

The Plot

Official Newsletter of The Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

February 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, my fellow Master Gardeners:

Wow! We've recovered from Mother Nature's wintery blast, and it is time to be thinking about spring. Our jobs for February include perusing the seed catalogs, preparing an order, and dreaming of the bounty we all wish for. Now is the time to finish reading the great gardening books, getting tools ready, and completing the winter pruning tasks. Weather permitting, this is a good time to pot plants for the Mother's Day plant sale.

The 2016 Master Gardener Trainees begin class on February 11th. Let's welcome the new recruits and be friendly faces when we see them around the Ag Center.

James Hembree will be our speaker for the February 11th CCMGA meeting. He will be sharing interesting winter plants.

The Education Committee has lined up fabulous field trips and workshop sessions for this year. The first outing will be to Masee Lane Gardens in Fort Valley on February 17. Masee Lane has a beautiful nine-acre camellia garden. Masee Lane began as the private garden of David C. Strother in the 1930's. The land was donated by Mr. Strother and has been the headquarters for the American Camilla Society since 1966. The garden tour features more than one thousand varieties of camellias, in addition to sasanquas, scented tea olives, fragrant daphnes, and Lady Banksia roses. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about these beauties. Trip details are coming soon.

Kudos to those members receiving attendance awards, silver stars, and advanced years of service recognition. Congratulations and welcome to those serving on the 2016 Board of Directors. GMGA Conference planning is under way with a focus on budget, facilities, and the program. Committee chairs will soon be contacting members to sign up for specific conference jobs. Let's make this conference a memorable one.

Happy gardening thoughts,

Dorothy



LOOKING AHEAD

CCMGA Monthly Meeting February 11, 2016 Potluck at 6:00 PM Program at 7:00 featuring James Hembree from UWG on "Winter Bloomers".

UGA MGEV training class for 2016 begins. February 11, 2016. AgCenter.

CCMGA Field Trip (with GMGA) February 17, 2016 Massey Lane Camellia Gardens , Fort Valley GA
Details released online at <http://georgiamastergardeners.org/gmgaFT.htm>.

CCMGA Lunch and Learn February 19th from 12-1 at the Ag Center. Katy Lazar will be teaching about compost and soil samples.

CCMGA Field Trip March 23, 2016. Hills and Dales Estate (Callaway Family Home and Gardens), La Grange GA. Details TBA

2016 Board of Directors CCMGA

Dorothy Rothbart, President d.rothbart@comcast.net
Nancy Dombrowsky, Vice President nancydombrowsky614@gmail.com
Lynn Jackson, Past President lynnjackson@comcast.net
Phyllis King, Recording Secretary phyllisking5@gmail.com
Neville Brewer, Treasurer nevbrewer@bellsouth.net
David Weiner, Corresponding Secretary dweiner60@gmail.com
Joel Johnston, Director-at-large jjohnston@bellsouth.net
W H Smith , Director-at-large whpeggy@bellsouth.net



2016 Committee Chairs

Ask a Master Gardener: Marilyn Van Pelt
Audit: Richard Guynn
Christmas Party: Vicki Andryc
Christmas Wreath Sale: Janet Kiczek
Constitution and by-laws: Richard Guynn
Demonstration Garden: Grant McGukin
Education: Phyllis King & Vicky Andryc, co-chairs
Native Plants/Buffalo Creek Information: Flo Hayes
Grants: Marilyn Van Pelt
Special Project Funding: Neville Brewer

Heritage Days: Paula Burke and Michelle Lewis
Hospitality: Cherrie Glover
Junior Master Gardeners: Carrie Tarpley & Tyler Hemrock, co-chairs
James Watson Breakfast & Harvest Dinner: Jim Langham
Membership: Susan Thomas
Mothers' Day Plant Sale: Dorothy Rothbart
Newsletter: David Weiner

Monthly Meetings - 2016

CCMGA 2016 Monthly Meetings

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----------|-----------|----|----------|
| January | 21 | Thursday | July | 14 | Thursday |
| February | 11 | Thursday | August | 11 | Thursday |
| March | 10 | Thursday | September | 8 | Thursday |
| April | 14 | Thursday | October | 13 | Thursday |
| May | 12 | Thursday | November | 10 | Thursday |
| June | 9 | Thursday | December | 8 | Thursday |

This Month's Guest Speaker

James Hembree will give a presentation on "Winter Bloomers" at the February meeting. He has been the Landscape Superintendent at the University of West Georgia for 20 years. James is a Certified Arborist, Certified Nurseryman, Certified Organic Producer and an honorary Master Gardener. He has been a member of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee and also a member of the West Georgia Vineyard and Winery Association. For the past 22 years, he has been active in Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife Diane have three sons all of whom are Eagle Scouts. Please join us for an exciting, educational evening.

Garden Checklist

FEBRUARY 2016 – MARCH 2016

FEBRUARY

THIRD WEEK:

The brown foliage on pampas grass and maiden grass can be pruned away now. Leave only a “crew cut” of brown stems twelve inches high.

Plant sweet pea now for fragrant flowers later. Plant English peas, onions, asparagus or elephant garlic for your spring vegetable garden.

Overgrown Burford holly shrubs can be pruned severely now. Even if it is reduced to twelve inches tall, this shrub will resprout plenty of new foliage by summer.

Plant a large container for your patio. A small boxwood surrounded by variegated ivy and blooming pansies would look very nice!

Plant a winter daphne (*Daphne odorum*) near your home’s entrance or front walkway. The scent will greet you each day when you arrive at your abode this spring.

FOURTH WEEK:

Clean out bird boxes so they will be ready to welcome new residents in a few weeks.

Build raised beds for vegetables, roses and herbs. It’s easy to do with four pieces of 2x8 wood planks. Choose lengths that fit your space; bolt them together at the corners.

Reduce the size of your butterfly bush by two thirds to one half to encourage new growth (and big blooms) this summer.

Time for the first fertilization of fescue for the year. Any brand of turf fertilizer will work well. Next application: April.

Set your mower to its highest setting and cut off the tattered leaves of liriopse (monkey grass). They will quickly regrow in March.

MARCH

FIRST WEEK:

Fertilize pansies. Since the soil is warming, use any water soluble houseplant fertilizer, one half pint to one pint of solution per plant.

Cut most of the green foliage off of tattered liriopse. A mower, set to its highest setting, is the best tool for large areas.

If you haven’t spread lime on your lawn in a year, it’s time once again. Use 40 pounds per 1000 square feet.

Start seed of tomatoes and annual flowers indoors. You’ll need six weeks to grow strong transplants.

SECOND WEEK:

Prune boxwood – but not with shears. Use a hand pruner to make foliage “holes” in the greenery so light can penetrate to the trunk.

Spray a fungicide (Captan, etc.) on apple and peach trees while the blooms are on the tree.

Now is the time to prune giant holly shrubs back to a manageable size. Don’t be shy – you can cut them to eighteen inches tall and they will come back.

Plant bare-root roses in soil that contains plenty of organic matter and which has been thoroughly tilled.

(Source: Walter Reeves, Georgia Gardener, Seasonal Calendar FEB2016/MARCH2016)

OTHER HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA

Georgia Iris Society Meeting

Date: 13 February 2016

Time: 2:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: free

Location: 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, Ga 30329

Phone: (404) 202-3888

Details:

Georgia Iris Society will meet at 2pm on Saturday, Feb. 13m 2016 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 Lavista Road, NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

"Water Friendly Irises (Louisianas & Flags") will be presented by Jean Scharle of Randy's Perennials & Water Gardens of Lawrenceville, GA

Join us for education, beautification and recreation. Our meetings are free to the public and all are welcome. Snacks and door prizes will be available.

For more information contact Stacey Cooke or Harvey Holmes

Amazing Mason Bee

Date: 16 February 2016

Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Cost: free

Location: The Bridge, 225 Willow Bend Road, Peachtree City

Phone:

Details:

Frank and Patty Hiller are both Clayton County Master Gardeners and Master Birders with the Audubon Society.

They will give a lecture about the Mason Bees as pollinators.

North Atlanta Home Show

Date: 19 February 2016 - 21 February 2016

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$8 general admission; children 12 and under and seniors 65 and older free

Location: Infinite Energy Center

Phone: (770) 798-1997

Details:

Over 150 home remodeling experts will gather at Infinite Energy Center (formerly Gwinnett Center) Feb. 19-21 (www.AtlantaHomeShow.com). Featuring the latest products and services for home remodeling, interiors, landscapes and outdoor living, the North Atlanta Home Show offers attendees the opportunity to comparison shop and talk to the experts. 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway in Duluth. Expert speakers, including Walter Reeves, door prizes, live radio broadcasts, buyer discounts and much more.

ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW

Date: 20 February 2016 - 21 February 2016

Time: Saturday, 1:00pm-5:00pm; Sunday, 10:00am-5:00pm

Cost: Admission to the show is free with your ABG entry.

Location: Day Hall, Atlanta Botanical Garden

Phone: (404) 355-4478

Details:

Brighten up your winter week-end by visiting the CAMELLIA SHOW at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, in Day Hall on Saturday, February 20th, 1:00pm – 5:00pm and Sunday, February 21st, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Admission to the show is free with your ABG entry. This beautiful display of blooms is sponsored by the North Georgia Camellia Society, a member of the American Camellia Society. The North Georgia Camellia Society meets the second Monday evening, September – May at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

ATTRACTING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

Date: 15 March 2016

Time: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Cost: free

Location: The Bridge, 225 Willow Bend Road, Peachtree City

Phone:

Details:

Susan Meyers is a Master Gardener, and Garden Club member with a passion for butterflies. She has volunteered with Monarchs Across Georgia since 2003, leading trips to the overwintering colonies Mexico, facilitating educator workshops, and administering pollinator habitat grants. Recently retired from the education department at Stone Mountain Park, she volunteers with a middle school science club gardening for wildlife and participates in plant- and insect-related citizen science projects.

Spring Atlanta Home Show

Date: 18 March 2016 - 20 March 2016

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 general admission; children 12 and under and seniors 65 and older free

Location: Cobb Galleria Centre, Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339

Phone: (770) 798-1997

Details: Over 350 home remodeling experts will gather at the Cobb Galleria Centre March 18-20 (www.AtlantaHomeShow.com). Featuring the latest products and services for home remodeling, interior design, landscaping and outdoor living, the Spring Atlanta Home Show offers attendees the opportunity to comparison shop and talk to the experts one-on-one. Two Galleria Parkway, Atlanta 30339. Expert speakers, including Walter Reeves, door prizes, live radio broadcasts, buyer discounts and much more.

OMG Who Needs me? CCMGA!
Committee reports, requests and information

From the hospitality committee: Kim Littleton, chair 2015

I would like to personally thank every Master Gardener and MG Friend who helped out with the hospitality committee in 2015. Thank you for replying to the emails and for being so helpful every month. It made my job very easy. I'd like to especially thank Phyllis King. She did a lot of behind the scene help including all of the shopping trips to Sam's for supplies and helping set up every month.

Cherrie will be the 2016 hospitality chair and I know you'll be as helpful to Cherrie as you were to me. If you didn't get a chance to help out last year, whether you were unable to attend for your month of work or either had a November birthday, please ask Cherrie if she needs your help at the meetings. There will be an occasional month when she does not have enough kitchen help and would appreciate the last minute offer.

Again, thank you for your willingness to serve. That's what Master Gardeners is all about - serving and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Junior Master Gardener Program, Katy Lazar

Junior Master Gardeners is expanding this fall! We will be starting Sprouts and Teens in September. Sprouts is for ages 6-8 and Teens are for ages 13-16. We want to get the kids in young and keep them in until they can drive. Sign up for Sprouts and Teens will start in March. We do need your help. We need 20 oz. bottles - like Gatorade and PowerAde, and 2 liter bottles. Donations for snack are always welcome. Extra hands are also always welcome. You do not have to teach an activity. Our next monthly meeting with the kids is February 8th from 4:30-6 pm at the Ag Center. If you need more info on Sprouts, please contact Katy Lazar. If you need more info on JMG, please contact Carrie Tarpley or Tyler Hemrock. If you need more info on the Teens, please contact Tee Davis. The Teen sign-up sheet will also be available in March.

Seed Savers, Carol Hight

Please continue to bring prescription pill bottles for the seed savers cabinet. It helps out tremendously if you can remove your personal information from the label. It takes a bit of work, but if I have to do the dozens that are brought in it takes me hours. 'Many hands make light work.' Thanks.

2016 Mother's Day Plant Sale Reminders , Dorothy Rothbart and Lynn Jackson, Co-Chairs

Now that 2016 has arrived..... The CCMG annual Mother's Day Plant Sale will be here in no time. We have visited several vendors and should have a good variety of purchased plants for the sale.

Potting Plants: Due to the 911 construction, it is impossible to access the barn for pots. Our supply of pots is very limited and those we do have on hand are not in good shape. We are working to procure plastic pots and an accessible place to store them. Please be gathering pots at home. At present we do not have a spot to store pots ready. A box of plant labels can be found on the Plant Sale shelf in the MG closet. There is a need for old mini blinds. We do have a volunteer working on cutting them into plant markers.

As you pot plants, please email a list of plants you are donating. The committee will be adding signage for new plants. There is a supply of potting soil at the school house. It is easy to drive up to pick up soil. Grant will inform us when a soil delivery is needed. Now, weather permitting, is a good time to be potting plants at home.

Remember, everyone is encouraged to work wherever you are needed during the week of May 2-7. This is a great opportunity to earn MG Log hours.

Lynn Jackson, Plant Sale Co-Chair, and I thank you for your welcome and support as we take on the Plant Sale this year.

Regards,

Dorothy and Lynn

CCMG Members

From the Desk of Paula Burke, County Agriculture Agent

2015 Master Gardener Recognition

Thanks again for another great year in 2015! Here are some of the figures I shared at the meeting last month. The numbers in the (...) are the 2014 numbers so you can see how we compared from last year. I encouraged everyone last night that your continuing education hours is most likely higher than 197 hours. I encourage you this year to track those hours and enter them in MG log.

Continuing education hours do not count as volunteer hours. They are the times you spend attending an education program and you are the student. So your monthly program meetings, if you attend a horticulture related program at the office or somewhere else, that is continuing education. You are continuing to educate yourself. These are different than advanced trainings. Advanced trainings are put on by a UGA staff person and last all day and are called Advanced trainings. Sheri Dorn or I will add your Advance training hours to MGLog. You do not have to. If you have questions on the difference of the two, let me know.

Many thanks again to Lynn Jackson for her year as President. You did a fabulous job! A special thank you to Jane Kingsley who has “retired” from working in the office on Friday afternoons. She is still a MG but just won’t be coming in the office any more after 15 plus years! Hint, hint...the Friday afternoon slot is now open. Thank you to Joyce McArthur and Phyllis King for co-chairing the education committee and doing a bang up job offering so many awesome educational programs with the committee last year.

If you see your name below and you were not in attendance last month, stop by the office and I will get you your award. If you don’t see your name below and you think you should, please let me know that as well. I admit, I could have missed something.

Looking forward to another great year in 2016!

Paula

Total Hours

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Master Gardeners | 90 | (108) |
| Number of Hours | 9,866 | (11,485) |
| \$23.07/hour = | \$227,480 | (\$255,549) |
| 5 full time staff equivalents | | |

20,924 in person contacts (19,344)
392,921 telephone, email and newspaper contacts (329,750)
37,514 miles traveled (42,888)
356 total # of advanced training hours
197 total # of continuing education hours

Highest Number of Hours MG

Phyllis King – 783.50
Grant McGukin – 644

Highest Number of Hours Friends of MG

Ken Billinger – 68

HOURS

500 hours ribbon

Bob Chriss
Katie Deems
Jack Garvin
Alyson Stober

1,000 hours ribbon

Angela Chriss
Fred Hickson
Lynn Jackson
Phyllis King
Joyce McArthur
Jackie Moon
Dorothy Rothbart
Susan Thomas

2,000 hours ribbon

Kathy Howell

3,000 hours

Grant McGukin

YEARS

5 year

Kitty Barr
Laura Davis
Tee Davis
Margaret Hughes

Jim Langham
Katy Lazar
Joyce McArthur
Hildegard Wolverton
Debra Gammans

10 Year

Judy Anderson
Jan Johnson
Susan Thomas
Susanne Wall

15 Year

Nancy Disinger
Janet Kiczek
WH Smith

SILVER STARS

Tee Davis
Jack Garvin
Vicki Lloyd
Dorothy Rothbart
Susan Thomas

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Education Committee – Joyce McArthur & Phyllis King

Office Volunteer – Jane Kingsley

President – Lynn Jackson

New Plants for 2016, Neville Brewer, CCMGA

http://www.hgtvgardens.com/flowers-and-plants/2016-plants-sneak-preview?nl=HGG_012616_featlink1&c32=fbbcd9346abd9c337cb598d3f430b568c985d104&sni_by=&sni_gn=Male&ssid=2016_HGTV_Dream_Home_2016_Wildfire&bid=5984699

Tommie Munro, CCMGA and GMGA District Director

I would like to invite all Master Gardeners and Friends to join GMGA. If you have already renewed your membership, thank you and congratulations. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so soon to get the most benefit. If you have never belonged, please join; you don't know what you are missing.

GMGA stands for Georgia Master Gardener Association. We are the statewide association for Master Gardener Extension Volunteers in Georgia. You don't have to be a Certified Master Gardener to join. If you are a Friend of the Master Gardeners or have not yet finished your 50 hours, you can join as a Friend. The dues for Certified Master Gardeners and Friends is \$15.00 each and a couple can join for \$25.00. Also, the local organization will get \$5.00 for each membership and \$10.00 for each couple. If dues are paid to and sent in by the local organization as a group, you can retain the \$5.00 per person. Five dollars for each member's dues received directly will be returned to the local organization at the end of the year. You can get more information, join or renew online:

<http://georgiamastergardeners.org/gmgamembership.htm#cart>

Advantages of being a GMGA member:

The GMGA WEBSITE at: www.georgiamastergardeners.org lists current events, as well as other GMGA information. The membership directory and board member contact information is password protected to ensure the privacy of our members.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE-To be hosted by the Carroll County Master Gardeners in Carrollton on September 30 and October 1-Theme: In My Garden. Watch for details.

NEW RESOURCES - Statewide lists of exciting speakers and outstanding field trip destinations to spark your imagination and broaden your gardening horizons. Reference lists of authoritative resources for botanical organizations and gardens, weather, ecology, pests and more. Extensive statewide list of nurseries as well as nationally respected suppliers.

FACEBOOK - Keep current with what's happening with GMGA.

GMGA FIELD TRIPS -Calendar of educational events and field trips. Four field trips are planned for 2016.

February 17: Masee Lane Camellia Gardens-private tour and luncheon;

June 1: Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta-private tour, lunch, nursery visit;

November 2: Gibbs Garden, Ball Ground-Japanese Maple Colorfest;

December 15: Governor's Mansion Holiday Tour, Swan House (Atlanta History Center).

GRANTS - Opportunities to advance your Master Gardener community projects through grants from GMGA.

UGA SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT - Join us in supporting deserving students attending UGA for horticultural and related studies.

REGISTRATION - Registration for events and Membership Renewal can be completed with online PayPal payments at: www.georgiamastergardeners.org

GMGA BLOOMS! - Bi-monthly, when The Scoop goes online, you will receive an email blast entitled GMGA Blooms! , announcing that the newsletter has been posted online. Other important GMGA announcements that need to be sent out as soon as possible are communicated using GMGA Blooms email blasts as well.

GMGA Clips-A weekly email listing of gardening related events.

Now is the time. Join GMGA today

Monthly Recipe Box

This month's recipe was provided by Phyllis King

BROWN BAG APPLE PIE

1 unbaked pie shell (9inch)
8 large apples (I use Granny Smith) ½ cup sugar
2 TBS flour
½ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp allspice
2 TBS lemon juice

TOPPING

½ cup sugar
½ cup flour
½ cup butter
½ cup chopped pecans (optional)

Chunk apples to make 7 cups. (I do not peel; just wash and dry.) Mix flour, sugar and spices; then combine with apple chunks. Place in pie shell and sprinkle with lemon juice. For topping, combine sugar and flour; cut in butter. (Works better if butter is room temp.) Crumble topping mixture over pie. Place pie in brown paper bag and place on cookie sheet. Bake 1 hour at 400-425 degrees.

This recipe was submitted by my sister-in-law, Rhonda Fort to the Frankfort Younger Woman's Club; this club published some of the best cookbooks ever. I adopted this recipe and have made this pie at least once a year since the 70's.

SAVE THE DATE

GMGA 2016 State Conference In My Garden

Carrollton, Georgia

In My Garden is the title of our upcoming Georgia Master Gardener Association annual state conference, to be held in the beautiful West Georgia college town of Carrollton on Saturday, October 1, 2016. Members of the Carroll County Master Gardeners Association will be our hosts.

In My Garden reflects the pride that we all take in our personal home landscapes, and as the theme of the conference this fall, events will focus on home landscape design. Speakers and workshops will highlight different aspects of residential landscaping, from ornamental plant choices, to pruning and working with color in the garden.

An Advanced Training class will be offered on Friday, September 30 on Landscape Design for Projects, at the Carroll County Agricultural Education Center. More information will be coming in the next few months.

All are invited to join us on Friday, September 30 for music, wine and appetizers in the Galleria at the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center (our conference venue) from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Come early and plan to shop among Marketplace vendors beginning mid-afternoon Friday.

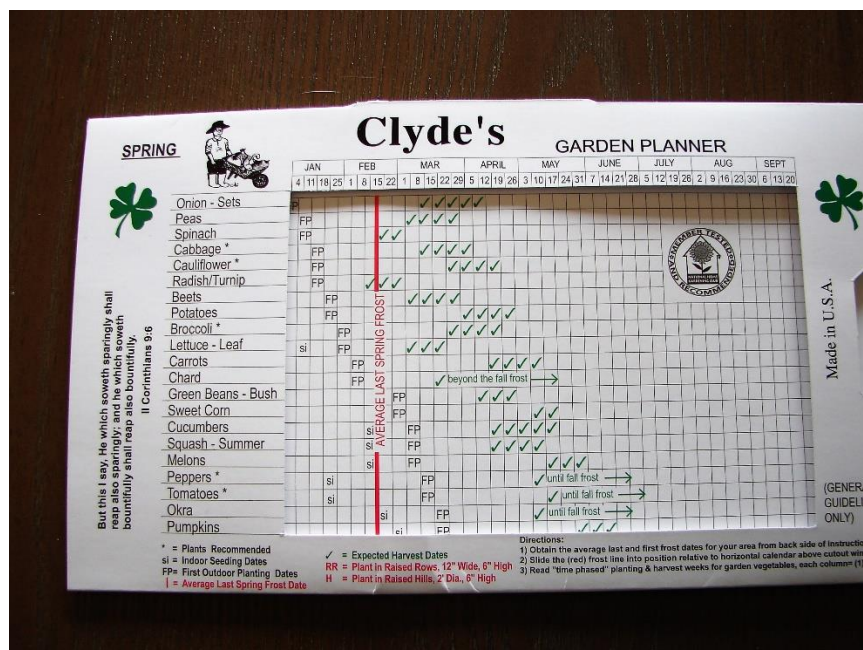
Join the CCMGA members, who will be sponsoring some side trips on Friday afternoon. Plan to spend some time on tours of the Southeastern Quilt & Textile Museum (<http://southeasternquiltmuseum.com/>), a wine tasting at Little Vine Vineyards (<http://littlevinevineyards.com/>), or a visit to the popular paved trail system, the Carrollton Greenbelt (<http://www.carrolltongreenbelt.com/>). Evening choices for dinner abound on Adamson Square (<http://www.carrolltonmainstreet.com/visit-adamson-square/>), the heart of Carrollton's night life.

Details of the conference schedule, speakers and events will be updated over the next few months. Save the dates of September 30- October 1 for the 2016 GMGA State Conference, ***In My Garden!***

*****NEW FEATURE*****

Product Review

From time to time, new products come to our attention, and we'd like to present them to you with a brief review. Let us know if you like this feature.



This is a Garden Planning Chart with a sliding insert that gives all sorts of useful planting information. The company name is CDM Planning based in Missouri. We found the information to be accurate, handy, and timely, since it gives ideal planting dates, depths, and spacing for over 40 vegetable varieties in a user-friendly format. Made in the USA on very heavy stock, the product should stand up to some rough handling for quite a while. You can reach them at <http://clydesvegetableplantingchart.com> for further info.

*****NEW FEATURE*****

Starting with last month's issue, and mindful that so few of our members receive the local newspaper, we will be including one or more of the "Ask A Master Gardener" columns that appear every Tuesday.

Ask a Master Gardener

January 26, 2016

Phyllis King, Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer

Finding Interest in the Winter Garden

Q. Like many gardeners, I find winter difficult when I look outside and see a dull landscape; are there some plants that add color, beauty, and interest to my boring brown garden?

Anna Shultz

A. First, take some cheer in the fact that there are only 54 days until the vernal equinox occurs on Sunday, March 20th at 12:31 am. Spring will happen! In the meantime there are a few things you can do to add color. You can enjoy an immediate boost by planting some pansies or violas, *Viola wittrockiana*. The best time to plant pansies is actually October, but you can do so now by choosing a protected area when the ground is not frozen. After planting, the plants should be watered in with a liquid fertilizer, and you should follow up by fertilizing at least once a month. It has been warmer this year than some winters, but if freezing occurs the plants will show some stress. However, pansies and violas will usually snap back when it warms up. Remember these plants are annuals and have to be replaced each year.

Another thing you can do is to attend the Carroll County Master Gardener program on February 11th; James Hembree, a horticultural expert, will be speaking about creating interest in the winter garden. James will be speaking about 25-30 winter bloomers; he will be acquainting the group about some favorites and some unusual winter bloomers.

A well-loved favorite is the Lenten rose or *Helleborus orientalis*, and unlike the pansies, hellebores are perennials and should be an item in your garden for many years. This plant will require some time to produce blooms, however, because it grows so slowly. In spite of the slow growth, the hellebore is prolific in producing offspring. Not all nurseries have the plant for sale, and it is a bit pricy. However, it will reward you with many babies which can grow near the parent plants or be transplanted to another area in your garden. It is also forgiving and flexible in environmental conditions; it will flourish in our red clay with only an annual application of a balanced fertilizer. Hellebores need some sun but love the afternoon shade. As in most beds, hellebores need mulching, but it is important not to cover too deeply because the tender new plants need to be able to get through. Hellebores blooms range from white to burgundy, and they start in January and continue through March. A bonus is that the dark green foliage will be beautiful all year.

James will also be speaking about edgeworthia, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, which was introduced to the English garden by Michael Edgeworth in the early 1800's. The Japanese used it for high quality wallpaper, calligraphy, and bank notes which were almost impossible to forge. That is the history behind one of the common names, oriental paperbush. It also was valued by earlier generations for several medicinal purposes. The edgeworthia has a forest background and likes an acid soil; however, it will tolerate a neutral one as long as it is well drained and moist. The blooms have a sweet aroma, and the deciduous shrub will grow to 4-5 feet.

Another plant with a really sweet aroma is the winter daphne, *Daphne odoro*, but unlike the hellebores and the edgeworthia the winter daphne is not easy to grow. Walter Reeves and Erica Glasener wrote about the daphne in their book, *Georgia Gardener's Guide*. Walter recommends planting in the early spring with carefully amended soil. The daphne hates wet feet, so drainage is critical, and it is very finicky about fertilizer. Do not over fertilize. Mulch is vital, and Walter suggests that placing the daphne in a large pot, at least 16", might be an easier solution. In spite of the difficulties, the beauty and sweet aroma make the extra care worthwhile. Walter reminds us that on a cold February day, a single bloom from a winter daphne is enough to remind us that spring will come again.

These are only three of the plants that James Hembree will discuss at the regular monthly meeting of the Master Gardeners on February 11th. Anyone is welcome to attend to learn more about the interesting plants of winter. If you care to join us for dinner, bring a dish to share and show up by 6:00 pm. If you only want to attend the program, it will start by 7:00 pm. The gorgeous plants shown in the photos were photographed by WH Smith in his garden which is interesting at any season.

If you have questions about any gardening issues, contact a Master Gardener Volunteer at the UGA Cooperative Extension Carroll County office at 900 Newnan Road, Carrollton at 770-836-8546 or via email at ccmg@uga.edu. 900 Newnan Road; call 770-836-8546 for any other details or go to <http://www.ugaextension.com/carroll/anr/MasterGardenerPage.html>



Photos courtesy of WH Smith CCMGA

*******NEW FEATURE*******

As a benefit to the membership and to insure transparency, a running total spreadsheet of our Y-T-D income and expenses will be published each month.

CCMG 2016 EXPENDITURE V BUDGET AS AT 1/31/2016

| | <u>INCOME</u> | <u>EXPENSE</u> | <u>NET TOTAL</u> | <u>BUDGET</u> | <u>STILL AVAILABLE</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| ADMINISTRATIVE | \$29 | \$0 | \$29 | \$2,000 | \$1,971 |
| AG HERITAGE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |
| CHRISTMAS PARTY | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| DEMO GARDEN | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,500 | \$5,500 |
| DONATIONS | \$5 | \$0 | \$5 | \$2,500 | \$2,495 |
| EDUCATION* | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GRANTS* | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 |
| HOSPITALITY | \$0 | \$11 | (\$11) | \$1,000 | \$989 |
| JUNIOR MASTER GAR | \$38 | \$18 | \$20 | \$5,000 | \$4,980 |
| MEMBERSHIP | \$1,040 | \$0 | \$1,040 | \$0 | \$0 |
| SCHOLARSHIP | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| STATE CONFERENCE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| COMMUNITY IMPROV | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,500 | \$2,500 |
| CCMG MEMORIAL FU | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |
| HIDDEN GARDEN TOL | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| PLANT SALE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| WREATH SALE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL YTD | \$1,112 | \$29 | \$1,083 | \$36,000 | \$34,917 |

Bank Account Balances

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Checking | \$37,198 |
| Money Market | \$11,330 |
| CD | \$10,041 |
| TOTAL | \$58,569 |

(provided by Neville Brewer, 2016 Treasurer CCMGA)

CCMG MEETING MINUTES, January 2016

Dorothy Rothbart called the meeting to order at 7:52 pm and welcomed David Huddleston with electric co-op as our guest. One item of news to be shared was that Lindsey Milikin resigned as the vice president, elect. The nominating committee put forth Nancy Dombrowsky as a new candidate. Nancy is a retired science teacher, and she did her master gardener training through the University of Pennsylvania. Lynn Jackson made a motion to accept Nancy as our vice president; Vicki Andryc seconded, and the motion carried.

Paula began the installation of the new officers; first she thanked the outgoing officers: Joyce McArthur, Margaret Hughes, Jackie Moon, and Joan Bagwell for their service. WH Smith and Joel Johnston were reminded of their duties as directors at large. They are to attend board meetings, and Paula gave them steel wool to put a shine on master gardener activities. David Wiener was given a tape measure to carefully gauge what he says as corresponding secretary. As recording secretary Phyllis King was given a trowel to plant what needs to be planted. Neville Brewer was given a fork to turn the budget items that need to be turned. As past president, Lynn Jackson was given a shovel because she knows where to dig. As president, Dorothy was given gloves because there are issues that need to be handled with care. Joyce McArthur made a motion that officers be accepted as presented; Patrick Dost seconded and the motion passed.

The treasurer's report was as follows: checking – \$36,711; money market – 11,330; cd – 10,041 with a total of \$58,082. New reports will be developed to show more precisely on a monthly basis exactly what has been spent. Michelle moved that we accept the report; Cherrie seconded. The motion carried. Everyone had been given a copy of the spreadsheet showing budget figures for 2015, actual money spent in 2015, and budget figures for 2016. After consideration, WH moved that we accept the budget as shown; Hilde seconded. The motion passed.

Paula discussed the training class for 2016; there are 21 trainees with 11 from Carroll and 10 from Douglas. Carroll is instituting a mentoring program, and Paula needs 4 more mentors. The class starts on 2/11 with a breakfast at 8:00 am. Everyone is urged to attend, but it would be especially important for chairs to meet the trainees to talk about the various programs. Mentors should help the trainees to find ways to complete their hours and help them to feel welcome. Paula expressed thanks to all who have helped to develop tests, schedules, and speakers.

Paula recognized several members; this year we had 90 members who logged 9866 hours. This was less than 2014. However, at \$23.07 per hour it would be worth \$227,480 or 5 full time employees. We had 20,924 personal contacts. We had 392,921 contacts for written contacts, emails, and telephone contacts. There were 37,514 travel miles recorded. There were 356 hours of advanced training recorded; however, we had only recorded 197 hours of continuing education. This is a number we expect to increase in 2016 because many of us were not aware of when or how it should be recorded. The continuing education hours are any time that we are being instructed.

Two members honored for having the most hours: Phyllis King – 783.5 and Grant McGukin – 644. The friend of master gardeners with the most hours in 2015 is Ken Ballenger with 68. 500 hour ribbons were presented to Bob Chriss, Jack Garvin, Katie Deems, Alyson Stober. 1000 hour ribbons were presented to Angela Chriss, Lynn Jackson, Phyllis King, Joyce McArthur, Dorothy Rothbart, Susan Thomas, Jackie Moon, and Fred Hickson. Kathy Howell received a 2000 hour ribbon; Grant McGukin has a 3000 hour ribbon. WH Smith and Wendell Holmes both have 4000 hour ribbons.

Five year awards were presented to Jim Langham, Katy Lazar, Joyce McArthur, Tee Davis, Margaret

Hughes, Hilde Wolverton, Debra Gammons, Kitty Barr, Laura Davis, and Tee Davis. Ten year ribbons were awarded to Susan Thomas, Suzanne Wall, Judy Anderson, Jan Johnson. 15 year awards were given to Nancy Disinger, WH Smith, and Janet Kiczek.

Silver Stars were awarded to those who have completed 5 advanced trainings: Jack Garvin, Dorothy Rothbart, Vicki Lloyd, Susan Thomas, and Tee Davis.

Paula thanked the education committee for holding helpful workshops to educate the public; this allows Paula to do other things. It is also with great thanks that Paula reported that Jane Kingsley is retiring from the Friday afternoon slot in the office after 15 wonderful years. That slot is now open for someone. Paula also thanked Lynn Jackson for her year as president of the organization; she has shown great leadership and organization. We are off to a good start at logging hours in 2016 with 90 being reported already.

Perfect attendance awards were given to Joel Johnston, Dorothy Rothbart, Lynn Jackson, and Phyllis King.

Michelle Lewis needs help from master gardeners who enjoy working with young people; she will be working with Youth Connection to renew the youth gardening that she does on Saturdays. She has been doing this since 2012, and some of the young people have returned to work as mentors for younger teens. The project was on hold last year because there was not anyone from Youth Connection to oversee the project. February 5th will be the first planning date for the new year. In order to fund the project, Michelle is sponsoring a contra dance this Saturday at 6:00 pm. This is like a modern square dance and as much fun as anyone can have for \$5.00; it will get this project off to a good start. Instructions will be given to newbies.

Tommie Munroe, our NW District 2 director, spoke to the group about joining GMGA the state organization. This group had their first board meeting for 2016 today, and they are off to an exciting year with many activities. Joyce McArthur is the GMGA Vice President of Education and has been working to show the advantages of being a member of GMGA. For those members who have recently joined, Joyce held a drawing for a car license holder; Debra Gammons won that.

The first field trip for GMGA is February 17th with a trip to Masee Lane Gardens. This will be a tour of the gardens and a box lunch for \$15.00. Joyce will send out an email closer to the time. Money will be collected before the date or even on the day.

WH Smith is the executive chair of the state conference being planned for September 30th and October 1st. It is the very early stages, but there is a great team working on it. Dorothy Rothbart, Lynn Jackson, Joyce McArthur, Nancy Dombrowsky, Neville Brewer, Margaret Hughes, and Phyllis King are some of the chairs and co-chairs. A tentative budget has been set, and the early plans have been made for facilities. Most activities will be at the Cultural Arts Center and the Marriott Hotel. The program committee will have its first meeting tomorrow, 1/22 at 9:30, and Dot Martin, the state president of GMGA will attend our next executive meeting on Wednesday the 27th at 1:00 at the Cultural Arts Center.

The hospitality co-chairs, Cherry Glover and Phyllis King, thanked Kim Littleton for her service in 2015 and announced that we will use the same plan of everyone helping the month after their birthdays. All the January birthdays will help at the February meeting. Thanks to the November and December birthdays who helped tonight.

Vicki Andryc thanked those who helped with the 2015 Christmas Party and asked by a show of hands who all liked the location, food, and program. Most everybody seemed satisfied; Vicki will announce a planning meeting to start working on 2016 soon. Anyone interested is urged to attend. Susan Thomas announced that the 2016 Directory will be electronic as the board approved. However, if anyone has any changes in status, please let Susan know, so she can update the system. If you have not

paid your dues, please do so asap. Richard Littleton suggested that we add a field to show special interest of our members. This would be very helpful in planning programs.

If you have pots to donate for the plant sale, please hold on to them a little while longer. We cannot get to the barn at this time, and Paula needs to complete a couple of livestock shows before she can reserve a spot in the stalls for that purpose. James Hembree will be donating pots for us when we have space for them. We have some new vendors who have small plants that are reasonable in price, but we will need to grow them for a year for them to be viable. It seems that the native azalea market has been saturated, and we need to develop other plants to sell.

Burson's, Everything Outdoors, and Southern States have all donated seeds to the Seed Saver project. Carol needs more prescription bottles and silica packets. PLEASE remove personal information before donating the bottles. She is developing a notebook containing empty seed packets so the seed borrower can read about the seeds they are taking. It will be stored on top of the seed cabinet for public use. She does not need any more glass bottles such as baby food jars. Carol also told us that the rain has washed away much of what had been planted on the trail. Georgia Wildlife Federation has made a big donation of plants to be used. As soon as the weather will cooperate a workday will be scheduled. On 2/16 the Native Plant Society will have Giff Beaton to speak on dragon flies and damselflies. The Native Plant group meets the third Tuesday of the even numbered months: February, April, June, August, and November. Also, there is a conference on 2/20 at the Georgia Perimeter College at the Decatur Campus off Panthersville Road ; it is the 21st Native Plant Symposium and will run from 8 am – 3:45 pm. Presentations include: Ephemerals, Gardening with Stormwater, New and Unusual plants of the Southeast. Workshops on plant photography and plant illustration will be held after lunch.

The only problem with the Buffalo Creek Garden right now is that we cannot get to it. Not much can be done until the 911 construction is completed.

The newsletter will have information about the new programs for Junior Master Gardeners; also, the Rebecca Martin Garden Club is donating funds to this group for the next few months.

There will also be more information about the field trips that the education committee is sponsoring in the newsletter.

If any members bring items to the closet, please be sure that each one is labeled and stored in the correct section.

Richard Littleton reminded all that there will be a workshop on backyard poultry; and, in March, there will be gourds to market.

Our February 11th our program will be Winter Bloomers by James Hembree. David asked that those receiving awards send a head shot to him for the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

CCMGA PHOTO GALLERY

Photographs used with permission and credited where possible. This month's photos are courtesy of David Weiner



Door Prizes at a business meeting? Why not? Come for the info and stay for the swag!!!



The always delightful Kim Littleton addresses the membership.



Paula installs the 2016 Board of Directors. (L-R: Joel Johnston, WH Smith, David Weiner, Phyllis King, Lynn Jackson, and Dorothy Rothbart. Missing from the photo are Neville Brewer and Nancy Dombrowsky)

We endeavoring to procure photos of all the award recipients from this meeting and will publish them, if and when they become available.

