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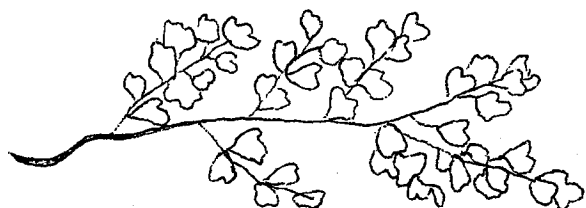


Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

SPRING 1996

Issue 10

A BIT OF DIRT is published quarterly by Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Editors are Brenda Adams and Gail Martin. If you wish something published, please contact us at 466-4665 and 381-2513.



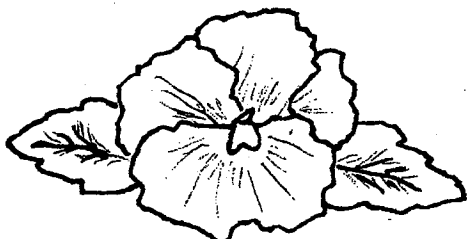
### FUTURE MEETINGS

On March 11, 7:00 PM at GJAC, Cathy Bradford will talk on Organic Gardening. Cathy taught O.G. to the new Master Gardener students in Athens.

April 8, 7:00 PM at GJAC. Program to be announced later.

May 13, 7:00 PM at GJAC. Program to be announced later.

Meetings are the second Monday of each month EXCEPT Dec. and Jan.



"Show me your garden and I shall tell you who you are."

Alfred Austin



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 12, Tuesday. Ga. Native Plant Society meets at 7:30 PM, Northwest Unitarian Church. George Sanko; "Gardening with Rare & Endangered Plants"

March 16, Saturday. Master Gardener Day for the State of Georgia.

March 21, Thursday. GPPA meeting, 7:30 PM at the Atl. History Center. Glenn Austin from the Antique Rose Emp. in Dahlonega, speaks.

April 15, Monday. Ame. Hydrangea Society meets at 7:30 PM at ABG. A panel of experts will answer your questions.

April 20, Saturday. 1996 Ga. Native Plant Society Symposium, South Dekalb College.

May 3, 4 & 5. Fri, Sat & Sun. GMGA Spring Conference in Savannah. Davie Biagi, Program Chairman 1-706-884-5924 La Grange, GA.

## Atlanta Botanical Garden

### Daffodil Show

Saturday, March 23 2-6 PM  
Sunday, March 24 1-6 PM

### Orchid Display & Sale

Sunday, April 31 10AM-4PM

### Spring Plant Sale (Open to Public)

Saturday, April 13 9AM-2PM

### Rose Show & Sale

Saturday, May 11 2-6 PM  
Sunday, May 12 9AM-6PM

### GARDENS FOR CONNOISSEURS TOUR

Saturday, May 11 11AM-5PM  
Sunday, May 12 Noon-6PM

### Hosta Show & Sale

Saturday, May 18 Noon-6PM

### Bonsai Show

Saturday, May 25 9AM-7PM  
Sunday, May 26 9AM-7PM



## Gwinnett Master Gardeners Meeting

February 12, 1996  
7:00 PM at GJAC

Gail Hollimon called the meeting to order and welcomed Steve Brady for tonight's program.

### Program:

Steve Brady gave us a refresher lesson on weed control entitled "Plants out of place". He also thanked the GMG's for the wonderful refreshments that they provided for the new MG classes at ABG.

(Editor's note: Thanks to our very able, energetic Hospitality

Chairman, Shelia Wilbur, for spearheading this annual event. Other "hostesses" included Gail Hollimon, Dianne DeVore, Suz Chaapel, Maria Turk and Brenda Adams.)

### New Business:

Gail Hollimon announced that we need volunteers to head various committees; including a field trip committee, nominating committee, and fund-raising committee. If interested, please call Gail at 945-4252.

Brenda Adams presented the Treasurer's report and requested that all committee heads turn in their 1996 budget to her.

There was a plant sale tentatively scheduled for April 26. However, since that time, it has been decided to wait for the Pansy Sale in the fall as it is always more lucrative.

Sign-up sheets were passed around for volunteers to work at the Blueberry Sale.

Pam Folks announced that invitations will soon be mailed out for the Groundbreaking at Creative Enterprises.

Gail Hollimon told about the Adopt-a-Stream Program. Our club is interested in adopting the stream at Woodward's Mill near I-985 and Hwy.20. Anyone interested in that program should contact her.

There will be a field trip to Margaret Moseley's garden in March. Date to be announced.

Jenni Wilson is researching a possible plant rescue before development begins along N. Brown Road.

A new feature in our newsletter wi

be a "Plants Wanted & For Sale" column. Contact Brenda if you would like to publicize the plants you are interested in.

Pam Folks announced that there is a new notebook that contains the sign-up sheets for all of the MG projects. The different types of activities are on color-coded paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Jan Hansen, Secretary



### CREATIVE ENTERPRISES

It was pure serendipity! Unexpected warmth and kindness from a Gwinnett Master Gardener encouraged Joanna Cox and her clients from Creative Enterprises to explore gardening. The relationship between the GMG's and Creative Enterprises (CE) has germinated and is beginning to grow into a mutually beneficial partnership.

CE is a training and employment center for adults who are physically or mentally challenged. The center is at 701 Hi Hope Lane in Lawrenceville. Currently CE employs 65 clients supervised by eleven staff members. It is a non-profit organization and prides itself on being an "Industry with Patience". Jobs include assembly, collating, and packaging material on site. There are some jobs completed off site as contract labor.

The newest and most exciting venture is the construction of a commercial greenhouse. This facility will provide a year-round training and work center for up to 15 clients. GMG's can volunteer in the

training and supervision of the clients. It is hoped that the greenhouse will develop into a self-supporting business.

J & LW Builders of Snellville began the grading work February 14. The framework is scheduled to be completed by March 1, with a target date for the Grand Opening of April 1, 1996. The funds were awarded to CE as a Federally funded local community block grant. The grant is not enough to cover the total amount of the project. CE will accept donations of time, materials, or money to offset the added cost.

The greenhouse will be 44 feet wide by 96 feet long and will hold 50 planting benches. Jaderloon Company of Irmo, S.C., manufactured the plastic frame facility that will be fully handicap accessible when complete. The design is state-of-the-art, "gutter style", consisting of two semicircular tents connected by a gutter rib running between the two "tents". The 4224 square foot facility will be equipped with fans and sprinklers to assist in the daily requirements of plant and seedling care.

Don Freidus, a Gwinnett Master Gardener, will be the greenhouse manager and teacher. Don will provide the daily direction to the staff and clients and will welcome the assistance of GMG volunteers. Don brings the qualities of leadership and technical greenhouse gardening expertise to the project. Dr. Richard Ludwig, Professor of Horticulture at Gwinnett Tech, will provide a student intern to assist the operation. He has also agreed to submit an exterior landscape plan drawn up by his Fall semester students. Special thanks is extended to Dr. Ludwig and Don from the CE staff for their time and talent.

The first seeds planted will be

vegetables. Perennials and annuals will follow. The public will be invited to come select their garden plants and summer flowers from the greenhouse when the plants have reached the proper maturity. Hopefully, the local community will support this great project. The wonderful expressions on the client's faces are sure to make the buying public return in the future. Similar facilities have become very successful in other communities in the United States.

All Master Gardeners can contribute and benefit from this endeavor. You can work with a client and teach him or her a basic gardening skill. After practice, it is hoped the client will learn the basic gardening skills with proficiency. Some clients will be able to teach other clients how to do the tasks in the greenhouse. After training, a skilled client could graduate and gain a position in a nursery. The program length depends solely on individual client ability.

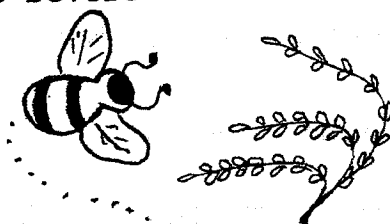
Ideally, the CE staff and Don would like to have GMG in the greenhouse Monday to Friday from 9AM to 12:00 or from 12 Noon to 3 PM. This will give the clients the opportunity to interact socially with more folks and learn greenhouse techniques. I can tell you how rewarding a smile or laugh can be as you provide someone with the happiest moments of their day. You will gain as much as you give from this warm and appreciative group.

Thanks to all the Master Gardeners, Corporations and Foundations who have already donated time, talents and money to this gardening project in the last year. We especially look forward to meeting and working with the Master Gardeners Class of 1996.

If you would like to volunteer time at the Creative Enterprises

facility, please contact Pam Folks at the Extension Office at 822-7700. If you would like to donate material or money, please contact Chris Carter, Business Manager at CE at 962-3908. Remember, ANYTHING you donate is tax deductible. CREATIVE ENTERPRISES is a non-profit organization.

Diane DeVore



## HERB CORNER

Thymus x citriodorus Lemon Thyme

My most favorite herb has got to be Lemon Thyme. It has a wonderful lemon scent and is very useful in the kitchen.

This thyme, like most, does best in a raised, well drained location. Grow as small shrubs and creepers for aromatic carpets. If the center of the plant at the main stem starts to die out, sprinkle sand on the center to help siphon away dew and rain. This will prolong the life of thyme.

Add Lemon Thyme to chicken salads, cole slaw, tuna salad, tossed salad. Also, add a little rosemary with the thyme to baked chicken, pork chops and baked, new potatoes.

The stems in spring are tender and usable. Later, when stems become woody, strip the leaves off by holding the tip of stem with one hand and pull down the stem with the other. This removes, bruises and drops onto the food all in one operation. Bring the wonderful flavor of Lemon Thyme into your food world.

Gail Hollimon

## Spring Checklist

Now that spring is here, or at least fast approaching, this busiest garden season fills all our time, makes our muscles ache, breaks our fingernails and fills us with delight.

By now all the trees and shrubs that needed pruning should be cut into shape. The roses have been pruned, are pushing out their new growth, and our arms are beginning to heal.

It has suddenly become seed planting time! Get the light fixtures set up in the basement, comb the Market Bulletin for seeds, and get busy. Seeds planted inside now will make husky little plants to set out in April.

You still have time if you're quick to direct-seed larkspur and poppies and cleome. These all like cool temps in which to germinate, and don't like to be transplanted.

Plant lily bulbs around the date of last frost, mid-April. Tree and shrub planting still go on, and perennials kept in pots outside at nurseries can also be planted now.

Fertilize spring bulbs, daffodils, crocus and the like, when they finish blooming with a little bonemeal or Bulb Booster sprinkled around them on the ground. Be sure to let the foliage ripen before cutting it off.

Chrysanthemums left in the ground from last fall can be dug and divided now, as well as other perennial

flowers as they make their spring appearance.

Old mulch under roses should be removed and replaced with fresh mulch in an effort to slow the reappearance of blackspot. Start spraying fungicide as soon as the leaves appear. If any old, last year's leaves still remain on your roses, be sure to remove them now.

If you haven't yet cut back your buddleias and caryopteris, do it now. Cut them back to 6 or so inches from the ground. If you have lespedeza, this too should be cut down.

Toward the end of March it should be safe to cut down any remaining stems from last year's blooms, on asters, salvias, veronicas, sedums.

Gradually pull mulch away from your perennials, but not too much and not too fast. Remember the March blizzard!

Azaleas, forsythias and other spring blooming shrubs should have any pruning or shaping done after they bloom. Summer flowering shrubs, that bloom on new wood, should be shaped now. If you want to prune your hydrangeas, wait until just after they bloom, not before.

After mid-April plant tender annuals such as impatiens, begonias, zinnias, etc. Then is also time to plant lablab vines, morning glories and moon vines.

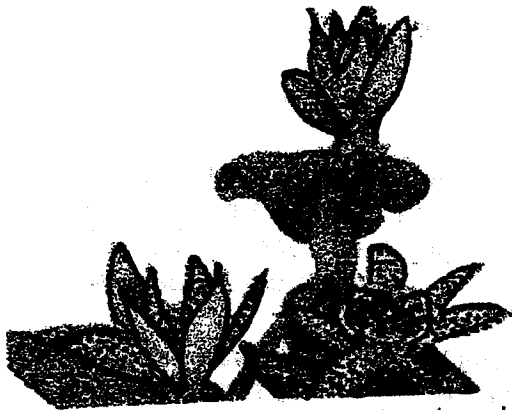
Don't forget to take the time to sit back and enjoy springtime.



## A Lily is a Lily...NOT!

There are many flowers that, due to common usage, Biblical reference, or visual similarity, are called lilies, but that are not members of the genus *Lilium*. The most common is the Daylily, *hemerocallis*.

The **Aztec Lily**, *Sprekelia formosissima*, is a marginally hardy bulb that blooms in summer with a long-lasting 4" flower on a 12 to 18" stem, coming up between straplike leaves. These do best in full sun in zones 8 through 10, but will sometimes live over in zone 7 with a heavy mulch.

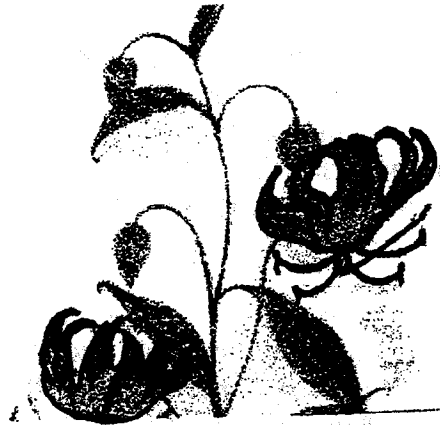


The **Toad Lily**, *Tricyrtis* species., is a shade growing plant that most of us know. In late summer and fall, intricately spotted and speckled flowers appear atop broad leaves, sort of like toads on a lily pad. They should be planted in well-amended garden soil, and mulch during the winter.



**Rain Lilies**, *Zephyranthes* species, are little treasures for the garden. The **Atamasco Lily**, native to our part of the world, blooms with white chalice in the spring, while the

others generally bloom in mid to late summer, frequently after thunderstorms. The little white *Z. candida* is hardy as a rock, while some of the other rain lilies should be protected in the winter. Some of them are simply not hardy for us. They are all small plants, with grasslike foliage, that never get much taller than 6-8 inches.



Truly spectacular is the **Gloriosa Lily**, *Gloriosa superba*. This is a tender tuberous ornamental vine bearing incredible 4 inch red and yellow blossoms. Midsummer is the normal blooming time. These are best brought inside during the winter, where they will lie dormant until planted out again in the spring.



Beloved in the South, the **Crinum Lily**, *Crinum* species and hybrids, are also called **Milk and Wine Lilies**. They are large, imposing plants, with massive clusters of 3 to 6 inch lilylike flowers, blooming at the top of 2 ft. stalks. Crinums have very large, strappy leaves. Crinums come in pink, white and white with a dark rose stripe. The *C. powellii* hybrids in particular are hardy and trouble free.



## THE EXTENSION LINE...

Spring seems to begin earlier every year here at the Extension office; mid-February and the phones are already at a non-stop pace. The popularity of gardening in the Atlanta area as well as all over the country seems to be on the rise! It is also the time of the year for many of our area schools to request programs - be it one day programs on a particular gardening subject or the creation of an entire wildlife habitat or nature trail. Garden clubs and subdivision home-owners groups are also making requests for educating their members on better ways to grow things and handle weeds.

So I thought it might be beneficial to make a list of some of the programs and projects that are going on so that you could "mull over" the things that might interest you, whether you are a veteran Master Gardener or new one looking to serve your volunteer hours in a way that is fun and rewarding for you.

We seem to get so many requests now that I have had to "categorize" them for the sake of keeping my sanity! I think this may help too, in that you can go straight to your area of interest and skip the rest. The community requests are categorized as follows:

**Community Projects** - (long-term volunteerism with any community organization in Gwinnett). Creative Enterprise is a good example. This means that M.G.s may be involved in helping for a long period of time but not necessarily that you must stay involved for a long time.

**Community Programs** - These are different in that there IS an end! This would include Activities such as giving talks, or such as helping an area church landscape A problem area.

**Community Activities**- These are activities such as festivals, earthfests, grand opening celebrations, plant doctor M.G.s at garden centers, etc. The volunteer hours may be used in creating a display for such events or actually "manning" a booth.

**School Projects** - There are so many school requests that I also made similar headings for them. (Long-term or open-ended)

**School Programs** - (short-term)

**Flower Shows and Conferences** - Usually either entails "setting up" or "tearing down" displays But for the most part you would be "manning" a booth either as Plant Doctor or educating the community about the Extension Service or environmental problems.

Publications In Progress - As Master Gardeners, if we see that there is a need or demand for printed material that seems to be constantly requested, we can write-up the information as a publication as long as the information is consistent with University of Georgia recommendations. This may be where your contribution in volunteer hours comes in.

For those of you who have been volunteering a long time, I realize that you are probably aware of most of these programs - and many of you have your own programs which you may need help with. Now that there are new Master Gardeners, new talent and new ideas will be available, as has been the case in the past!

These are the projects and programs which are either on-going or up-coming.

Creative Enterprises - This is a Non-profit Organization which helps to integrate mentally and/or physically challenged adults into the workforce by training and teaching of various technical skills. The Greenhouse project is now happening!!!! It is going up this week. We will need lots of help on this long.....term project.

Beaver Ruin Project - This is a gardening project which is being done by Robert Brannen - (Ag-4H agent) He wants to do vegetable gardens and flower gardens with the kids who live in this apartment complex. He has received a grant to help with the expenses involved. Volunteers for this project will be needed this month.

Eagle Project - This project is being done by Tim Shields, a Junior High student who is working on his eagle scout badge. He wants to create an outdoor classroom, wildlife habitat, walking trail, and outdoor amphitheatre at B.B. Harris Elementary School. He is very ambitious! But he will need our help in plant suggestions, etc. (You have to watch out for the "etc.")

Head Elementary - They would like to have a pond along their nature trail - but we are running into some problems with no water accessibility and no pump, filter, or sun!

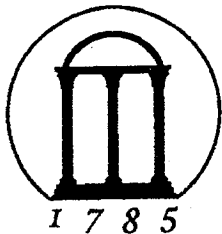
Harmony Elementary - They are requesting help with their outdoor classroom, butterfly garden, vegetable garden and arbor.

Family Festival - This is a festival being held on March 30, at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds and we, as Master Gardeners can have a display about the M.G. program as well as displays about composting, xeriscaping, or any other environmentally directed display. If you are interested in putting something together, please let me know. We are able to make beautiful displays now with our new computer abilities!



If your interests are in public speaking, we are getting requests, weekly, for someone to speak to garden clubs or homeowners' groups, who has knowledge of gardening. Usually, you can pick the subject. Also slide sets on many gardening topics are available *with script*. And, as always at this time of year, the phones are ringing so if you would like to get your hours in now- the help is greatly needed. And there is one consolation - when the phones RING - the hours FLY !!!!!

Pam Folks



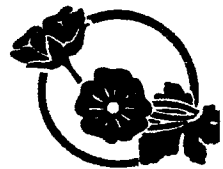
## The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



Excerpts from "My Garden is a Pleasant Place"

by Louise Driscoll



My garden is a pleasant place  
Of sun glory and leaf grace.  
There is an ancient cherry tree  
Where yellow warblers sing to me,

And an old grape arbor, where  
A robin builds her nest, and there  
Above the lima beans and peas  
She croons her little melodies,  
Her blue eggs hidden in the green  
Fastness of that leafy screen.  
Here are striped zinnias that bees  
Fly far to visit; and sweet peas,  
Like little butterflies newborn,  
And over by the tasseled corn  
Are sunflowers and hollyhocks,  
And pink and yellow four-o'clocks.

Here are hummingbirds that come  
To seek the tall delphinium--  
Songless bird and scentless flower  
Communing in a golden hour.

My garden is a pleasant place  
Of moon glory and wind grace.  
O friend, wherever you may be,  
Will you not come to visit me?  
Over fields and streams and hills,  
I'll pipe like yellow daffodils,  
And every little wind that blows  
Shall take my message as it goes.  
A heart may travel very far  
To come where its desires are,  
Oh, may some power touch my ear,  
And grant me grace, and make you  
hear!