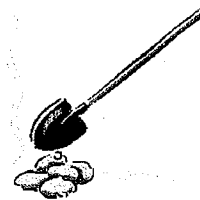




A Bit Of Dirt!

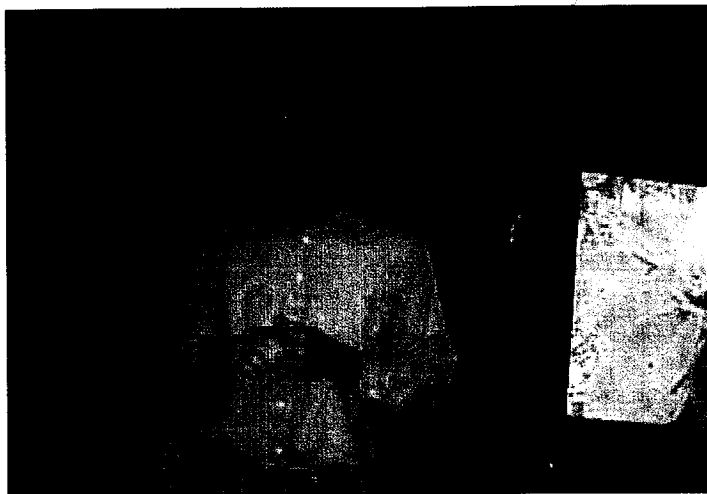


A newsletter for and by the Gwinnett Master Gardeners

Volume 11, Issue 2, Spring 2004

2004 Master Gardener Complete Course!

Walter Reeves Guest at Monthly Meeting!

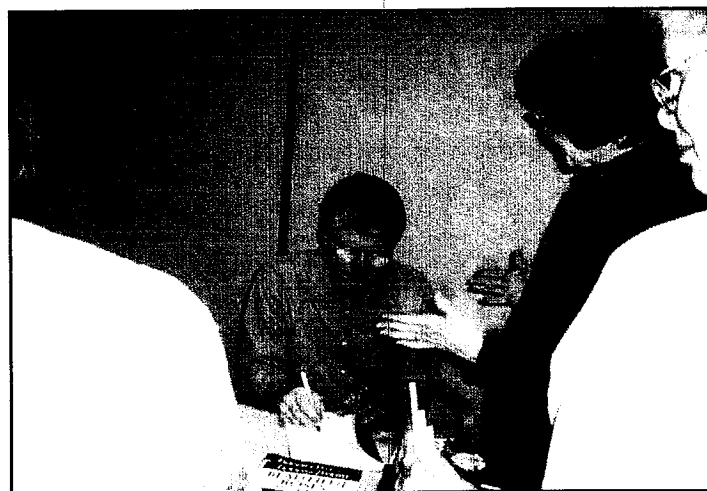


The 2004 Master Gardener interns finally reached that long awaited day — the final exam on March 22 at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. After a catered luncheon, the group continued on to the Gwinnett Extension Service office for an orientation.

Congratulations to the following 2004 Master Gardener Interns on successfully completing the course!

- M.J. Blackshear
- R.S. Buell, Jr.
- Debbie Bush
- Laura Courtney
- Charlotte Dickinson
- Dan Dudley
- Linda Edwards
- Susan C. Gabriel
- Leah Geis
- Mary Ann Hinds
- Pat Kahn
- Jackie Kujawa
- Rita Lacey-Ward
- Mary Leach
- Kate L. Pittman
- Kelly Ryan
- Robin Scott
- Sue S. Shaw
- Jane M. Travillio
- Dan Willis.

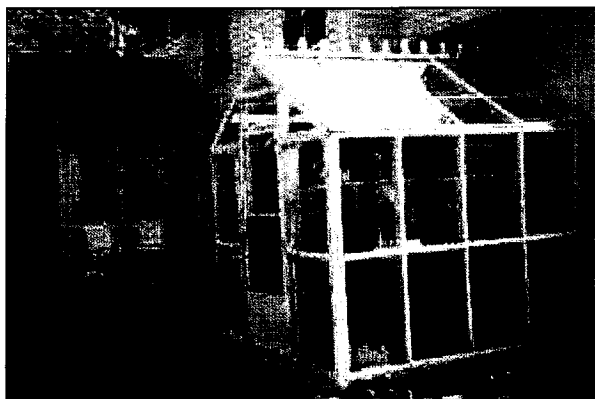
- Mary Bachner
- Ron Barton



It was a full house at the March meeting of Gwinnett Master Gardeners after it was announced that much loved gardening guru Walter Reeves would be the guest speaker! And they were not disappointed!

After an entertaining program, Walter graciously autographed his books for a long line of purchasers.

An Offer You Can't Afford to Pass Up!



Jan wanted a greenhouse after she retired and had time to propagate indoor plants. Aluminum contractors wanted \$5000 for a 10' by 12' dirt floor unit. I built a wood and plexiglass unit with brick floor, heater and power vent for just over \$1000.00.

I would enjoy helping our Gwinnett Master Gardeners with a similar project, and, of course, no charge. I just get a kick out of putting plans together and seeing them come to good use. John Bailey

Is Your Garden Ready for Prime Time?

The Gwinnett County Government Local Cable Access Channel is tapping the Extension Service for televised material. One of my ideas is to do a tour of gardens show.

If you are interested in having your garden filmed, contact me at the extension office. I will walk the garden with the owner and cameraman and let the gardener talk about his or her favorite garden feature.

Examples would be Jan and John Bailey's new greenhouse and David Toole's water garden.

Are you thinking about it and let me hear from you soon!

Steve Pettis

Master Gardeners in Action

Theresa Shrum was featured in an article of the latest *New South Gardener Magazine* recently as a "gardening guru." She was in very good company with *Dr. Mike Dirr*, *Walter Reeves*, and *Carol Reece*. The author, *Kami Wood*, listed her many achievements such as helping out Walter Reeves, being the VP of *The Native Plant Society* and, of course, a Master Gardener.

Theresa also wrote an article on flower shows that appeared in the same issue. It featured pictures of *Shannon Pable's* exhibit at last year's Southeastern Flower Show.

New Meeting Digs a Great Success!

How lucky we should all feel at our approval to have a meeting room at the Bethesda Senior Center. At our first meeting, we really felt like we were in a grand ballroom.

The kitchen is spacious and well equipped (two microwaves, a range with a real oven, warming cabinet, ice maker). The restrooms are spotless and attractive. Its central location makes it convenient from most locations and it's so easy to find a parking place and get into the building.

The only requirement is that we clean up the room at the end of our meetings. This means removing all food and drinks, vacuum if needed, arrange tables as we found them, leave kitchen clean and take trash to dumpster. With everybody pitching in we can do this in about 15 minutes.

A big thanks to all who helped!!! The custodial person in charge cannot leave until we do. So, if enough of us "hop to it" we'll be done in a few minutes.

A BIG THANKS also to *Bobbie Higginbotham*, *Glen Armstrong*, and *Fran Sanders* for using their negotiating skills and perseverance in acquiring this for us.

Marion E. Monk, Secretary

Tree Planted for Arbor Day

He that plants trees loves others besides himself. — Thomas Fuller



The roadmap of my childhood is lined with trees. In searching my memories, I see myself as a child, climbing the gnarled apple tree in my grandfather's garden and eating apples from my perch high among the limbs.

I see my friends and I lying on our backs beneath the giant oak watching the pattern of blue sky and sun shimmering through the canopy of branches while autumn leaves float down around us. I see forts created in the thick tangle of magnolia branches and the clove-scented silky Dr. Seuss flowers of the mimosa tree.

I recall the feeling of awe and insignificance I felt when I first stood at the base of the great sequoias in the ancient redwood forests of California. Best of all, I remember the huge piles of leaves we jumped in each fall as my family worked together to rake the yard. To this day, the smell of burning leaves takes me back to childhood.

The landscape of today's Atlanta is different than the one of my childhood. Gone are the fields of wild blackberries, the rolling evergreen fescue lawns, the dappled shade created from the canopy of oaks and dogwoods, the lands of azaleas, and the warm scent given off when the sun hits the fallen needles of the loblolly pines. All this is quickly being replaced by neighborhoods like my own that looks stark in winter with dormant Bermuda lawns and the giant hulk of a Bradford pear waiting to split in the next ice storm.

According to *Trees Atlanta*, a non-profit citizen's' group dedicated to protecting and improving our environment by planting and conserving trees, 60% of Atlanta's natural tree cover has been removed over the last 20 years. In addition, Metro Atlanta is losing trees at the rate of **50 acres a day**. Trees Atlanta warns that tree loss in Atlanta and neighboring counties has resulted in urban "heat islands" with temperatures three to ten degrees above the surrounding countryside. The hot weather dome over the Atlanta area has changed local weather patterns including reducing rain in some areas and increasing the intensity of thunderstorms in others.

Trees Atlanta lists some of the benefits of trees to homeowners as reducing air conditioning costs, increasing home values to between 5%-20% higher than equivalent homes without trees, and buffering noise pollution.

On a larger scale, tree leaves help trap and remove tiny particles of soot and dust which otherwise damage human lungs and tree root networks filter contaminants in soils producing clean water. You can visit their website at www.treesatlanta.org to review a more extensive list of benefits.

Arbor Day is the third Friday in February each year. This year, I decided to plant a White oak in my front yard. I know it will eventually shade out our Bermuda lawn and the leaves and acorns it will drop will create a mess, but I hope that we can rake those leaves as a family and maybe the neighborhood children will come to jump in the piles as we catch the scent of burning leaves in the distant autumn air.

Contributed by Julie Foster

Thank You to a Special Group!

Dear Master Gardeners,

I would like to thank all of you who put in office hours regularly this past year.

Your time in the office assisting Gwinnett Citizens with their problems and questions is an immeasurable service to your community as well as to our staff.



You probably never hear more than a "thank you" at the end of a call, but I hear time and time again from citizens who are deeply grateful for the help they receive from Master Gardener volunteers. They feel that having a group of experts to call upon for assistance with their gardening and landscaping concerns is service that is indispensable.

For this reason, the staff at the Gwinnett Extension Office is going to start giving special recognition to those Master Gardeners who help out in the office regularly.

We are going to reward these people with field trips and special recognition trophies for their dedicated service. We want to show our appreciation for their dedication because without office volunteers, we would not be able to provide our service to nearly as many people on a day to day basis.

Sincerely,

***Stephen D. Pettis, CEA
Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent
Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service
750 South Perry Street, Suite 400
Lawrenceville, GA 30045***

Lifetime Members Honored at Awards Luncheon!



Congratulations to Gwinnett's four Lifetime recipients, Pat Longo, Dolores Wyland, Martha Whitman and Peggy Wilson (transplant from Fulton County and Florida).

*Scenes from 2004 Intern
uncheon*



*Scenes from 2004 Appreciation
Luncheon*



Two Fund Raisers Success for Master Gardeners!

One of the most successful fund raisers of the year for Gwinnett MG's was held at the February meeting — the annual auction! Sarah and Marion wanted me to pass this information on to you that the auction last night at the Master Gardener Meeting brought in \$601.50.

Thanks to *Glen Armstrong, Dan Smith*, and the lovable and talented *Gayle Hayes*, the Master Gardener's treasury received a whopping \$601.50! And, best of all, everyone had a great time and took home lots of "good stuff!"

The threat of rain did nothing to dampen the success of the annual Gwinnett MG Plant Sale on Friday, April 30! Thanks to the efforts *Dan Smith, Sarah Goss*, the *Plant Sale Committee*, and dozens of volunteers, the Gwinnett MG's made \$3,352 from the sale!

Gwinnett Carries on the Tradition!

Gwinnett Master Gardeners continued living up to their reputation for providing wonderful refreshments for the annual intern program. Chairperson *Joann Elmore*, along with co-chairs *Shirley Brooks* and *Jan Bailey*, headed up this year's effort.

Sharon Matthews started the coffee pots perking every morning, *Sarah Goss* and *Marion Monk* handed out door prize tickets and sold raffle tickets for the prizes presented by *Shannon Pable*. *Paige Cox* lifted, and carried twice as much as anyone else.

Also involved with supplying food, arranging, re-arranging, assembling and clean-up were: *Lena Jenkins, Marsha White, Coralee Harlan, Mary Irene Katsibas, Anne Ficken* and *David Toole*. . Many, many others contributed cakes, cookies, and other food and they deserve a big "Thank You" for doing such a great job! Without them, it would not have been nearly as successful.



A Bit Of Dirt!

A newsletter for and by the
Gwinnett Master Gardeners

3637 Robin Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4826

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED