

THE TROWEL



MARCH 2010

TROUP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER



President's Message

My yellow crocus and Hellebores are looking so happy!! Spring is coming if "Mother Nature" can get her act together. We will be ready to go and reach for our goals.

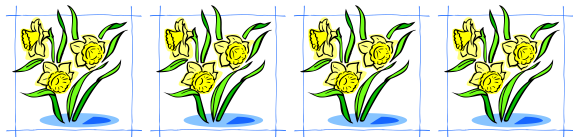
The Conference Committee reports things are coming together and looking good. The Friday events at Hills and Dales Estate are going to be wonderful. Celebrities that dig in the dirt.

Gerald Becham told me he would call a meeting to start on the Library project as soon as it the weather allowed a person to go out and not freeze. Peggy and Larry will be getting with you also to work out a plan of action at Hospice. There will be Project and Committee sign up sheets at the March 11th meeting. Patrick will give info about Plant Sale sign up.

Congratulations to Charlotte Lamb, featured in the "Shopper" Newspaper with some of her recipes. Noticed she listed Troup Co Master Gardeners as one of her Activities. I believe she is bringing refreshments to our March meeting. Thank you Charlotte. We appreciate all you do and it's a lot! Brenda L

If you have announcements or agenda items for the March meeting please email them to me at bees646@aol.com

Brenda Livingston



Calendar of Events



- March 11 Plant Propagation/Potting w/ Patrick Bexton
- March 13 Potting Session at Patrick Bexton's 10am
- March 19-20 Landscape Design Class
- March 27 Potting Session at Marilyn Mayer's 10am
- 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)
- June 10 Meeting/Program Ed MaDan (Arbor Gardens)
- July 8 Lifetime Gardeners Banquet
- October 1 & 2 2010 GMGA Fall Conference



March Meeting

The March 11th meeting will feature a program on "Plant Propagation and Potting" with Patrick Bexton.

April Meeting



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



February Meeting

The February 11th program was presented by Helen Phillips, a well know landscape designer. She showed more than 50 beautiful photos of wildflowers and explained their medicinal value as well as where they could be used in our gardens. She provided plants from Garden Solutions for door prizes.



Note from the Treasurer

A reminder that if you have not paid your membership dues for 2010, please bring \$12.00 to the meeting on March 11th. If you prefer to mail your dues, my address is 146 Wisteria Ridge Terrace, LaGrange, GA 30240. This notice does not apply to the 2009 Master Gardening class since their dues were paid with their class fee.

Gerald Becham



Landscape Design Study Program

This is a National Certified Landscape Design Class. On **March 19 & 20**, the National Gardens Clubs, Inc. The Garden Club of Georgia, Redbud District and the Pine Needle Garden Club are presenting the second in a series of four Landscape Design Courses. The course will be held at the Church of Christ Community Center at 408 Broad Street. The text that will be used is "*Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America.*" For additional details on the course, purchase of the book and how to register, call Marilyn Mayer (706-837-0013).



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.

Minutes from the February Meeting

Brenda Livingston, President of the Troup County Master Gardener Association, welcomed everyone to the meeting. After calling the meeting to order, Brenda reminded that dues in the amount of \$12.00 are to be paid by March 1st. State dues need to be mailed directly to the state.

Brenda discussed the "Hospice Project" and the "Library Project." She indicated that sign-up sheets were in the back of the room these projects. These projects are good ways for interns to get volunteer hours. Another way for interns to get volunteer hours is to help Richard Phillips, Brenda Phillips Carol Crews and Jayne Wright with setting the meeting room for each meeting.

Brenda requested help in making an "informational sign" for use at the Humming Bird Festival, events at Garden Solution or Home Depot. She felt that this would be good experience and a good way for getting volunteer hours.

In Annice Whatley's absence, Cathy Braswell gave a report on the Jr. Master Gardeners. She indicated that Annice was scheduled for an eye procedure. Brenda announced that the Jr. MG program was collecting Capri-Sun drink pouches for a project at Rosemont Elementary School. Leslie Bendell indicated that any type "foil" drink pouch or snack pack are included in this collection project. Leslie also explained the procedure for getting involved in the Jr. MG program.

Brenda shared briefly on the GMGA Conference she recently attended. She spoke specifically about a speaker that spoke on ferns for the sun and shade garden.


Members are to email suggestions for speakers, programs or road trips to Joan Benz.


Matt Comerford, Extension Agent for Troup and Meriwether Counties, shared information on a Bee Keepers Association Workshop to be held on February 27.


Brenda concluded the business portion of the meeting by thanking Linda Scott, Ann Fischer, and Becky McLeod for preparing the refreshments for the meeting.


Carol Crews, Vice President of the Troup County Master Gardener Association, introduced Helen Phillips from Garden Solutions. Helen provided an excellent presentation on wildflowers for use in our home gardens. Her presentation included nearly fifty up-close and beautiful pictures of wildflowers. Door prizes, provided by Garden Solutions were given to two lucky persons.


Gardening Tips for March


 Start seed of tomatoes and annual flowers indoors. You'll need six weeks to grow strong transplants.


 If you haven't spread lime on your lawn in a year, it's time once again. Use 40 pounds per 1000 square feet.


 Now is the time to prune giant holly shrubs back to a manageable size. Don't be shy - you can cut them to eighteen inches tall and they will come back.


 Plant bare-root roses in soil that contains plenty of organic matter and which has been thoroughly tilled.


 Use atrazine (Purge) to kill weeds in centipede grass lawns.


 Planting fescue now? You can't use a pre-emergent weed preventer for six weeks after seeding.


 Divide overgrown clumps of hosta now that you can see the leaves unfurling aboveground.


 Examine the backside of euonymous and camellia leaves for scale insects. Thoroughly spray with horticultural oil if the pests are found.


 Remove spent camellia blooms from the bush and from the ground. You'll prevent camellia petal blight.


 Last chance to prune bush roses to approximately one half their present size.


 Repot houseplants you plan to move outdoors. Their roots will need more room as they grow rapidly in the sun.

 Wait to plant gladiolus, canna and caladium bulbs until mid-April - they all need warm soil in which to grow.

 Building near a tree? Be careful - ninety percent of the tree's roots are in the top twelve inches of soil.

 Forsythia, quince and winter honeysuckle can be pruned to a smaller size after flowering.

 Fertilize shrubs: 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 (or shrub fertilizer) per foot of height.

 Sharpen your mower blade or replace it with a new one.



Potting Sessions



As noted in the Calendar of Events there are three potting sessions scheduled. It is important for each person attending to bring a large bag of potting soil. If you have plants to pot, please bring them. Pots, especially small pots are always appreciated. If you want to wear gloves, bring them. It has also been suggested that you bring a small pair of clippers. Here are the locations for the potting sessions:

March 13th – Patrick Bexton's, Home
264 Willowood Road, 706-845-0596 or
706-812-3441 Bring a pot of something to divide.

March 27th – Marilyn Mayer's Home
104 Brittney Lane , 706-837-0013
Note: Kenny Manis is providing plant material and assisting with this session.

April 10th – Billie McGiver's Home
5997 West Point Road, 706-302-8480



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 March meeting.



Potting Sessions



Troup &/or Meriwether Ext Office



Hospice Flower Beds



Library Project



Plant Sale



Preparing an Informational Sign

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)

