



JANUARY 2010

TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Happy New Year!!

As we begin this year I think it is appropriate to begin by saying thanks to the officers from 2010, Brenda, Gary, Carol, Gerald and Larry. Their dedication and direction brought us successfully through 2010.

I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me to lead this association for 2011. With the help of the other officers and all of you, I feel we will accomplish much this year.

The last several weeks have flown by so quickly for me and probably for you as well. It doesn't seem possible that our first meeting will be in a few days. Bring ideas for programs, projects and road trips to this planning meeting.

 Fern 

Calendar of Events



January 13 -- Business Meeting

February 10--Program

March 10 -- Program/Plant Sale Planning

April 14 -- Plant Sale Planning Meeting

April 29 -- Plant Sale Set-up

April 30 -- Plant Sale

April 29-30 -- GMGA Spring Conference
"When in Rome, Green Gardening for the Future"



December Meeting/Party "A Country Christmas"

Thanks to Carol Crews and Molly Link who chaired the planning of this event.

Thanks to Barbara Wesson who coordinated the making of the decorations for the tree and the table centerpieces. Loretta Beall and Jean Edwards were the good little elves who decorated the tree. There were many others that helped with room set up, ornaments, food preparation, table decorations, and washing dishes and cleanup. Of course we can't forget to thank Mr. and Mrs. Claus for taking time from their busy schedule to pay us a visit. Everyone had a good time.



January Meeting

Our first meeting of 2011 will be on Thursday, January 13 at 7:00 pm at the Ag Building. This will be a business meeting to discuss the formation of committees, to review procedures for introduction of new projects, to discuss the Plant Sale for 2011 and to identify hosts and dates for several potting sessions. Come early to have time to catch up with your fellow gardeners.

Association dues will be collected at this meeting. **Troup County dues are \$12.00.** Please make your checks payable to Troup County Master Gardener Assn.



Volunteer Hours

Hopefully you have completed the summary sheet of your volunteer hours and given them to Jane Kirby. It's not too soon to start getting hours for 2011. New Log Sheets will be available at the January meeting.

2011 Board of Directors

President – Fern Bergeron
706-885-9388

President Elect – Carol Crews
706-845-0857

Vice President – Becky McLeod
706-812-1123

Secretary – Tabitha Prestridge
706-884-2768

Treasurer – Molly Link
706-883-7440

Past President – Brenda Livingston
256-395-0135

Gardening Tips for January

* * * It is easy to see the limb structure of trees now. Tie ribbon around the ones you think should be removed then step back for another look before cutting them off.

* * * Prepare beds for bare-root roses that will soon arrive in nurseries. Dig an area four feet wide and twelve inches deep for each plant, adding plenty of soil conditioner to the soil.

* * * Now is a great time to drain and replace the oil in your mower and to have the blade sharpened or to replace it completely.

* * * On a sunny day fertilize pansies and ornamental cabbage with a product that contains "nitrate nitrogen". This nutrient is best for plants growing in cold soil.

* * * Small, leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now. Wait for a warm day when the ground is not frozen.

* * * If the ground is dry, but cold, rototill the soil in your vegetable garden. You'll eliminate lots of insects, weeds and nematodes.

* * * If temperatures drop below 20 degrees after a week-long warm spell, cover gardenias and camellias nightly with black plastic anchored to the ground on all sides.

* * * Check on the tender bulbs (canna, caladium, dahlia) you stored indoors for the winter. If they are beginning to shrink, mist each one with warm water.

* * * Prune apple and pear trees and grape vines. For a free booklet on their care, call your local Extension office.

* * * Look out for poison ivy when working outdoors. Even the leafless vine and branches can cause a powerful skin reaction if touched.