and news of Master Gardener / Backyard Association upcoming events. Door prizes were donated by Andy's Nursery, Country Gardens and the Greenhouse committee. Around 16 people attended. Diane said the demo was much better than the static displays used in past years.

Powers Crossroads - Stephanie Butcher stated our participation went well.

Nominating Committee: Ruth Fahl proposed the following slate of Officers for 2010: President - Mike Merget; President Elect - Roger Echols; Vice President - Carol Rouse; Secretary - Angela Natho; Treasurer - Irene Hamm. Marcia Callaway made a motion to approve the 2010 Officer Slate. Ann Rouse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Telephone Committee - Sarah Russell stated she could use more volunteers to fill in. There have been no new volunteers in the past year. Cindy Bruce noted this was a good way to earn hours at home.

Travel Committee - Janet Robinson reported her committee had planned and completed two trips this fall. One was to Berry College for a tour of the museum, gardens and house. The second trip was to the Griffin display gardens. Ruth Fahl has a trip planned to the Bellingrath Gardens for December 1-2. Nineteen have signed up to go. She has space for one more.

Backyard Association - J. C. Carpenter noted we have only one more association meeting this year. In November, Pete Furness will speak on orchids. He also requested suggestions for next year's meetings.

Membership Committee - Carol Rouse reminded members that attending a business meeting cannot be included in volunteer hours.

Justice Center - Barb Tornow stated they will be planting pansies next week.

Wreath Committee - Sandy Smith has volunteered to chair this committee. Cindy reported order forms are being mailed this week from the 300 plus mailing list developed from prior years. The deadline to accept orders is Nov 16. Master Gardeners may take orders and money - checks only for accounting purposes. Orders will also be accepted at the Extension Office. Wreath production is scheduled from Nov. 24 to Dec 5. The MGs will participate in the December Market Day on the Courthouse Square to sell wreaths. Janet Robinson will be calling to schedule shifts and is requesting each MG volunteer for three to four half-day shifts.

Officer Reports

Vice President - Carol Rouse reported 2010 Memorandum of Agreement is available for signature and to remember to record and turn in your volunteer hours.

Treasurer - Irene Hamm presented the financial statement as of the end of July. She noted we paid \$34.90 penalty for early withdrawal. Due to a UGA audit, the receipts to validate the current budget were not available. She and Stephanie will reconcile once the files are in order. She also requested MGs sign her sheet if they paid their 2010 dues today.

Old Business

Master Gardener of the Year - Cindy requested members please nominate individuals for this award. The Executive Board will meet in November to make the decision and winner will be announced at the Christmas party.

Bench for the Extension Office - Janet Robinson stated the bench is ready but we are waiting for the Coweta County Fair to end, so everyone will be available for the presentation and perhaps a photo opportunity and article in the Newnan Times Herald.

2010 Master Gardener Class Applications due today - Today is the deadline for the 2010 class. The class will be limited to 35-40 students and will be conducted via video teleconferencing on Tuesday and Thursday mornings late January to mid April. All counties will be getting the same course. Stephanie noted she will need help to facilitate and develop workshops to complement the instruction.

New Business

Christmas Party - Rhett McCorkle noted the date for the Christmas party is 7 p.m., December 8, at the Fairgrounds. Members are to bring either a dessert or a side item.

Stephanie Butcher - Stephanie noted this had been a tough year for the Extension Office and she appreciated all the help. River's Alive is this Saturday from 8-12. The first 50 to volunteer will receive free passes to the fair. This Sunday after 1 p.m. she requested help to deliver the checks for the winning entries in the fair and to help entrants retrieve their items. Any requests concerning the MG class for 2010 will be tabled until the end of the fair. She also thanked Irene for the great job she is doing with the budget.

Cattleman's Association - Marcia Callaway mentioned the Steak Cook Off at the fair this Saturday at 5 p.m. This year the steak to be cooked is the flat iron steak. The association is still taking applications. Cash will be awarded to the first and second place winners.

There being no additional business, Cindy requested a motion to adjourn. Roger Echols made the motion. Boyd Gilliam seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.