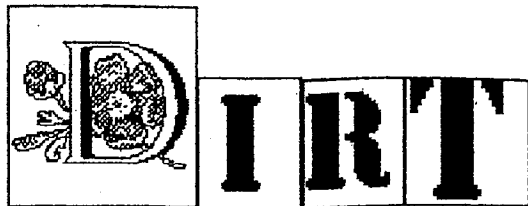


OF



Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

Spring 1994  
Issue Two

Spring has sprung,  
the grass has riz,  
I wonder where  
the flowers is?



DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT?

Folks, don't you just love this time of the year? In the garden, little green things are pushing their way up through the cold, wet ground--anxious to begin anew the cycle of life. They say hope springs eternal from the human breast. These little ones must have hopes and dreams too. How else to make it up through layers of tough, old oak leaves or other impediments we or Mother Nature have thrown in their way.

We keep a close watch, with the anticipation only a lover of Mother Nature would understand, to catch that first touch of color as a tender bud unfolds to reveal a very welcome flower. At no other time of the year will they be quite so welcome.

Or maybe it's a group of fuzzy little wheels that slowly unfurl to create a lovely, lacey frond.

Perhaps it is the full burst of color that appears on winter bare branches (as if by magic) that tickles your fancy this time of the year. Whatever your favorite Spring happenings are, enjoy! and give thanks for it.

Brenda Adams



GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS  
Volunteer Officers for 1994

President.....Don Freidus  
Vice President.....Gail Martin  
Secretary.....Maria Turk  
Treasurer.....Brenda Adams

Program Chairman....Polly Patterson  
Assistant.....Faye Harwell

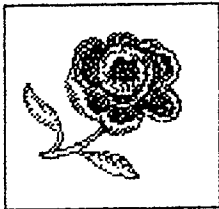
Phone Organizer....Gail Holliman

Plant Sale Chairman...Don Freidus



The April meeting of the Gwinnett Master Gardeners will be Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. Randy Kucera of Randy's Nursery in Lawrenceville will talk to us. Hope to see you there!

A Bit of Dirt is published quarterly by the Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Co-editors are Gail Martin and Brenda Adams. In order to continue to receive your newsletter, please submit your membership dues in the amount of \$5.00. You may pay them at the next monthly meeting or send the money to Treasurer, GMC, 3465 Callie Still Rd., Lawrenceville, GA 30245.



#### ROSES BETWEEN THE PAGES

The dangers of looking.

by Polly Patterson

Like some folks go to the movies, gardeners go picture booking. We drop into flower books and lose ourselves in the pictures. On a picture book excursion through "Antique Roses for the South" by William C. Welch, I lost myself to old roses when I read, "Abandoned, they thrive at old house sites, graveyards, and roadsides." The copy read on with promises of delicate beauty, intoxicating scents, and hardiness. What more could a gardener want? I was hooked.

I set out on the "perfect for me" old rose search. Since Old Roses have been in cultivation from the early 1800's on and a few Antique Roses go back centuries, there are a lot of choices.

I found roses in all forms, seasonal or repeat bloomers, climbers or bushes--loose and compact. I found all sizes with some giant varieties that take spaces of 6' x 12' or more. Several books and catalogues later I narrowed my choices to five: a Tea, Duchesse de Brabant; two Chinas, Hermosa or Old Blush; a polyantha, Cecile Brunner; or a Bourbon, Souvenir de la Malmaison.

I favored Souvenir de la Malmaison, a compact bush (3x4) also available in a climbing form, repetitive bloomer, with fleshy pink blossoms, and very fragrant. Introduced in 1843, it was named in honor of the famous rose garden maintained at Malmaison, the residence of Empress Josephine, first wife of

Napoleon Bonaparte.

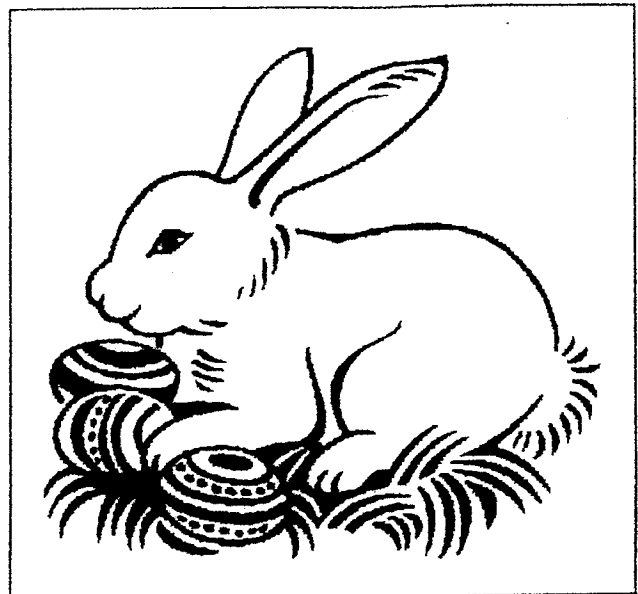
For a real life opinion on my selections, I contacted Cathey Farmer, an information volunteer from the Atlanta Rose Society. She recommended other roses similar to my choices and expanded on the information I had collected. In her garden, Souvenir de la Malmaison had proven exceptionally pretty and did indeed have a delightful spicy rose bouquet. Its drawback was its weakness for blackspot. In exchange for its promise of beauty, color and perfume, I'd take my chances. I'm banking on the planting site's good air circulation and early sun to keep out black spot.

Beware of those alluring picture book pages. Losing yourself may be dangerous! I must now tell the yellow jasmine with medusa-like tentacles that it is being replaced by Monsieur Souvenir de la Malmaison.

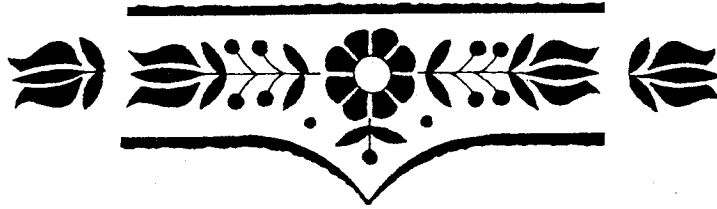
#### TO FIND YOUR "PERFECT" OLD ROSE.....

Several local nurseries are advertising Old Roses. In his latest newsletter, Phil Maresca with Nature's 5th Season in Lilburn, listed several specimens that he has available. Phone 404-925-4600.

If you miss out on local sources, Cherokee Rose Nursery in Athens has a large number available as well. Phone 706-543-3728. Also, see "Looking for Old Garden Roses?" further on in this newsletter.



AT THE MARCH 14 MEETING, we were very pleased to have with us, GARY GLEASON, of GK Farm & Garden Stores, who spoke to us about perennials and other plants which make a garden pleasing and coordinated. He showed us many slides of plant combinations from his home, the Hastings Garden Center grounds and other places. Gary used to work for Hastings and greatly improved the grounds while he was there. Now, he is in charge of eight GK Farm & Garden Stores, subsidiary of Gold Kist. Gary hopes to make many improvements in the garden section at all 8 stores, but particularly at the Lawrenceville location, where he plans to hold different types of seminars on gardening. He is also interested in working with 4 H'ers. Stop by Gold Kist to discover there are already improvements!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 19 & 21 - Atlanta Botanical Garden - Daffodil Show
- March 24 - March 27. CALLAWAY GARDENS -Plant Sale 4 pm - 8 pm- No fee. 20 nurseries participating.
- March 26 - April 17 - Chattahoochee Nature Center - annual Plant Sale (usually wildflowers and native plants)
- April 11 - Gwinnett Master Gardener meeting at GJAC at 7:30 PM.
- April 11 - 16, 8-1. 10th. Annual Gwinnett Tech Plant Sale
- April 16 & 17 - A B G - Spring Plant Sale
- April 21, 7:30 PM - Ga. Perennial Plant Assoc. meeting "Butterflies and Hummingbird Gardens"
- April 29 - South Dekalb College - Wildflower Walk & Plant Sale,  
11 A.M.
- April 29 - Ga. Master Gardener - Athens Tour & Picnic
- April 30 - A B G - Herb Education Day
- April 30 & May 1 - Gwinnett Master Gardeners will sell plants at Snellville Days, Briscoe Park, Snellville.
- May 7 & 8 - ABG - Gardens for Connoisseurs Tour
- May 18 - 10:30 AM - Gwinnett Master Gardeners tour Ryan Gainey's.
- May 19 - Ga Perennial Plant Assoc. - "Perennials Beyond the Floral Attraction"
- May 19 - ABG - National Hosta Convention
- May 21 & 22 - ABG - Rose Show



## Different and Exciting Plants for Your Garden

There are so many new, newly 're-discovered, and less-well-known plants available from local nurseries for us to try, to go beyond the more common things we all grow so easily, that we should try a few new things each year.

For instance, Goodness Grows, in Lexington, Ga., is offering *Achillea millefolium* 'Oertel's Rose', a rose pink, 12" beauty. They also have the two *Baptisias*, the blue *B. australis* and the white *B. pendula*. This nursery introduced *Dianthus* 'Bath's Pink', now named as one of our Georgia Gold Medal plants. They have *Lantana* 'Miss Huff', a hardy (yes!) lantana that grows to 5' tall, and *Lysimachia congestiflora* 'Eco Dark Satin', with yellow cup shaped flowers on a small, mounding plant. This year they are carrying the new *Pulmonaria* 'British Sterling', with green margined white leaves, and are one of the few nurseries that offer *Cynara cardunculus*, the Cardoon, grown for its large silver leaves.

Eco Gardens, in Decatur, has both the green and purple leaved, rose flowered *Loropetalum*, and a *Yucca* 'Tricolor' with green, ivory and pink leaves. Eco also has *Viola pedata* 'Eco Artist's Palette', *Zephyranthes atamasco*, the Atamasco lily, and a very large assortment of ferns and wildflowers.

Lost Mountain Nursery, in Dallas, Ga., is offering *Aster* 'Hella Lacy', a deep purple aster named for the wife of garden writer Allen Lacy. *Geranium* 'Biokovo', evergreen for us, with pale pink flowers, and *Heucherella* 'Bridget Bloom', a bi-generic hybrid between *Heuchera* and *Tiarella*. They also have *Phlox stolonifera* 'Bruce's White', a low growing spring bloomer, and *Campanula portenschlagiana*, a good bluebell for us.

Randy's Nursery in Lawrenceville has the solid deep red *Gaillardia* 'Burgundy', *Lithodora diffusa*, a bright blue mound, and *Verbascum* for tall accents. They carry *Rudbeckia* 'Irish Eyes', the one with the big green eye, *Helianthemum* 'St. Mary's', the Rock Rose, and both *Brugmansia* and *Datura*.

Mountain View Nursery, between Dahlonga and Cleveland (formerly Funkhousers) has some unusual plants including *Actinidia arguta* 'Issai', the hardy Kiwi, *Chrysanthemum maximum* 'Becky', named after Decatur's Becky Stewart, and *Laurentia fluviatilis*, a blue flowered creeper. They carry a number of sages, among them *Salvia elegans*, the Pineapple Sage and *S. greggii*, the Autumn Sage.

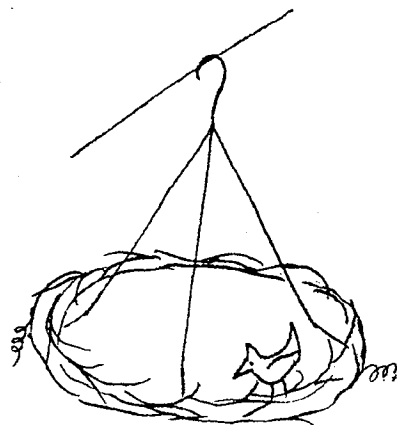
Halls Nursery in Stone Mountain is growing *Adenophora lilifolia*, the Ladybells, a good substitute for the upright *Campanulas*. They also have *Asteromoea mongolica* for all summer little white daisies, *Monarda* 'Marshall's Delight', a mildew-proof Bee-balm, and *Patrinia scabiosifolia* for late fall clouds of yellow about 5' tall. And don't forget *Verbena* 'Homestead Purple', another of our Georgia found perennials.

GAIL MARTIN



MAKE 'EM AT HOME

Bird Perch: If your bird feeder hangs where there are no limbs nearby for birds to light on, try this: Hang a natural wreath shaped perch by a hanging-basket wire. You can use grape vines, eleagnus sprouts or even a hickory limb which can be formed into a continuous circle without breaking. The titmice and chickadees will crack their seeds on it and all who dine will enjoy having another place to perch. And you get to watch the fun! See Illus. 1.



Illus. 1

For the Suet Lovers: Remove fat from beef (we buy whole NY strips and slice at home so there is lots of fat). Render by one of two methods:

A. Cut fat up and line a Corning ware dish with the fat, cover with its lid and microwave; draining off fat in about 3-5 minutes. Continue cooking another 3-5 minutes or so and drain again. Drain directly into a metal pan, tin can etc. or other container for storing. Now keep the "fried" fat and slip it into the suet feeder or into the grapevine wreath and the birds will enjoy it.

or B. Place cut up fat all at once into boiling water and cook until well done. Remove pieces from pot and cool on bread pan, etc. Let water cool and chill to solidify fat left in pot. The fat pieces can now be used as needed from the freezer and the skim of fat stored for use in the woodie feeder.

Woodie Feeder: Using a piece of wood about 2 1/2-3" in diameter (large limbs are great) drill holes at a 45 degree angle from same direction several places on the pole. Drill hole through top for hanger. Small limb-ettes may be left, if desired; but isn't necessary.

Insert wire or string for hanging and fill holes with rendered fat. Hooking it to a nail on the side of a big tree where you can see easily, you will invite all sorts of suet lovers; especially the woodies in winter. The titmice and chickadees will feed on it all summer so don't stop. Either use the boiled fat or make sure its shaded in the hot weather. Watch for warblers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and various woodies. The grossbeaks don't seem to care for suet.

See Illus. 2.



← pack holes with fat.

Illus. 2

## LOOKING FOR OLD GARDEN ROSES?

by Faye Harwell

CHEROKEE ROSE NURSERY in Athens is fast gaining a reputation for roses. Owner, Jan Focker will offer over eighty varieties of roses this spring. The old garden rose varieties will include: 'Buff Beauty', 'Ballerina', 'Baronne Prevost', 'Duchess de Brabant', 'Marie Pave', 'Perle d'Or', 'Oakland', 'Butterfly', 'Old Blush', and 'Clotilde Soupert'.

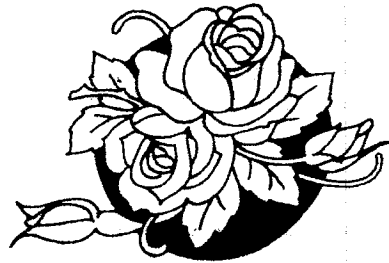
Also included are climbing 'Cecile Brunner', 'Louis Philippe', 'Madame Isaac Perrine', 'Gruss an Dachen', 'Blanc Double de Coubert', 'Louise Odier', 'Reine des Violettes', 'Mrs. Dudley Cross', 'Rose de Rescht', 'Souvenir de la Malmaison', and last, but not least "Cherokee Rose"; our state flower.

Focker offers seven varieties of David Austin roses, low care "landscape roses" including 'Bonica', 'Carefree Wonder', 'Scarlet Miediland', 'Pink Geidiland', 'The Fairy', and 'All That Jazz'. And as you might expect, Cherokee Rose Nursery offers hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas. Due to limited numbers, the old garden rose varieties will sell out quickly.

Add Cherokee Rose Nursery to your list of stops on the Athens pilgrimage this year. Jan Focker is a very knowledgeable rosarian; a person you need to know. Her nursery also includes perennials, herbs and hard to find old varieties of flowering shrubs.

HOURS: Beginning March 1, Open Mon. through Sat.  
9-6 and Sunday 1-5.  
Phone: 1-706-543-3728.

LOCATION: 300 Timothy Road, Athens, GA  
Head east on Atlanta Hwy (HWY 78)  
Turn right on Timothy Rd at the inter-  
section where Target is located.  
Cherokee Rose is on the left, back off  
the road.



Zell Miller, Governor of the State of Georgia, has proclaimed Saturday, March 19, 1994 as MASTER GARDENER DAY in Georgia...in recognition of the outstanding service and contributions these citizens provide to our state.

