

OF



Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

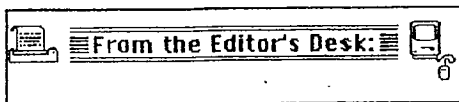
Summer 1994

Issue #3

### WHO LOVES A GARDEN

Who loves a garden  
 Finds within his soul  
 Life's whole;  
 He hears the anthem  
 of the soil  
 While ingrates toil;  
 And sees beyond  
 his little sphere  
 The waving fronds  
 of heaven, clear.

Louise Seymour Jones



### THE LONG HOT SUMMER

Yes, it is upon us. Those hot, sticky, buggy days when the watering must be done. We won't even mention how lazy we get by July or August. Some of us will throw up our hands and say "Let the weeds have it!" and the crabgrass will have won again. Then in the fall we shall try to redeem ourselves by cleaning up the garden in an appropriate manner. But let's save that story for the fall edition.

Meanwhile, try to devote a little time (perhaps during the cool of morning) to pulling a few weeds and plucking off spent blossoms. Your plants will appreciate it ever so much.

Enjoy your summer and don't get over-heated! Have a mint julep! (whatever that is)



The June 13 meeting of the Gwinnett Master Gardeners will be at Nature's Fifth Season on Indian Trail Rd. at 7:30 PM. See next page for directions & details.

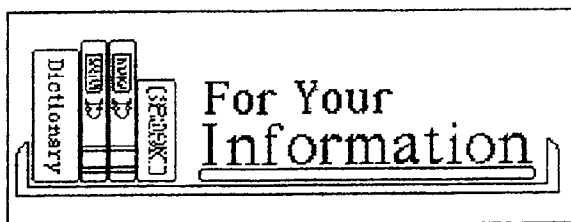
Nature's 5th Season: Owner, Phil Maresca, will conduct the program. Directions: Going West on Highway 29, take right onto Indian Trail Rd. in Lilburn. Go about 1/4 to 1/2 mile and look for it on the left in a small shopping center at 605 Indian Trail Rd. It's on a curve and crest of hill.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

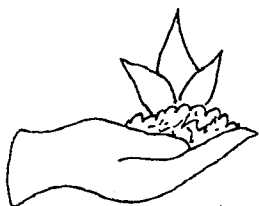
July 11, 7:30 PM. at GJAC. Speaker will be Robert Belcher, daylily grower and hybridizer, owner of Damascus Gardens in Lilburn.

October meeting: GOOD NEWS! Kathy Henderson has consented to be our speaker. Bring your friends!

Included with this issue is the long awaited Gwinnett Master Gardener telephone list. So...communicate!



A BIT OF DIRT is published quarterly by the Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Co-editors are Gail Martin and Brenda Adams. If you wish to have something included in the next newsletter, let us know.



#### SHRUBS FOR SUMMER

After the surfeit of color from our spring shrubs, we tend to expect nothing but green blobs for the rest of the summer. This needn't be the case, as there are many shrubs that will flower during the summer, providing high up color for our gardens.

Most of us already have two of them, the Gardenia and the Crape Myrtle. But did you know of the fantastic new Crape Myrtle hybrids released by the National Arboretum, and available now for us? These are hybrids of *L. indica* and *L. faurii*, have beautiful bark, are much hardier, and have the most incredible trusses of flowers you've ever seen. They have Indian names, such as Natchez, Zuni, Tonto, Muskogee, and Yuma. Look for them.

Buddleias will reward you with spikes of blooms all summer if you're religious about deadheading. Shades of blue, purple, pink and white are now joined by a yellow one, all of them very attractive to butterflies.

Vitex, the Chaste tree, will also bloom repeatedly if deadheaded. Vitex are readily available in blue, pink and white, also there's one with a very feathery cut leaf.

A nice shrub to plant with blue Vitex is Tamarisk, with its feathery pink flowers blooming at the same time. Put the Tamarisk in back, as its not noteworthy when not in flower, but valuable when it is.

Hypericums are an underused shrub, and if yellow is your color this is the one for you. It blooms heavily in June and always has a big buttercup flower or two during the rest of the summer. *Hypericum* 'Hidcote' reaches about 4', and should be cut to the ground in the spring. *H. moserianum* 'Tricolor' is a little thing, with leaves of pink, green and white and pale yellow blooms. *H.* 'Albury Purple' has new leaves of purple when grown in the sun.

There are so many Hydrangeas besides the big blue mopheads that will bloom in the summer. Try the lace caps for an airier look, the oak leaf ones or the old fashioned PeeGee (*paniculata grandiflora*) for white snowballs. Wilkerson Mill Gardens, south of Atlanta, offers many lovely new hybrid Hydrangeas.

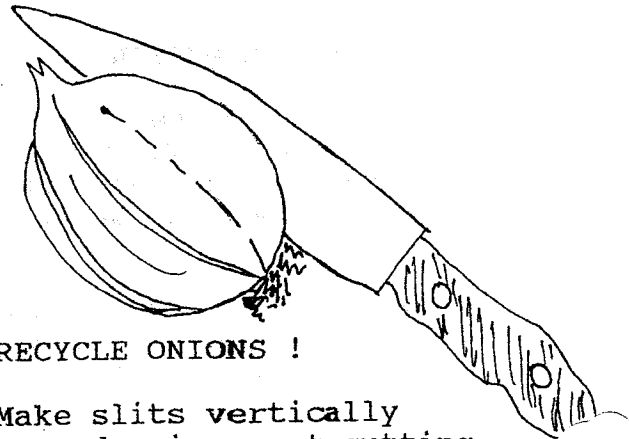
Clethra, Sweet Pepper bush, blooms with pink or white spires in semi-shade, and is wonderfully fragrant. The cultivar called 'Hummingbird' originated in Callaway Gardens, and is superior to the species.

Caryopteris is a small shrub many grow in their perennial beds for late season blue. There is a lovely golden one, *C.* 'Worcester Gold', that will brighten up a corner. It has the same blue flowers.

For late summer/fall flowers, try Lespedeza, the Bush Clover. This is a lovely, arching shrub covered in late August with pink, purple or white pea flowers. If you can find the cultivars 'Pink Fountain' or 'White Fountain', buy one. These too should be cut to the ground in the

There are so many more - Hibiscus, Feijoa, *Raphiolepis*, Aesculus, to name a few. Check the nurseries, read the catalogs, and plan to plant a few in the fall for next summer's enjoyment.

Gail Martin



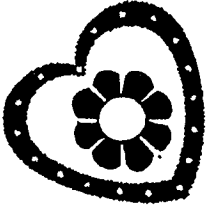
RECYCLE ONIONS !

Make slits vertically around onion--not cutting into heart. Peel layers off, tearing away from the roots. When you get down to the green heart, stop peeling and save to replant! Chop the layers to eat.

Jenni Wilson

INTERESTING BOOK, magazine, catalog or video? If you have discovered a remarkable, informative or otherwise noteworthy piece of communication, we would love for you to share it. Five to 10 minutes of our monthly program can be set aside for your review. Call Polly Patterson to be a part of our program. 381-2616

MANY THANKS TO POLLY PATTERSON for arranging our recent trip to Ryan Gainey's garden. Everyone had a good time and it was a learning experience also.



MY FRIENDS

or

"Who is this Grace?"

One day in the Winter of '91, my "wants" got the best of me. As I traveled east on Bogan Road with my daughter, I pointed to a house and remarked: "That house had Silver King Artemisia last year. I can't find it at any nursery and even Kathy Henderson on the Garden Program Saturday didn't know where to find it. Let's stop and ask where they got their start from". "Forget it," she she advised.

Well, as all gardeners know: a desire like this only grows worse over time. Finally, I did stop. What a red letter day that was.

A small lady and her husband came to the door. "Yes, that is Silver King Artemisia" Grace says as her husband goes back to his easy chair. (Much later, Grace told me that her husband thought plants just cropped up around a house--till he married her.)

Very cheerfully, she said: "I'll call you when it comes up and you can have some of it". (I never did find out where she got hers from.) I thought well, maybe she will call. This was before I knew Grace very well.

Come late March, I had a phone call: "Gail, can you come over? My Silver King Artemisia is up." Well, not only was it up. I thought I was Alice in Wonderland! I wish I had kept count of the number of calls that started: "Gail, my \_\_\_\_\_ is up; do you want some?"

Grace is a true master of the garden. I had not heard of the Master Gardener program at that time, but I still knew a pro when I saw one. Later when I heard about the MG program on Kathy's Saturday AM Gardening Show, I could not wait to call Steve Brady Monday morning. Unfortunately, the '92 classes had just started, but he told me to call again in June to sign up for the '93 class. Oh, what a long wait! I told my friend Grace about the program and she said "Oh, that sounds like such fun! If I was just your age."

Well, thanks to Grace, my garden grew and grew: daylilies, peonies, ginger lilies, iris and several kinds of mums--you name it, Grace had more than she could use. My eyes grew to a permanent saucer size. But wait, she had this friend she wanted me to meet! So over we go to meet another Grace, another accomplished gardener. This Grace had tended the same ground since 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor.

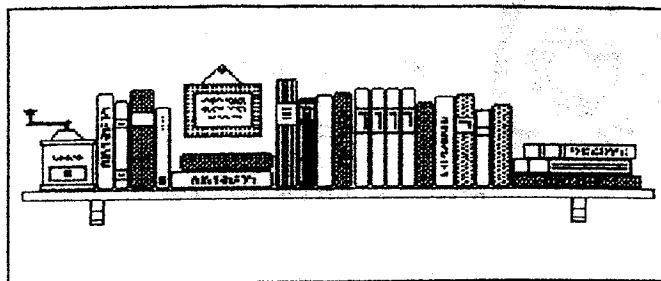
This was another garden wonderland. They had Alice's Wonderland beat! Roses, daylilies, irises, many things Grace Holland (#1 Grace) had plus a shady woodland garden that had everything you could name--like mayapples, trillium, ladyslipper, bloodroot. Grace Harris (#2 Grace) has been featured in Gwinnett and Buford newspapers many times.

Well, the much awaited Master Gardener program classes started and what a joy! As we started to carpool and met other gardeners, everyone talked of their own plants. "I've got this, I've got that; would you like some?" I began to say "Grace gave me this and Grace gave me that" until everyone starting asking about this mysterious Grace. Well, having MG friends is like having plants---you want to share them with everyone. So one by one they come and we go visit Grace and Grace. Now my phone calls go like this: "Gail, I have some \_\_\_\_\_ up; would you and the girls like some?"

By the Grace of God, Graces are made.

Editor's Note: Both these Graces are a very energetic 80 years young. Grace Harris is allergic to soil and has to wear gloves always. When Grace Holland was asked how long she had lived in the area, she said "All my life. When I got married, I just moved across the road".

Article by Gail Hollimon



### GARDENERS' BOOKSHELF

This is a new feature where we'll be reviewing new books and discussing old books, but books that gardeners need. We'll discuss books about gardening, and books about plants.

#### MRS. GREENTHUMBS

Cassandra Danz  
Crown Trade Paperback 1993  
Not available in the Public Library

This is the funniest book about gardening I've ever read. Ms. Danz is not only humorous, but extremely knowledgeable, and will keep you in stitches as she recounts how she planned, planted and grew her garden. A wonderful book for a thundery day.

#### GARDENING WITH GROUND COVERS AND VINES

Allen Lacy  
Harper Collins 1993  
Not available in the Public Library, but one of his previous ones, THE GARDEN IN AUTUMN is. 635.953



Allen Lacy, former columnist for the NY Times and Horticulture Magazine and publisher of the gardening newsletter ALLEN LACY'S HOMEGROUND, is a literate and evocative writer and a passionate gardener. In this book he discusses all those plants useful as groundcovers except Pachysandra, Ivy, and such ilk, and covers vines in a way you'd never expect. Lots of wonderful photos and very useful ideas, but especially good for the scope and diversity of gardens in general. If you're not sure you want to spend the money for this one, get the other one from the library and see if you like it. You will.

These are two paperbacks, companion books, written by the breeder of the new class of roses, the English Rose. The books are equally as good as the Beales book, but a little less comprehensive, and not quite so pricey. The photographs make you want to dig up the lawn, mortgage your kids, and buy roses. Also English, of course.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIAL PLANTS

Allan M. Armitage  
Varsity Press 1989  
In the Library. 635.932

A Southern gardener's bible. Dr. Armitage teaches this stuff at UGA, and gardens a lot in Athens, so he knows about red clay, and hot, humid summers, and hot, humid autumns, and wet winters, and week-long springs. If he says you can't grow it, you can't grow it. Buy the book, and have it handy in January when catalog fever sets in. It helps some in restoring common sense when the pen hits the order form.

PERENNIALS FOR AMERICAN GARDENS

Ruth Rogers Clausen and  
Nicolas H. Ekstrom  
Random House 1989  
In the Library. 635.932

This is a good companion to have with Armitage's book. It discusses some different plants, and has good color photos of all of them. Although written in the NE, they try to consider the southern climate in their cultivation notes. An invaluable reference.

And any book ever written by Elizabeth Lawrence.

ROSES

Peter Beales  
Henry Holt 1992  
Not available in the Public Library

This is an encyclopedia of rosedom, with almost every rose known to man listed and photographed. ROSES is the best reference book on roses of every kind in existence, and also contains a grower's handbook. Its a big book and a tad pricey, but worth every penny if you're serious about roses. Its also very pretty, and would make a big splash on the coffee table. It's English, of course.

SHRUB ROSES AND CLIMBING ROSES

OLD ROSES AND ENGLISH ROSES

David Austin  
Antique Collectors Club 1993

he library lists one they call ENGLISH ROSES, also published in 1993, which may well be one of these. 635.933



## CALENDAR

GPPA Speakers

June 16 George Sanko  
Native Plants for the Atlanta  
Landscape

July 21 Barrie Crawford  
Country Garden/City Garden

Aug 18 Paula Refi  
Useful Ideas from English Gardens

Held at the Atlanta History Center

ATLANTA BOTANIC GARDEN

June 11 Class  
Natural Pest Control

June 18  
Daylily Show - Day Hall  
10-5 Plants for sale

July 2/3  
Asian Cultural Experience in the  
Garden  
Show of crafts, Bonsai, flower  
arranging

July 14, 21, 28 Class  
Cooking with Herbs

For information on other classes,  
please call the ABG at 876-5859

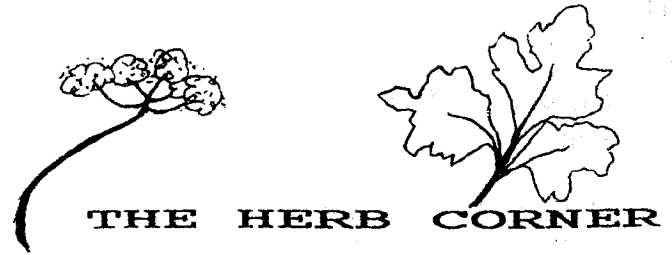
STATE BOTANIC GARDEN (Athens)

July 12 7-8:30 p.m.  
Installing an Irrigation System  
Class \$10

July 26 9-12 a.m.  
Aquatic Gardening Class  
Scott Mosley \$12

Sept 21 8:30-4:00  
Perennial Symposium  
Erica Glasener Barnsley Gdns  
Jimmy Stewart Garden Designs  
Sam Jones Piccadilly  
Mike Cunningham Country Gardens  
Bud Heist Heistaway

Garden Rambles 9:00  
July 9 Geology Walk  
Aug 20 Stream Habitat  
Sept 10 Mushroom Trek



## THE HERB CORNER

## Growing Coriander/Cilantro

Coriander is a much used plant in Mexican cuisine especially in the Southwest. Egyptians used it more than 2,500 years ago. China called it Chinese parsley. It grows wild in Rome and Britain.

The English word coriander is losing ground to the Spanish word cilantro. Here we refer to the parsley-like leaves as cilantro and the dried seed as coriander. Seed that has been dried should be stored in the refrigerator as they are prone to weevils. The undried seed are somewhat narcotic as well as having a stinkbug odor. After complete drying, they have a warm nutty flavor and aroma.

Coriander/cilantro leaves have a strong musky flavor and are used in curry, chutney, guacamole, bean dishes, fried rice and stir fried foods just to name a few. Do not add leaves until late in cooking as the flavor tends to cook out, especially at high temps.

Plant coriander seed in the fall down South, in a sunny location. Cilantro bolts quickly but will reseed regardless of your efforts to collect all seed for harvest. Being a completely winter hardy plant here, the trouble is to keep it in control and to have Cilantro (the green part) available when it is needed.

Gail Hollimon

## GARDENING ADVENTURES

During the past few years, I have developed a more intense interest in native plants and wildflowers. This fervor manifests itself in a lot of ways; building up to a crescendo in mid-Spring only to go into hiding (temporarily) by the time hot weather arrives in June. Beginning in March, I start thinking about where I can go to feed my habit this year. Fortunately for me, gardening seems to be more popular with each passing year and native plants are right in there with the rest of the pack.

I started out listening to Mildred Pennell's class on butterflies and wildflowers at ABC. Mildred is a Class A speaker; knowledgeable and personable.

In mid-March, we walked around the Atlanta History Center with Darrell G. Morrison, Prof. of Landscape Architecture, School of Environmental Design, UGA, while he explained how they were converting certain places there to showcase our native plants of the Piedmont in as natural a setting as possible.

Later in March, a friend and I walked in the rain at the Chattahoochee Nature Center to see what treasures they had for sale and to walk their wildflower trail through the woods. We saw bloodroot, rue anemone, foamflower, trillium and others.

The Spring Opening day at Piccadilly Farms found several of us sipping herbal tea and munching almond sugar cookies while meandering the paths on the hillside catching glimpses of tiny iris, narcissus and other small treasures. We were intrigued by small rosettes of green and maroon foliage that we later realized were tulips just emerging. (Such as Red Riding Hood)

Beginning in April, it was off to western North Carolina to rescue wildflowers from a woodland being converted to pasture. It was too late for some; others were just hanging on to the side of banks; seemingly awaiting rescue.

Another good place to visit each April is the South Dekalb College campus. They have a botanical garden that is rich in native plants. It is located on Panthersville Road south of the Candler Road exit off I-20. The garden is visibly divided by a sunny area and a shady area. When I was there, the season was not advanced enough for the sun lovers, but the shady area surpassed my expectations. It is well laid out in a natural way with paths, boulders and nice big trees to provide the shade. Along one side is a boggy area with appropriate plants which like wet feet. Up on slightly drier ground, was every spring blooming wildflower I could think of and a few I had never seen. They were all marked for ID. The "mini-plant sale" was really great. Wish I could have made it back for the "biggy" the last of April. They had several species of Penstemon, and Hairy Alum, both of which were featured at a Spring GPPA meeting. (Mine are doing fine, thanks.)

If you missed the MG tour of Allen Armitage's garden near Athens, you must catch it next time. It was lovely with some unusual plants and a backyard water garden with woodland plants all around.

I could go on and on, but I guess the highlight of my Spring adventures would have to be the visit to the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. My hubby and I took a 3 day camping trip to the Nantahala National Forest and Joyce Kilmer was just 30 miles northwest from our base camp. As we drove up and down mountains in the area, I marveled to see dogwood, Carolina Silverbell and even some serviceberry blooming--all putting on their show of white. The Forest is 3,800 acres dedicated to the memory of Joyce Kilmer, poet and soldier. Many of the trees are hundreds of years old. I was privileged to see half a dozen painted trilliums in bloom--a rare sight.

This year, my spring frenzy will extend to July with a trip to Western Carolina University to their annual Native Plant Conference for three days.

Soon my wildflower garden will go into its summer dormancy--leaves will start dying back and plants will slowly disappear. I shall be sad but I know if I'm patient, in about nine months, the little sprigs of green will start popping up again and the mania will start all over. Oh, well, until then I have my wildflower books and my memories of this year's successes. And the failures? There is always next year. Hmm....(maybe if I had moved it over yonder).

HAPPY GARDENING !



Brenda Adams