

OF



Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

Summer 1996
Issue 11

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

June 10, 7:00 PM at GJAC, a presentation of A Gardener's Diary from the Home & Garden Cable Station featuring the Amazing Graces, friends of GMG. PLANT AND/OR SEED SWAP. Everyone brings plants or seeds to share. *

July 8, 7:00 PM at GJAC, a presentation by Jennifer Elste who will explain the Adopt A Stream project. GMG has adopted a stream in Gwinnett County.

August: To Be Announced.

Upcoming: a presentation by Arty Schronce, Head Horticulturist at Hastings.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 15, 10:30 to 5:00 at Atlanta Bot. Garden. Greater Atlanta Hemerocallis Society. Day lily show and sale. Free with Garden admission \$6 Adults, \$5 Seniors, \$3 Students. In conjunction with the show,

Alcovy Daylily Farm will be open to the public 10 to 3:00. Located at 775 Cochran Rd., Covington. 770-787-7177.

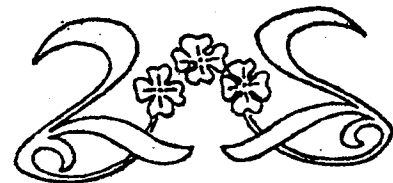
June 19, 7:30 PM at the Atlanta History Center. Julie Moir Messervey on "The Inward Garden".

June 20, 1 PM at the Atlanta Bot. Garden. Julie Messervey on "The Contemplative Garden". For more info. call 876-5859 Ext. 226.

June 22, July 13, and Sept 7. Bulloch Hall Garden Demonstrations. North Fulton Master Gardeners will feature three gardening techniques from 9 AM to noon. 180 Bulloch Ave., Roswell. 770-594-1829.

June 22, July 20 and Sept. 21. Backacher Garden Program: Gardening lectures sponsored by the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County, the Univ. of Ga Ext. Service and the Cobb County Parks & Rec. Dept. 1792 County Farm Rd., Marietta. Free. To register call 770-528-2445. To check on Saturday AM weather: 770-528-4095.

July 9, 7:30 PM. Ga. Native Plant Society at 1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, Northwest Unitarian Church. "Native Trees and Shrubs: A Selection for the Southeast".



CREATIVE ENTERPRISES UPDATE

It was truly befitting the group effort of the past 24 months, that 20 people shared the ribbon cutting honors to officially open the commercial nursery business at Creative Enterprises on March 27, 1996. State Senator Joe Burton, Chairman of the Gwinnett County Commissioners, Wayne Hill, Commissioner Judy Waters, and eleven CE Board Members were among the 150 well-wishers gathered together to celebrate a "Oneness in Spirit" between local government and the community which it serves.

Chocolate dipped strawberries, danish and coffee were served as the crowd mingled with guests, bid on the silent auction items and got their plant questions answered. CE staffer, JoAnna Cox, introduced the fifteen very enthusiastic clients to take part in the first horticulture class, taught by Don Freidus with assistance from Lisa Tyndall. Ten GMG's who have given their time and talents to the project from the very beginning were thanked and received a warm round of applause.

Since the opening, Don and Lisa have been giving instruction to the clients on Mondays and Wednesdays, from ten to eleven. The first crop is ready for sale including tomato and squash six packs for one dollar. Come by from 9am to 4pm and pick some up. You can also purchase CE's plants at Luxury Landscapes on Collins Hill Rd. in Lawrenceville. The planting tables and indoor irrigation system are on the way, but some funds are still needed for small tools, buckets and such. Any donations would be much appreciated. Call Chris Carter, business manager at 962-3908 if you can help in this area.

A special garden class was given by a former client, Russell Brackett, who is a commercial Dahlia grower. The clients replaced the annual tulips in the raised bed with summer blooming dahlia tubers. GMG's Sharon Bahre, Diane DeVore and Pam Folks helped the clients install a butterfly garden at the rear of the greenhouse. The UGA assembled the selections, which included New Gold Lantana, Blue Anise Sage, Bronze Fennel, Homestead Verbena, Verbena bonariensis, Petunia Purple Wave, Purple Coneflower and of course a buddleia.

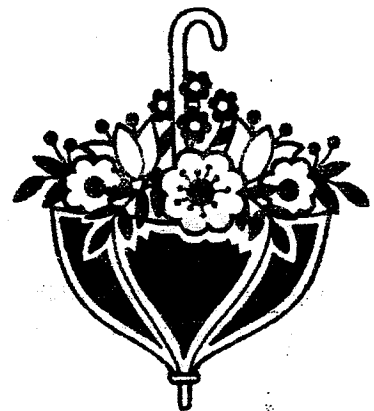
Upcoming projects for which help will be needed are the Pansy crop in August, and the Poinsetta crop in September. Contact Pam Folks at 822-7700 for the dates and times after the Olympics. We thank you, Don, for leading this wonderful effort.

Diane DeVore



LOOKING FORWARD

In all the recipes for happiness I have ever seen, "something to look forward to" has been given as an important ingredient. Something to look forward to! How rich the gardener, any gardener, is in this particular integrant! For always he looks forward to something if it is only the appearance of the red noses of the Peonies in the spring or the sharp aromas that fills the air in autumn after the frost has touched the herbage.



--Louise Beebe Wilder

TRIP TO MARGARET MOSELEY'S GARDEN

In April 16, a group of us went to visit Margaret Moseley's garden. She is a grand southern lady with a lovely cottage garden on Wesley Chapel Road in Decatur.

First, she treated us to two tapes from The Gardener's Diary from the Home & Garden Cable Station. Each time the show runs, a garden is featured. First, we saw the tape of Penny McHenry's garden, the Hydrangea Queen of Atlanta. Penny is President of the Hydrangea Society. Next, we saw the tape of Margaret's garden made in the summer of 1995.

Then Margaret treated us to a glass of her now famous Almond Iced Tea. It's delicious and the recipe can be found at the end of this article.

Next, Margaret took us on a tour of her garden, along winding grassy paths that lead to one mixed border after another, usually bordered by rocks and each usually set off by a focal point--such as a stone bench (that looked very substantial and heavy). She explained how the stone had been in an old homestead. There were several plaques, one of which read: "Your feet are killing me", which shows her warm sense of humor and practical side. Also, "My garden is my earthly Paradise". Seemed like it to me.

She was even gracious enough to hand out plants as we were finishing up. THANKS to Margaret for the great time we had.

ALMOND ICED TEA

2 Large Family sized Tea bags
7 cups water
1 cup sugar
2/3 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
1 teas. almond flavoring
1 teas. vanilla flavoring

PLANT RESCUE

On April 12, a group of us went on a plant rescue near Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville. There are a lot of plants to rescue on this "gone commercial" property such as trillium, jack-in-puplit, mayapple, shooting star.

Since the weather has gotten so hot and because of the undergrowth on site, including lots of poison ivy, there will be no more formal rescues this year. If the property has not been sold by next spring, that would be a good time to rescue more plants. I will try to get the owner's permission renewed. More later.

Brenda Adams





A Trip to Athens

On Tuesday, May 21, a group of 15 or so Gwinnett Master Gardeners met in the parking lot of GJAC and caravanned to Athens. The reason for the trip was a visit to the home garden of Dr. Allan Armitage, Professor of Horticulture at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Armitage, well known for his lectures and his book HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL PLANTS welcomed us warmly to his garden, and immediately began showing us new plants, his new pond, and answering any and all questions we threw at him.

New plants he was trialing included a golden saxifrage, a number of heucheras, a chartreuse-leaved hardy geranium and a pretty golden variegated ranunculus called 'Joel's Gold' that he brought back from Ireland.

First he took us through his front garden, filled with perennials. Among the plants in this garden were many different irises, tree peonies, crinum, and aquilegia, backed up by large shrubs such as viburnum and the double oak-leaf hydrangea 'Snowflake'. One end of this border was anchored by the Japanese maple 'Butterfly', a variegated pink, green and white cultivar.

We then wandered down a shady path planted with hostas, shade-loving wildflowers, oxalis, hellebores and other plants. This path was partially bordered with blooming rhododendrons and a planting of blooming foxgloves.

His back garden, shaded by tall oaks, contains a large pond with a waterfall, and is a showcase of hostas, arisemas, ferns, hepaticas and other shade lovers. His particular favorite hosta, 'Bright Lights', took a prominent place in his planting, which also included H. 'Sun Power' and an enormous H. 'Sun and Substance'. One particularly pretty fern he showed us was a polystichum called the female fern, that had little ruffly ends on the fronds.

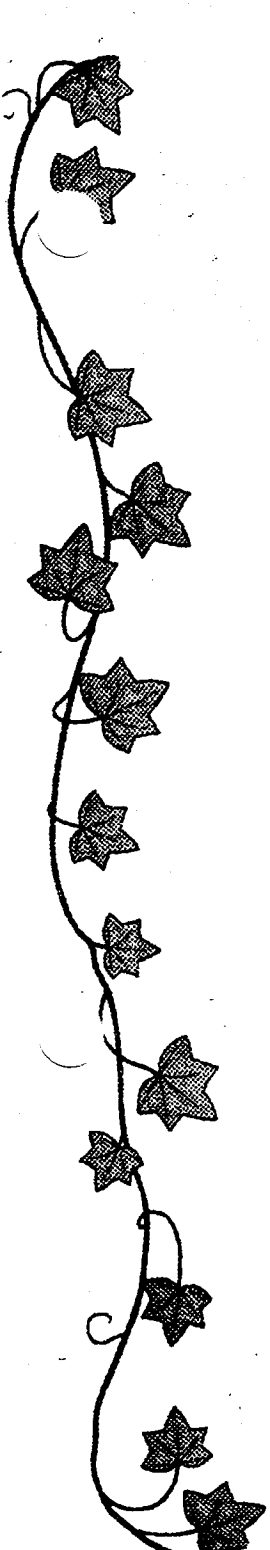
As we went back to his front garden, Dr. Armitage picked up a shovel and some plastic bags, and began to dig plants for those who wanted them. Among those he gave us were the Louisiana iris 'Spring Fling', a pretty butterscotch color, Iris virginica, and both the blue and light blue Salvia guaranitica.

Allan was incredibly generous and hospitable to our group, and we all left his garden with plants to treasure.

After a quick lunch in Athens, most of us went on to Goodness Grows Nursery. Another feeding frenzy took place there, with many many plants finding their way into the backs of cars. One lovely plant that several of us bought was a beautiful shrub called indigofera, with very pretty pink flowers.

The heat was horrible but the day was wonderful, and although hot and tired we got busy planting as soon as we got home. I know we will all treasure the plants we received from Dr. Armitage, and will remember his kindness in sharing them.

Gail Martin



THE EXTENSION LINE.....

By Pam Folks

Program Updates:

- April 2, 1996 - Slide presentation at Sugar Mill Women's Club
Container Gardening - Pam Folks
- April 20, 1996 - Earthfest at Tribble Mill Park - Xeriscaping Display
Compost, Grasscycling - Darlene Zartman, Pam Folks
- May 6, 1996 - Glen Oaks Homeowners' Association - Spring Gardening
Stanley Lord
- May 11, 1996 - Butterfly Garden - Steve Brady, Jenny Elste, Carole Scofield,
Eric Hager, Cindy Rodenberry, Kate Rogers, Pam Folks
- May 15, 1996 - Secret Garden at Shiloh Elementary (5th Grade)
Helen Dyer
- May 18, 1996 - Nature Trail Workday at B.B. Harris (Tim Shield-Eagle Scout
Project)
- May 22, 1996 - Government in Action Day - Robert Brannen, Stanley Lord
- May 23, 1996 - Beginning Landscape Design at Creative Enterprises
Diane Devore, Pam Folks
- May 24, 1996 - Butterfly Garden at Creative Enterprises
Sharon Bahre, Diane Devore, Pam Folks

As you can see the summer has not slowed any of us down any!
If I have left anyone out of any of the programs, I apologize. It has
been busy, busy, busy..... For all of the new class Master Gardeners -
many thanks for all of the phone duty! The only problem is - that
all of you will have all of your hours in soon. The phones have
certainly put you through steady training.

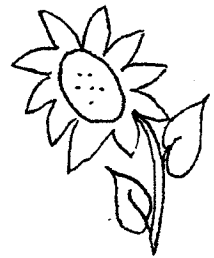
Without changing the subject too abruptly, I would like to tell you about the
Savannah trip! If you have never had the opportunity to visit Savannah, plan a trip NOW!
The Georgia Master Gardener Conference was held in Savannah this year on the
week-end of May 3rd. The Gwinnett Master Gardeners were well represented with

Maria Turk and her husband, Glenda Patterson and her husband, Diane Devore and Sheila Wilbur and her husband. And Steve Brady was there as our representative agent!

We all had a great time. The rich history surrounding this quaint town only made the gardens which we visited even more the feast for eyes as well as souls. The tour of the town was also led by extremely knowledgeable tour guides making the history of Savannah even more interesting.

The meetings were held at the Coastal Bamboo Gardens of the Experimental Georgia Station. After the meetings on the first day, we were treated to a "shrimp" boil at the gardens and strawberry shortcake directly from their strawberry patch. The next day was filled with the tour of the city of Savannah, followed by lunch and a tour of the daylily garden. Then topping off a really fun, busy day was a riverboat cruise that evening - with live music and dancing! I will definitely be going again next year!

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS
GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS**
Submitted by Jan Hansen, Secretary



March 11, 1996
7:00 p.m. at G.J.A.C.

Gail Hollimon called the meeting to order and welcomed Cathy Radford for tonight's program.

Program:

Cathy Radford, a certified organic grower in Dacula, spoke on organic gardening. The most important aspect of organic gardening is to build good soil. Other important points that Cathy discussed were: 1) growing organically well is less work than chemically; and 2) bugs like unhealthy plants.

New Business:

Gail Hollimon announced that we still need volunteers to head various committees, especially a nominating committee.

Brenda Adams passed a sign-up sheet for carpooling to Savannah and also to the plant sale at Callaway Gardens.

Sheila Wilbur is trying to arrange a day trip to Barnsley Gardens.

Suzi Chaapel announced that the luncheon for new Master Gardener inductees will be held at GJAC on Wednesday, March 27th at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

April 8, 1996
7:00 p.m. at G.J.A.C.

Gail Hollimon called the meeting to order.

New Business:

Brenda Adams announced that there would be a field trip to Margaret Mosely's garden on Tuesday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m. Anyone interested in carpooling should meet behind Chili's on Highway 78 at 9:00 a.m.

There were two requests to spend treasury money for purchases:

- 1) Brenda Adams requested a new desktop publishing program from Microsoft to use for our newsletter. The cost is \$79.00. A motion was made and seconded.
- 2) Gail Hollimon requested \$129.00 to join the Woodward's Mill / Ivy Creek Adopt-a-Stream Program. This is a one-time fee for one year and covers chemical tests for testing the water quality. A motion was made and seconded.

Brenda Adams announced that the Gwinnett Master Gardeners had received permission to have a plant rescue at a site under development near the Gwinnett County Airport. Some of the plants on that site include : bloodroot, trillium, anemone, ferns, trout lilies, buckeye, mayapple, and more. Anyone interested should sign up with Brenda.

Program:

Tara Dillard, a residential garden designer, spoke on the elements of garden design. Some important points to remember:

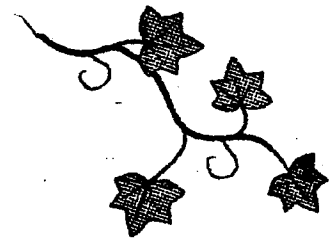
- 1) Keep it simple.
- 2) Plant in drifts in odd numbers.
- 3) Structure should be planned first.
- 4) Use clean lines.
- 5) Remember color and texture.
- 6) Only one focal point per area.
- 7) The site analysis should include needs and wants.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

May 13, 1996
7:00 p.m. at Nature's 5th Season

Gwinnett Master Gardeners met at Nature's 5th Season for a time of plant shopping and refreshments. Special thanks to Phil and Sandy Maresca for the free plants they gave to each MG and for the wonderful food!

Gail Hollimon called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.



New Business:

Gail Hollimon announced that a nominating committee had been formed. Gail Martin has agreed to be the chairperson and will be assisted by Sheila Wilbur, Ginny Douglas, and Jenny Wilson.

Gail Martin announced that there would be a field trip to Alan Armitage's garden on Tuesday, May 21st. We will meet in the GJAC parking lot at 8:15 a.m.

Brenda Adams announced that there was a new phone and address list of Gwinnett Master Gardeners.

Brenda Adams announced that there would be a plant rescue near North Brown Road on Friday, May 17th. Anyone interested should sign up with Brenda.

Beverly Howerton announced that Artie Schronce would be speaking at our next meeting. His topic will probably be "White Trash Gardening".

Gail Hollimon announced that the Adopt-a-Stream program will be the topic at our July meeting.

Jan Hansen announced that she had free red-leaf castor bean plants for anyone who wanted one. Gail Hollimon reminded everyone to bring their extra plants to our monthly meetings for a plant swap.

Program:

Phil Maresca led us around his nursery discussing some of the new and unusual plants that are available. Afterwards, there was more time for shopping.

The meeting was adjourned.

ON SUMMER

"The flowers are nature's jewels, with whose wealth she decks her summer beauty."

"The late summer garden has a tranquility found no other time of the year."

*"Dry August and warm,
Doth harvest no harm."*

*"Winter is cold-hearted,
Spring is yea and nay,
Autumn is a weather cock
Blown every way.
Summer days for me
When every leaf is on its tree."*



The University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

ON A HOT, LAZY SATURDAY



ntly, the weather man, Glenn Burns with the cute little boy face, warned me and others that it would be a blistering hot weekend. Temps in the low 90's he said. Uh oh, can't do much gardening with temps like that, I thought. So, in my head, I planned to do as little as possible outside. Perhaps I could clean house--it's a mess. Or wash clothes--there are so many. The laundry room is full. Well, let's just play it by ear, I thought.

At 7:00 AM, my dear hubby asks if I would like to go into Lawrenceville with him and have breakfast at Krystals. He had to deliver a radiator on Pike Street for cleaning. So, after a full tummy and the delivery, we stopped by Home Depot for a few items. Then, home again.

As it was still morning and not blistering hot, I suggested we work on the "dog house" that contains the faucet down at the Little House. (Those who have visited, know my storage house.) We sawed pieces of cypress boards and nailed them onto "dog house" as siding and it looks really great now. These old boards once took a lot of foot traffic on a walkway over at the beach (Daytona Beach) where I used to live and where my Dad worked for the city and captured a lot of their "throwaways", you might say.

After that, Wade went off to do what he wished and I had another look at an old persimmon log I had kept. It was from an old tree that used to hang over our driveway; but got a little too leaning and had to be removed. I hated to see that tree go as it had good persimmons every year and it reminded me of our Doberman, Sugar, who used to love to eat them--after they were ripe. Sugar loved fruit; a very healthy dog, you know.

Anyway, I dug a deep hole out near my new rock wall, installed the log upright, (it had one upward limb), nailed on a second limb and there it was: my new friend. I put an old hat on his head and a glove is waving right arm. Then, painted two eyes

(one winking) and big red lips. Perhaps it's a female. Then I planted my Guernsey Cream Clematis near it and the picture was complete. You must come see!

Into the house for lunch and then quickly back out before something involved me.

Afterward, I sat in my swing and thought about my new creations while the sprinkler threw just enough drops of water my way to keep me cool. Meanwhile looking up the stream, where the water runs down hill on mossy rocks and the afternoon sun makes it glisten in the light.

After a while, I seem to be getting too wet so I wander by new areas where precious wildflowers struggle to survive after being rescued and replanted in their new home. I arrive at the headwaters of the pond where I have a new stone seat; so I try it on for size. A little low to the ground, but perhaps I can see what's happening at a lower level--new horizons and all that.

I study the water and see two crawdads fighting the current to do...what? I know not. But they are spending a lot of time at it. Possibly they are eating something so minute that it can't be seen by human eyes. One also seems to be digging a sandy hole. Up on the surface, a water bug scoots along upstream. Maybe wonderful things wash into the pond from upstream and out of the woods and they want to be the first to catch them. There go two dragonflies, probably looking for a good place to lay their eggs on a piece of floating weed.

The wild rose hangs over the water here and I check it for blooms but see none. However, there are round green objects that have prickles over them like little green porcupines. If anyone knows what these are, let me know. I saw little red hips on this rose last fall. Do they open and fall to display the hips, I wonder. They don't look like flower buds.

By this time, it is getting into the afternoon heat and it forces me indoors. Maybe I will look at gardening

books or magazines for the rest of the afternoon. After all, it is such a hot, lazy summery day. It's not my fault that spring was snatched away so suddenly. Perhaps I shall have to put off spring cleaning till some other season. Meanwhile, it is a wonderful day for dreaming.

Brenda Adams

I do not ask
An easy task
Nor praise along life's way,
But just to hear
As night draws near:
"It's been a lovely day".

From the Editor's Desk:

I feel that our club has had a pretty good year so far. Good meetings, programs, activities and projects. Although the year is only half over, I would like to thank some of those people who have really given of their time and talents to make our year successful.

Thanks first to our President, Gail Hollimon, who is serving for the second year. Thanks for being dependable, being a good sounding board for us all, and most of all, for being steadfast, calm and conducting meetings in that manner.

Thanks to Beverly Howerton, our VP and Programs Chairman, also for the 2nd year. She and Phil Maresca, her assistant, are working to provide good programs for us to enjoy. Thanks to Phil and his lovely wife for having us over to Natures Fifth Season and entertaining and feeding us so well.

Speaking of feeding us well, another hard worker is Shelia Wilbur, our Hospitality Chairman. She

provides us with snacks almost every time we get together without being asked. The food is always good and adds an extra touch to our get-togethers. Shelia, it is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Gail Martin for her contributions to the newsletter which is in its 11th issue. She is a good and faithful sidekick. Being dependable means a lot in this fast paced world.

Thanks to Jenni Wilson and her helpers Diane Reed, Ginny Douglas and Pam Folks for their help in informing folks over the phone about what is happening. Also, for handling social communications. This is her second year at this job and she is good at it.

Of course, much thanks go to Don Freidus for handling the Creative Enterprises project. He has put in a lot of hours and I'm sure they appreciate it also. Some of his helpers are Diane DeVore, Glenda Patterson, Pam Folks and Sharon Bahre.

Last but not least, Jan Hansen is a very efficient Secretary who has supplied this newsletter with minutes from meetings AHEAD of time! Thanks, Jan, and keep up the good work. She and Gail Martin will be handling our fall plant sale also.

Let me apologize if I have forgotten anyone. I am very proud of what our little club has accomplished in the last two and a half years. I hope that there will be others who step forward to serve and to keep the team spirit and feeling of good fellowship alive and well in the future.

Brenda Adams

