

THE TROWEL



AUGUST 2010

TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



President's Message

My favorite saying has been "and this too shall pass" and I'm looking forward to remembering how hot it was and not experiencing it.

We missed the Gardeners that didn't get to attend the Ten Year Dinner and the Gardeners missed a Feast and Fun. Everyone's participation made the night very special.

This has certainly been Andrea Lovejoy's year. She received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from LaGrange College. The LaGrange Rotary Club named her "Citizen of the Year". And we welcomed Andrea and her husband Bill into our Troup County Master Gardeners as Certified Master Gardeners. Glad to have you and all our new Gardeners.

Don't forget our meeting August 12 . Interesting Damsel & Dragon fly info and refreshments furnished by the famous cook Charlotte Lamb and not so famous cook Brenda Livingston. Gary Carter has been commissioned to do our table decor !!!! See you there .

Brenda



Troup County Assoc. of Beekeepers

Meets every 3rd Monday at 7:00 pm at the Ag Bldg. Anyone interested in Beekeeping is welcome. For more info: Call the Ext. Office 706-883-1675 or Alicia & Terry Williamson 706-882-2493.

Calendar of Events



August 12 *Dragonflies & Damselflies*
Giff Beaton

September 9 **General Meeting and GMGA
Conference Planning**

October 1 & 2 **GMGA Fall Conference**

October 14 –Program "*Trash to Treasures*"
Linda Shelnett

October 23 – Fall Road Trip

November 11 – Meeting

December 9 – Christmas Party



July Meeting/Dinner Lifetime Master Gardeners Banquet

The July 8th meeting included a banquet honoring those persons who have been a Master Gardener for 10 or more years. The association provided the meat for the dinner. Members brought outstanding side dishes to have a complete and completely delicious meal. Thanks to Jean Edwards for coordinating this event. Also, thanks to those who provided flowers and for those who helped in the table decorations. A good time was had by all.



August Meeting

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Giff Beaton will present a program on Dragonflies and Damselflies at the August 12 meeting. Giff has eagerly studied nature for over 35 years. For the past 15 years, he has led a variety of bird tours and given a diverse range of nature presentations. He is the author of *Birding Georgia* and the *Birds of Kennesaw Mountain*, coauthor of *The Breeding Bird Atlas of Georgia* and *Birds of Georgia*, and the senior author and editor of the *Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds*. He enthusiastically follows warbler migration, especially at Kennesaw Mountain, with a main focus on photographing birds and insects in their natural habitats. Concentrating on studying and photographing Odonates, robber flies, and tiger beetles, he is often found far afield searching for these curious and somewhat elusive creatures. His latest book, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast*, was published in Feb 2007. He lives in Marietta, GA, and has been a pilot for Delta Air Lines for over 20 years.



September Meeting

Our September 9th meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Building. The focus of this meeting will be the 2010 GMGA Conference. Conference details will be outlined for members. Final planning will be discussed as well as an overview of volunteer opportunities will be addressed. Time will be allotted for specific questions.

The balance of the meeting will deal with general operating items, discussion of future scholarships, and a Fall road trip.



October Meeting

"Trash to Treasures"

Linda Shelnett from Alabama will inform as well as entertain us as she turns trash into whimsical garden art.

Minutes from the July Meeting

President, Brenda Livingston, welcomed Master Gardeners and guests to our 10 year Celebration Dinner and short meeting.

Brenda opened the meeting by thanking Jean Edwards for coordinating the details for this event. Jean then acknowledged those persons who assisted her. She thanked the persons who provided the flowers for the centerpieces and to the ladies who arranged the flowers. Brenda also gave special thanks to Steve Griffin for setting the tables and chairs for this event. Brenda then directed her attention to the members and their involvement coming and by bringing the great array of food.

Brenda announced that Jessica Nicole Fulgham a graduating senior from Troup High was awarded the \$1000 Troup MG Assn Scholarship. Jessica plans to study Horticulture at Columbus State.

After an enjoyable dinner, Brenda Livingston, and Carol Crews, Vice- President of Troup County Master Gardeners, presented the following persons with their Lifetime Master Gardener's badge:

*Joan Benz
Deborah Andrecko
Rose Meister
Jon Christenson
Sharon Cowart
Dottie Jameson*

Brenda called Joan Benz forward and acknowledged Joan and Jerry Benz on their anniversary.

Brenda next asked Fern Bergeron to share information on the upcoming GMGA Fall Conference to be held in LaGrange on October 1 & 2. Fern presented some general information about the conference followed by detailed information on opportunities for members to get involved and to get volunteer hours. She indicated that opportunities were varied. There were jobs that were "light duty" as well as "heavy duty." Fern indicated that sign-up sheets were at the table in back of the room. Calvin Wingo and Sam Hornsby are heading up the team of volunteers that will assist vendors, place signage, parking attendants. Peggy Genova will need many people to assist with the silent auction and runners for the many door prizes. Work schedules are varied as well. Persons will be needed early on Friday to set up at the conference center as well as clean-up after the conference on Saturday. General questions can be directed to Jon Christenson or Gary Carter.



Volunteer Opportunities

Don't wait until the last minute to get your volunteer service hours completed for this year.



Troup &/or Meriwether Ext Office
Shirley Gilliam – 706-883-1675



Hospice Flower Beds
Peggy Genova – 706-884-4724



Library Project
Gerald Becham – 706-884-6284



Habitat Project
Steve Brown – 706-837-0702



GMGA Fall Conference

General Questions about Volunteering
Gary Carter – 706-616-4153
Jon Christenson – 706-883-7716
Door Prize Runners/Silent Auction
Peggy Genova – 706-884-4724
Office Duties/Name Badge & Folder Prep
Susan Thomas – 706-594-9456
Assist Conference Speakers
Susan Thomas – 706-594-9456
Parking Attendants, Vendor Assistants,
Sign Placement & Retrieval, and Clean-up
Calvin Wingo – 706-882-2211
Sam Hornsby – 706-884-9978

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

Gardening Tips for August

- 🍊 The soil in outdoor clay pots dries out quickly. Poke holes in it with a pencil to make sure water saturates the soil when you tend your plants.
- 🍊 The best way to control snakes is to remove their habitat. Move log piles, leaf piles and rock piles to the edge of your yard, away from the house.
- 🍊 Prune tropical hibiscus plants you plan to bring indoors. Reduce them to a size that will fit in front of your sunniest window in December.
- 🍊 Remove faded crape myrtle blooms and dry seed clusters now. With a little water and fertilizer, you may get more blooms in September.
- 🍊 Collect seeds from hosta, iris and blackberry lily to save for planting next spring.
- 🍊 Fertilize roses with 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height now to stimulate some new growth.
- 🍊 As the weather cools, you'll get roses for the fall. Look on the ground around your blackberry and raspberry plants. The canes snaking across the ground should be tied back on their wire arbor.
- 🍊 How long has it been since your lawnmower blade was sharpened? It should be done once each summer to avoid shredding the grass instead of cutting it cleanly.
- 🍊 Cut back faded annual flowers by half, then water and lightly fertilize with liquid 20-20-20 or equivalent. A second season of blooms will begin to appear in two weeks.
- 🍊 Watch for the red or yellow, spider-like flowers of spider lily, also called surprise lily - because the foliage is nowhere to be seen when it blooms.
- 🍊 Wrap cheesecloth around sunflower heads to keep the birds away. The head is ready to harvest when the back has turned from green to brown.
- 🍊 Pull English ivy out of your trees. The leaves act like a sail in a thunderstorm - you don't want that tree to navigate onto your roof!
- 🍊 It's easy to see the big webs of fall webworm in your trees. If you can reach it with a stick, wrap and destroy the webbing to expose worms to the elements.



Georgia Master Gardener Association
2010 Fall Conference
October 1 & 2
Garden Stewards: In Tune With Nature

Fellow Gardeners,

We would like to extend this special invitation to join us for the 2010 Georgia Master Gardener Association's Fall Conference; *Garden Stewards: In Tune With Nature*. Our Friday venue will be a fun filled afternoon and evening at the Hills & Dales Estate in LaGrange, Georgia. The afternoon includes tours of the historic Ferrell Garden begun in 1832. The Fuller E. Callaway Sr. family home is a 1916 Italianate villa designed by Neel Reid.

During the afternoon there will be three seminars available for you to attend:

- *Signature Plants from the Garden* by **Jo Phillips**, Hills and Dales Estate Horticulturist and Garden Manager.
- *Herb Gardening* by **Helen Phillips**, a Master Garden Designer and Instructor of the National Herb Society of America.
- *The Hybridization of Day Lilies* with Master Gardener, **Kenny Manis**, American Hemerocallis Society Awards winner.

At the end of the day, Hills & Dales Estate will sponsor the "Meet and Greet" evening in the garden. Dr. Allan Armitage and Felder Rushing will be available for book signings during this event. Felder Rushing will be providing comic entertainment throughout the evening. For more about this unbelievable venue go to www.hillsanddales.org. See you in the garden for good food and beverage!

Saturday's venue is the Callaway Conference Center on the east campus of the West Georgia Technical Collage. We have a great menu planned for the day starting with a continental breakfast for your convenience. Lunch is provided along with break time refreshments. There will be vendor shopping all during the day. Door prizes and a silent auction too!

The speakers are remarkable.

- *Stewardship In the Garden* with **Hank Bruno**, Director of Horticulture at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, in Belmont, NC.
- *Annuals and Perennials in the Garden* by **Dr. Allan Armitage**, Director of Research Trial Gardens at the University of Georgia.
- *True Winners: In Tune With Nature* by **Felder Rushing**. Rushing is an author, radio and TV personality and 10th generation American gardener.
- *The Garden Steward: New Plants* by **Mike Sikes**, horticulturist for the Gardener's Confidence Collection, Horticulturist and Marketing Coordinator at McCorkle Nurseries, Inc.

For more information about this great gardening weekend visit: www.georgiamastergardeners.org.

On behalf of GMGA, the staff at Hills and Dales Estate, the Troup County Master Gardener Association and the 2010 Fall Conference Planning Committee, we hope you will join us. We have an exciting gardening weekend planned for you!

Gary Carter
2010 Conference Co Chair
carterg@bellsouth.net