

# THE TROWEL



APRIL 2010

## TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



### President's Message

April equals Plant Sale and Swap !!! Some of our Interns will be bringing new plants, shrubs and a whole lot of new energy. Patrick and Susan have been very busy with all the details. It's a fun time, good bit of hard work and a time to get to know each other. Can't wait for the Auction.

If one of you would like to volunteer to head up our May trip just let me know. (This is not the trip to Helen Phillips's. There isn't a fee or bus needed for Helen's as we can car pool from the Ag. center whenever she decides it's a good time.) In the past Gary, Fern and I have all worked in getting bus trips organized. We would be glad to guide you down the road. We need to vote on where and when we are going at the April meeting. Have your ideas ready to share. See you April 11th.

If you have announcements or agenda items for the April meeting please email them to me at [bees646@aol.com](mailto:bees646@aol.com)

*Brenda Livingston*



### Calendar of Events



**April 8 Business Meeting/Plant Sale Details**

**April 10 Potting Session at Billie McIver's 10am**

**April 23 Plant Sale Set-up**

**April 24 Plant Sale**

**May 13 Meeting/Program Jo Phillips (Hills & Dales)  
"Re-Discovering Gardens from the Past"**

**June 10 Meeting/Program Ed MaDan (Arbor Gardens)  
Roses in the Southern Landscape!**

**July 8 Lifetime Gardeners Banquet**

**August 12 Meeting/Program - TBA**

**September 9 GMGA Conference Planning Meeting**

**October 1 & 2 2010 GMGA Fall Conference**



### March Meeting

Patrick Bexton provided detailed information on the upcoming Potting Sessions and the Plant Sale.

### April Meeting



The April 8 meeting will be a planning meeting for the upcoming Plant Sale.



## May Meeting

Jo Phillips will be our featured speaker at our May, 13 meeting/program. Jo is the Horticulture Manager at Hills & Dales Estate, the historic home of Fuller E. Callaway Family. She has been employed at the estate since 1994 when she was hired as a horticulturist by Mrs. Alice Callaway for four years until Alice's death in 1998, after which work began on the project of opening the home and garden to the public – which became official in October 2004. Jo earned a BSA degree in Horticulture from the University of Georgia in 1980. Her work experience prior to Hills & Dales includes Callaway Gardens as well as retail garden management, which is where she met Alice. She attributes her love of plants and gardening to growing up on a small farm inhabited with generations of green thumbs.



## June Meeting

At the June 10 meeting, which is open to the public, local nurseryman and gardener, Ed MaDan will speak about using roses in our southern landscape. His gardening hobby began over 35 years ago. MaDan retired from a longtime career in forestry and opened his two-acre display garden and nursery to the public over twelve years ago. Arbor Gardens includes many varieties of flowering shrubs, antique roses, hydrangeas, and perennials. The display garden is designed to give the gardener ideas on size, light requirements, water and soil condition - general growing habits of plants. MaDan enjoys sharing his ideas and knowledge with other gardeners. Arbor Gardens Nursery is located in LaGrange at 2002 Roanoke Road.



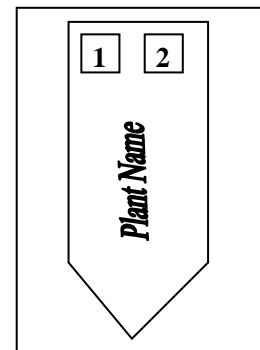
## Plant Sale



Plans are underway to have a great Plant Sale and Swap on **Saturday, April 24 from 9am - 3pm.** You can choose what area you would like to help at the Plant Sale. Sign-up sheets will be at the April Meeting. If you are unable to attend the April meeting but want to help at the Plant Sale, call Susan Thomas (706-594-9456) to sign up.

Please note: if you pot plants at home, please use the coding system below:

## Plant Labeling Codes



### Position 1 Codes

A – Annual  
 P – Perennial  
 S – Shrub  
 V – Vegetable  
 H – Herb  
 T – Tropical  
 N – Native Plant  
 I – Indoor Plants  
 G – Grasses  
 GC- Ground Cover  
 TR- Tree  
 SU - Succulent

### Position 2 Codes

1 – Sun  
 2 – Sun/Part Shade  
 3 – Shade



## Minutes from the March Meeting

Brenda Livingston, President of the Troup County Master Gardener Association, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Brenda indicated that help was needed to clean up after the meeting. Brenda stated that the meeting would not be a business meeting. She indicated that Georgia State dues forms are available on the back table as well as numerous sign up sheets. She noted that there was a new sheet for members to sign up to mentor an intern. After thanking Phyllis Tigner and Charlotte Lamb for refreshments and Jayne Wright, Carol Crews and Brenda Phillips for room set up, Brenda turned the meeting over to Patrick Bexton.

Patrick reminded everyone of the “potting session” scheduled at his home this Saturday, March 13 beginning at 10:00 am. He asked that each person bring a large bag of potting soil (inexpensive is okay), houseplants, and other plants to pot are needed. He has Bee Balm and Swamp Sunflowers to pot. It is important to bring soil, pots, and plants to Billie’s potting session on April 10 and Marilyn/Kenny’s session on March 27. Patrick estimated that at least 1000 plants are needed for the Plant Sale. Patrick suggested that members put things in water to root now and take to Billie’s on April 10. Patrick discussed the “Plant Coding” System that is used for the Plant Sale. He suggested that members, who pot things at home, should put the codes on cut mini blind slats and put in plants prior to bringing them to the Plant Sale.

Patrick directed the meeting to Susan Thomas, who is in charge of Plant Sale Set-up. Susan discussed the new physical set-up for the Plant Sale. She felt that the new set-up gave attendees more freedom to walk thru to the items they are most interested in seeing. The Plant Sale is broken down into numerous areas of responsibility again this year as follows:

Cashier – Gerald Becham  
Refreshment Area – Rose Meister  
Swap Area – Brenda Livingston  
Wagons –  
Parking Lot – Calvin Wingo & Sam Hornsby  
Photographer – Gary Mayer  
Labeling & Pricing – Gary Carter  
Display/Auction Area – Peggy Genova  
Auctioneer – Patrick Bexton  
Tables – Susan Thomas  
Pre-set of Tables (Thursday 4/22) – Susan Thomas  
Ask-A-Gardener – Joan Benz  
Clean-Up – Gary Mayer

Before closing the meeting Brenda led a discussion regarding a possible “Road Trip.” Locations suggested were Petals from the Past, Tom Corley’s

Place, and Helen Phillips’ Backyard in Pine Mountain.

Two door prizes (a Red Bud and a Fennel Plant), provided by Garden Solutions, were won.



## Potting Sessions

Don’t miss out on the **last potting session**. Remember to bring a bag of potting soil, pots and lots of plants to pot.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** – Billie McGiver’s Home  
5997 West Point Road, 706-302-8480

Nearly 25 persons attended the potting session at Patrick Bexton’s home. **360 plants were potted**. But more importantly . . . was the great fun and comradere of working together as a team.

The good news is it didn’t rain for the potting session at Marilyn Mayer’s . . . the bad news it was very cold. Twelve master gardeners **potted 275 plants** even though it was cold.



## Adaleigh’s Nursery

### *Customer Appreciation and Veggie Fest*

Plan to stop by Adaleigh’s Nursery on Saturday, April 10 to receive a 10% discount on all nursery stock purchased by master gardeners/garden club members. They have extensive and unusual vegetable plants.



## 2010 GMGA Fall Conference October 1 & 2

**Mark your calendars for this conference. You won’t want to miss it!! Troup County Master Gardener Association is hosting this conference. Plans are underway to provide top-notch speakers as well as vendors selling the newest plants and products.**

## Gardening Tips for April



Plant dahlias, elephant ear, gladiolus and caladiums now



Remove withered flowers from florist's azaleas you receive for Easter to prolong their blooming.



It's never the wrong time to lime your lawn. Forty pounds per 1000 square feet is approximately enough but a soil test can tell you exactly what you need.



When the soil warms( 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> week), it is safe to plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in your garden



Move houseplants outdoors gradually. Never place them in full sunshine; filtered shade is best.



Spray azaleas with insecticidal soap if you have had azalea lace bug problems in the past.



Remove guy wires from your fall-planted trees. Trees that move with the wind grow stronger than those supported for more than a few months.



Mulch tomatoes immediately after planting to prevent early blight fungus from splashing from the soil onto the leaves.



Water houseplants more frequently with the onset of more hours of sunshine and new green leaves. Begin monthly feedings with houseplant fertilizer.



4<sup>th</sup> Week, You can plant the seeds of annual flowers such as marigold, cosmos, zinnia and celosia. Mix lots of soil conditioner in beds to help them be drought tolerant.



Look for aphids clustered at the tips of fast-growing crape myrtle branches. Blast them off with a water hose and give a ground-dwelling spider a

## Volunteer Opportunities

Don't wait until the last minute to get your volunteer service hours completed for this year. Sign up for one of the following events at the April meeting.



Troup &/or Meriwether Ext Office



Hospice Flower Beds



Library Project



Plant Sale



Preparing an Informational Sign



GMGA Fall Conference



## Landscape Design Study Program

Several Master Gardeners attended this class which was the second in a series of four classes.

### Board of Directors

**President:** Brenda Livingston (256-395-0135)

**President-Elect:** Gary Carter (706-884-3687)

**Vice-President:** Carol Crews (706-845-0854)

**Secretary:** Fern Bergeron (706-885-9388)

**Treasurer:** Gerald Becham (706- 884-6284)

**Past President:** Larry Flynn (706-837-0861)

### Committees

**Bylaws** - \*Charlotte Lamb

**Corresponding Secretary** – Ann Fischer

**Door Prizes** – Peggy Genova

**Education** – \*Joan Benz, JMG, Annice Whatley

**Finance** – \*Gerald Becham

**Meeting Set-up** – \*Richard & Brenda Phillips,

**Membership** – \*Larry Flynn

**Newsletter** – \*Fern Bergeron

**Program** – \* Carol Crews, Gary Carter

**Projects** – \*Patrick Bexton

**Publicity** – \*Marilyn Mayer

**Recorder of Volunteer Hours** – Jane Kirby

**Refreshments** – \*Linda Scott