

THE TROWEL



JULY 2010

TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



Summer heat didn't stop a group of MGs from meeting Helen Phillips at Garden Solutions, 615 Hill St. and heading South. First stop was Sally Foley's amazing property, the largest private garden in Columbus, originally designed by P. Allen Smith. Miss Sally had celebrated her 81st the day before and a most active and interesting lady you want find. So much there, huge waterfall, plants, trees galore, beautiful sculptures, lots of rock used thru out. We enjoyed total hospitality.

Cafe' LaRue in The Landings Shopping Center on Airport Thoroughway was the lunch spot. Fresh and flavorful.

Betsy Leebern's garden: exceptional also. The view from the house down thru the property was breathtaking. There were fountains, perennial beds, shady trails with ferns, hosta, natural rock paths planned stone steps going on forever thru the woods. Blending into the surroundings there would be amazing life size animal sculptures. The lawn areas were more than perfect. After getting back up the hill we realized that this garden would count as exercise for a week and memories that would pop up for a very long time. We appreciate Garden Solutions and Helen for getting us an invitation to these properties. Let them know we enjoyed it.

**Lifetime Membership Banquet July 8th 7:00 pm
(Jean Edwards 706-302-5999)**

Four things you can't recover:

The stone ...after it's thrown
The word ...after it's said
The occasion ...after it's missed
The timeafter it's gone

Brenda Livingston

Calendar of Events



July 8 Lifetime Gardeners Banquet

August 12 *Dragonflies & Damselflies* – Giff Beaton

September 9 GMGA Conference Planning Meeting

October 1 & 2 2010 GMGA Fall Conference

October 14 – Meeting/Program

November 11 – Meeting

December 9 – Christmas Party



June Meeting

At the June 10 meeting, local nurseryman and gardener, Ed MaDan spoke about roses in our southern landscape. He shared numerous products that will help with the growing of roses. His slide presentation showed many pictures of his two-acre display garden and nursery known as Arbor Gardens located in LaGrange at 2002 Roanoke Road.



July Meeting/Dinner Lifetime Master Gardeners Banquet

The July 8th 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, vegetable dishes and desserts will add to the meal. Last year we had numerous fresh vegetables and fruits from the garden. The meeting and dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Building. Plan to come to enjoy the good food, talk to friends but most important come to honor the "Lifetime Master Gardeners."

REMINDER: If you have not made a reservation to attend, please call Jean Edwards (706-302-5999) to inform her of the number of persons and the dish you plan to prepare.



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 June Meeting

President, Brenda Livingston, welcomed Master Gardeners and visitors to the meeting and program.

She thanked Linda Scott, Carol Crews, Susan Taylor, and Rose Meister for the refreshments prepared for the meeting.

Brenda indicated that persons were needed to bring refreshments for the August, September, October, and November meetings. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the room.

A sign-up sheet is also in the back for members to indicate if they will attend the July meeting/ Lifetime Member Banquet. Jean Edwards is chairing this function and would like volunteers to help with decorations, setup and cleanup.

Brenda reminded the members about the Hydrangea Festival that will be held June 12 & 13. She shared information about submitting a hydrangea for judging.

Kenny Manis provided a display of day lily blooms. He also provided numerous daylily plants for door prizes.

Registration Forms are available for the GMGA 2010 Fall Conference that will be held here in LaGrange October 1 & 2

Mickey Norred was presented with her Master Gardener Certificate and Badge.

Helen Phillips from Garden Solutions discussed an upcoming garden tour sponsored by Garden Solutions, to Columbus on Saturday, June 26. There is not a charge for this tour. The bus will leave from Garden Solutions at 9:30 a.m. The garden of Sally Foley, which is the largest garden in Columbus, will be featured on this tour. Betsy Leeburn's garden located in the Green Allen Hills Development will also be on the tour. Betsy's garden is the second largest garden.

Carol Crews, Vice- President of Troup County Master Gardeners, introduced Ed MaDan local nurseryman to present a program regarding "*Roses in the Southern Garden.*"



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



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



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
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 July

☀️ Regularly remove faded flowers from salvia, zinnia, coneflower and especially petunia. This will encourage bushiness and the production of more flowers.

☀️ Remove all stems that support faded flowers on your blue and pink hydrangeas; shorten droopy, flowerless stems by one-third. The new growth that occurs between now and winter will produce next summer's blooms.

☀️ There is still plenty of time to plant seed of marigold, cosmos, cleome and dwarf sunflower. They'll make a spectacular flower show in six weeks.

☀️ Support tall flower stems prone to flop over after a rain. Use a thin stick or a length of bamboo and some jute twine to tie the plant upright.

☀️ Cut back by half herbs like basil, mint and oregano. This prevents them from producing seed and promotes more fragrant leaves.

☀️ Pick squash, cucumbers and okra regularly. One over-ripe vegetable, left on the vine, stops bloom production..

☀️ Wood chips make great mulch by saving moisture and controlling weeds! Spread a layer 2 inches deep under trees and shrubs out to where the branches end.

☀️ Going on vacation? Most houseplants will grow just fine while you're gone if placed on a wet towel in your bathtub with the curtain drawn.

☀️ Bermuda, zoysia and centipede grass sod can be successfully installed in bare spots now. Make sure to loosen the soil six inches deep before putting the sod in place.

☀️ Cut back dahlias to half their height. Fertilize and water the plant to produce a crop of fall flowers.



Georgia Master Gardener Association

2010 Fall Conference

October 1 & 2

Garden Stewards: In Tune With Nature

Troup County Master Gardeners,

The Georgia Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a statewide 501(c) 3 corporation of Master Gardeners which has as its primary purpose support of and advocacy for Master Gardeners and Master Gardener organizations throughout the state. GMGA funds are used for statewide educational opportunities and advanced training. GMGA awards a minimum of \$15,000 annually to projects throughout the state which are educational and involve the community. Physically and mentally challenged children and adults, public and private school children, historic gardens, their renovation and maintenance, and children's programs have all been supported by GMGA Project Grants. Our GMGA conferences are one of the ways to grow gardeners and grow resources. Experts in a variety of horticultural areas of interest provide our members and the public with the most current knowledge in their respective fields.

GMGA encourages gardening knowledge through the use of the tools of technology. Our new website is designed to interest, inform, and involve the public as well as fellow master gardeners. Various Master Gardener organizations throughout the state will share their successful projects with the public and their colleagues. Leading nurseries and plant growers will share information about their favorite plants for our Georgia climates. In the Members Only section, The Georgia SCOOP will be found in full color. The membership directory will be found there as well. The store will feature GMGA merchandise as well forms for conference registration, and membership renewal. A calendar will keep us informed of the garden goings on throughout the state with helpful links for further information.

The Troup County Master Gardeners accepted the opportunity to host the 2010 Fall Conference for the Georgia Master Gardener Association, Inc. The planning team for this conference has been working diligently for over a year pulling together our resources, and gathering information to come up with a plan of action. We feel we have that plan and we feel we will make you proud to participate in this year's fall conference.

Our planning team members for the conference are: Jon Christenson, Susan Thomas, Fern Bergeron and Marilyn Mayer. We have been meeting on a regular basis to the make this the best conference it can be. The staff at Hills and Dales Estate has also been in the planning process for over a year. Carleton Wood and his staff are working to bring us the best afternoon and evening we can imagine.

It is now time for us to start implementing our conference plan. We look forward to working with each of you and appreciate your support. This is the largest project we have ever undertaken. We can do it!

Look us up at: www.georgiamastergardeners.org

Thanks in advance for helping with this year's conference.

Gary Carter

Conference Co Chair and Coordinator