



Remembering Betty Drafall



Recently, a well-respected and loved member of the Paulding County Master gardeners passed away. We will all miss her as we putter around our yards. But I first worked with Betty on the vegetable garden and Paulding Meadows. She often recounted her early years in St. Louis and her mother's garden, which provided healthy vegetables and served as a "victory" garden during World War II. She learned early to love playing in the dirt.

One Master Gardener told me that Betty loved to work in the vegetable garden many years ago. But one year, some wildlife was eating up all the produce. So Betty said that we should get all the Master Gardeners to pee in a jar and spread it around the plants. "That will keep the critters away!" Well, that isn't best practices and we

never did it. She also wanted the gardeners to save their hair for around the vegetables, but that never happened either.

Tina related a story which was typical of Betty's humor. After just recently becoming the County Extension Secretary, I found out that I would soon get to take the Master Gardener training as part of my experience with Extension. During one of Ms. Betty's visits to the office, I mentioned my black thumb to her. She knew just the thing to help me - a NO water plant. "Like Spanish moss?" I inquired. "Something like that," she replied. A few short days later, she delivered to me a piece of driftwood with a succulent like greenery on top. I placed it nearby on the hutch at the front desk. One of the custodial staff was dusting and accidentally knocked the new addition off the hutch. The greenery on top of the driftwood had popped off and laid a short distance away. As she apologized over and over. I examined the greenery for damage. What was this - plastic? No wonder it was a "no water" plant - it was artificial! When I spoke with Ms. Betty the next time, I mentioned her plant gift. She got the biggest chuckle at my expense, but I still have that "no water" plant! Love Ms. Betty and her humor! The "plant" now resides at my home.

Carolyn recalled that as a new master gardener, "I did not know what opportunities there were to get my volunteer hours. At every opportunity Betty would approach me with her sweet smile and generous spirit to make me feel welcome. She was like the welcome fairy. She would invite me to her Saturday farmer market where she was the queen. She always had a twinkle in her eye. Such a special lady."

Other members like Nanci told me that a Betty remark that has stayed with me. A year or so before her 90 something birthday we were talking about growing older and doing it well. Her comment - *"One day I shall just slip down the rabbit hole and be gone."* Many of us know that Ms. Betty loved a good laugh.

Well, one day we will all slip down that same hole and be gone, but let's hope we have lived our lives as well and long as Betty Drafall did.

For more information and details contact Paulding
County UGA Extension
Master Gardener Extension Volunteers
530 West Memorial Drive
Dallas, GA 30132

Email: uge2223@uga.edu
Website: www.ugaextension.org/paulding
Subscribe to our Home and Garden email newsletter at our
website
Phone 770-443-7616