

# THE TROWEL



JUNE 2010

## TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



Fellow Gardeners we are now in the 6th month of 2010, half way to the end. We have three more large events: July brings us to the Lifetime Gardeners Banquet. (Meat is purchased by our Association. We sign up to bring the desserts, veggies, salads, casseroles, bread or whatever you would like to bring. There will be a food sign up sheet at this month's meeting. You may bring a spouse or friend. Jean Edwards is chairman; Loretta Beall and Molly Link are assisting. They will be calling for help on set up and decorations. You will need to email Joan that you are coming and what dish you are bringing if you don't sign up at the June meeting. We need a count as this is a sit down dinner. October brings us to the State Conference. So many good things happening with that. December entitles us to the great Christmas Party. Looking forward to a large gathering

Our June meeting brings us a very special Gardener, Ed MaDan. Don't think you will find a more patient and knowledgeable person in the business. It must be very hard to answer the same questions over and over and have the enthusiasm, but he does. I have learned so much from him. Arbor Gardens has a way of taking away your worries and making you want a place just like it. Try to attend this meeting and invite some friends. It is open to the public. See you there

*Brenda Livingston*

### Calendar of Events



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

**June 12-13** Hydrangea Festival

**July 8** Lifetime Gardeners Banquet

**August 12** *Dragonflies & Damselflies* – Giff Beaton

**September 9** GMGA Conference Planning Meeting

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



### 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.



## July Meeting/Dinner Lifetime Master Gardeners Banquet

The July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will include a banquet honoring those persons who have been a Master Gardener for 10 or more years. The association is providing the meat for the dinner. Attendees are asked to bring their favorite dish to share. Salads, vegetables dishes and desserts will add to the meal. Last year we had numerous fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden. There will be a sign-up sheet at the June meeting. Plan to come to enjoy the good food, talk to friends but most important come to honor the "Lifetime Master Gardeners."



## 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.

## Minutes from the May Meeting

President, Brenda Livingston, opened the meeting by welcoming members, friends, and visitors.

She thanked those who are on the Clean Up team: Brenda and Richard Phillips and Jayne Wright.

She also thanked the Refreshment committee Chairperson Linda Scott along with Susan Butler who helped provide refreshments for the meeting.

Brenda also said a huge thank you to all who helped in the 2010 Plant Swap, Sale and Auction.

The Hydrangea Festival will be held June 12 & 13. We will not be able to sell any plants or items in our Information Booth. We are under the "no fee" category and can only provide information. This is under the guidelines of UGA. We can use plants for display only and can be auctioned off at a later meeting. Volunteers are needed for the festival and 28 Master Gardeners were requested. A sign up sheet was provided or those wanting to volunteer could email Carla Collins (kokopelli30240@yahoo.com).

We will be having the MG Conference in October and everyone is asked to help. A sign up sheet was provided or members could call Jon Christensen, Gary Carter, Susan Thomas, Marilyn Mayer or Brenda Livingston. Everyone will be required to pay the fee before attending the Conference. Brenda mentioned there will be work to be done on Friday and Saturday.

The Scholarship Committee (carried over from last year) consisting of Brenda Livingston, Larry Flynn, Gerald Becham, Bob Walters, Charlotte Lamb, and Mary Anne Williams have provided guide lines for a one time \$1000 Scholarship for a Troup County Senior. There have been three applicants but not all qualified. They will be meeting again before forwarding them to another Committee for choice.

The Library Project Chairman is Gerald Becham along with the help of Brenda Livingston.

The Board will be discussing purchasing aprons. They will be looking at a different style. Hopefully, it will be one that will be more appropriate for both male and female.

It was voted that we would not participate at the Market on Main. It is not within our guidelines to sell for individual profit under the Master Gardener badge.

Joan Benz presented Master Gardener name tags to the following persons who have fulfilled their 50 hours: Mickey Norred, Vickie Anderson, Andrea Lovejoy, Bill Lovejoy, Becky McLeod and Brenda Phillips.

Brenda introduced the program presented by Jo Phillips, who is the Hills and Dales Estate Horticulture Manager.



## 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  
Brenda Livingston – 256-395-0135



Market on Main  
Susan Thomas – 706-837-4908



Habitat Project  
Steve Brown – 706-837-0702



Preparing an Informational Sign  
Brenda Livingston - 256-395-0135



GMGA Fall Conference  
Jon Christenson – 706-883-7716  
Gary Carter – 706-616-4153

## **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 June



Low limbs in the way when you mow? You can safely remove one fourth of the foliage of any healthy tree during the growing season.



Collect the seeds from foxglove stalks. Scratch the soil around the plant, scatter the seed and cover with a bit of earth. Water occasionally and the seedlings that sprout this year will bloom next year.



Look for small new seedlings under your Lenten rose. They can be transplanted now to other spots.



Remove stakes and guy wires from trees that have been planted for several months. They can stand on their own now.



Mulch your vegetable garden. Try using three sheets of newspaper to cover the ground around each plant, then cover the paper with straw or leaves. Otherwise, pine straw or wheat straw by itself works fine.



Plant annuals in small beds that make a visual impact but are still easy to water. Try color bowls or large container plantings near the entry to your home.



Fertilize outdoor houseplants regularly. Constant watering in the summer washes nutrients from the soil.



Raise the height of your mower by one notch. It will help your lawn grass withstand dry weather.



Remove the faded flowers from geraniums and marigolds to help them make more blooms.



Prune back your hydrangeas when most of the blooms have faded. You'll quickly get lots of new branches, which may give more flowers this fall

