

# The Plot

Official Newsletter of The Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteers

March 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, my fellow Master Gardeners:

Springtime is rapidly approaching and the Daffodils are popping up everywhere. March 13th brings Daylight Savings Time and March 20<sup>th</sup> brings the first day of spring. Don't forget, "March winds and April showers bring the Master Gardener Mother's Day plant sale." Now is a good time to be potting and preparing plants for the sale. Our friend, James Hembree, introduced us to plants with winter interest: *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, *Daphne odora* 'marginata pink', *Osmanthus fragrans* (Tea Olive 'Massee Lane'), *Osmanthus aurantiacus* (Tea Olive orange blossom), and *Camellia Sisensis*, (the tea camellia). These hard-to-find fragrant beauties make great additions to the garden and will be available at the plant sale.



The February field trip to Massee Lane Gardens, home of the American Camellia Society, was very interesting. In addition to the garden tour and history of the gardens, we visited two galleries showcasing Edward Marshall Boehm porcelain sculptures in botanical, wildlife, religious and military themes. Massee Lane has the largest collection of Boehm porcelain in the world. Our guide did a demonstration of Camellia propagation techniques including root cuttings, air layering, and grafting.

The Executive Committee for the GMGA state conference has been very busy procuring the Marriott, Carrollton Cultural Arts Center, conference speakers, and vendors. The theme of the conference is "In My Garden". We are pleased to announce that Ken Druse ([www.kendruse.typepad.com](http://www.kendruse.typepad.com)) and Felder Rushing ([www.felderrushing.net](http://www.felderrushing.net)) will be our featured speakers. Please check out their websites to learn more about these fun and fascinating gardening experts. In addition to Ken and Felder, there will be breakout sessions by others in the field of home landscape design, using natives in the home landscape, and grant writing.

Carroll County Commissioner, Michelle Morgan, will declare April 23 as Georgia Gardener Day in Carroll County. This event will combine MGEV Appreciation Day, Georgia Gardeners Day, and National Gardeners Day. Please join us outside the historic Carroll County Courthouse, Friday, April 1, at 9:45 a.m. to witness this proclamation and for a photo op following the proclamation.

Now, get out there and get busy in your garden!

Dorothy

## LOOKING AHEAD

**CCMGA Monthly Meeting** March 10, 2016 Potluck at 6:00 PM Program at 7:00. Guest speaker is Patricia Gladney, Farmers Fresh CSA

**CCMGA Junior Master Gardener Monthly Meeting** March 14, 2016 Ag Center 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. For further information contact Tyler Hemrock or Carrie Tarpley

**CCMGA Field Trip** March 23, 2016. Hills and Dales Estate (Callaway Family Home and Gardens), LaGrange GA. Carpool leaves Ag Center 8:30 AM. \$15.00 Admission fee. Possibly lunch at Taste of Lemon.

**CCMGA Monthly "Lunch and Learn"**, March 25, 2016 Barbara McCormack will teach about birdhouses.

**CCMGA Spring Workshop** April 2, 2016 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM "How to Turn Your Landscape from 'Before' to After" \$15.00 fee includes catered lunch by Billy Bob's BBQ. More details to follow.

### 2016 Board of Directors CCMGA

Dorothy Rothbart, President [d.rothbart@comcast.net](mailto:d.rothbart@comcast.net)  
Nancy Dombrowsky, Vice President [nancydombrowsky614@gmail.com](mailto:nancydombrowsky614@gmail.com)  
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W H Smith, Director-at-large [whpeggy@bellsouth.net](mailto: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

## **This Month's Guest Speaker**

If you have ever attended our Art in The Garden event or any other of a select group of our programming at the Ag Center, then you are familiar with the work of Patricia Gladney. If you've ever attended a Farm to Table dinner in our area, Mayfest, Taste of Carrollton, or just rambled around Adamson Square and gotten peckish for some all natural nutritious foods, then you, too, have encountered Patricia and her hardworking crew.

Farmers Fresh CSA is an offshoot of the Farmers' Fresh Food Network, a cooperative group of small sustainable farmers in West Georgia and East Alabama. The co-op started in 2004.

Farmers Fresh CSA works with individual farms to encourage the use of organic, sustainable growing practices. By working with over 50 growers and producers, they are able to provide a wide assortment of seasonal vegetables, fruits and herbs every week. They also have access to fresh-baked bread, eggs, meat, grains, flowers and other items produced in our area.

Patricia completed the Master Gardener Training course in 2007, and has graced our Ag Center with her presence and food presentations many times. We are grateful to be able to welcome her yet again to educate and entertain us.

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### **CCMGA BIRTHDAYS MARCH 2016**

|                |    |                |    |
|----------------|----|----------------|----|
| Joel Johnson   | 9  | Jack Garvin    | 27 |
| Darryl Hessel  | 21 | John Bergstrom | 30 |
| Barbara Waters | 22 | Fred Hickson   | 30 |
| W.H. Smith     | 26 |                |    |

# Garden Checklist

MARCH 2016 – APRIL 2016

## MARCH

### THIRD WEEK:

Plant beets, cauliflower, mustard, radish and turnips in your garden.  
Planting fescue now? You can't use a pre-emergent weed preventer for six weeks after seeding.  
Divide overgrown clumps of hosta now that you can see the leaves unfurling aboveground.  
Fertilize pecan trees with one pound of 10-10-10 for every inch of trunk thickness.

### FOURTH WEEK:

Examine the backside of euonymus and camellia leaves for scale insects. Thoroughly spray with horticultural oil if the pests are found.  
Remove spent camellia blooms from the bush and from the ground. You'll prevent camellia petal blight.  
Last chance to prune bush roses to approximately one half their present size.  
Repot houseplants you plan to move outdoors. Their roots will need more room as they grow rapidly in the sun.  
Wait to plant gladiolus, canna and caladium bulbs until mid-April – they all need warm soil in which to grow.

### FIFTH WEEK

Building near a tree? Be careful – ninety percent of the tree's roots are in the top twelve inches of soil.  
Forsythia, quince and winter honeysuckle can be pruned to a smaller size after flowering.  
Fertilize shrubs: 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 (or shrub fertilizer) per foot of height.  
Sharpen your mower blade or replace it with a new one.

## APRIL

### FIRST WEEK:

Divide over-wintered baskets of Boston fern into four sections. Plant new hanging baskets using two sections of fern in each.  
Green grass in a Bermuda lawn is probably *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass). You can try digging it out but, better yet, make a mental note to put out weed preventer next September.  
Plant dahlias, elephant ear, gladiolus and caladiums now.  
Prepare spots where you intend to sod by first killing all weeds present. Use glyphosate (Roundup) or glufosinate (Finale).  
Examine the backside of euonymus and holly leaves for the white crust that signifies scale insects.  
Thoroughly spray leaves with horticultural oil.

### SECOND WEEK:

It is safe to plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in your garden now that the soil is warm.  
Remove withered flowers from florist's azaleas you receive for Easter to prolong their blooming.  
Move houseplants outdoors gradually. Never place them in full sunshine; filtered shade is best.  
It's never the wrong time to lime your lawn. Forty pounds per 1000 square feet is approximately enough but a soil test can tell you exactly what you need.  
Spray azaleas with insecticidal soap if you have had azalea lace bug problems in the past.

(Source: Walter Reeves, Georgia Gardener, Seasonal Calendar MARCH2016/APRIL 2016)

## **OTHER HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA**

### **Trees Atlanta's 4th Annual Native Wildflower and Vine Sale**

**Date:** 02 April 2016

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Cost:**

**Location:** Freedom Farmers' Market at The Carter Center

**Phone:** (404) 458-4515

**Details:**

Over 1700 individual plants—native wildflowers, grasses, and tree-friendly vines will be available for purchase at the Fourth Annual Trees Atlanta Native Plant Sale.

The selection showcases the native perennial wildflowers that are planted on the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum. Included are great bird-and-butterfly-friendly species such as milkweed, native lilies, aster, jack-in-the-pulpit, and goldenrod. We'll have many species of vines, ferns, and grasses for sale, too.

### **The Annual Forsyth County Master Gardener Plant Sale and Garden Event**

**Date:** 08 April 2016 - 09 April 2016

**Time:** 8:00AM-5:00PM

**Cost:** Free to the public

**Location:** Cumming Fairgrounds, 235 Castleberry Road, Cumming, GA 30040

**Phone:** (770) 887-2418

**Details:**

Visit us at "The Barn" and have your gardening needs met by the quality vendors offering native plants, shrubs, trees, annuals, garden items and more. Plants adapted and hardy for this area. Master Gardeners will answer all your gardening needs and give expert advice as well as sharing up to date research based information. Drop by the Master Gardener Plant Booth and purchase pass-a-long plants from their gardens. Free presentations throughout the day, raffles, food vendors, handicap parking.

### **6th Annual Plantapalooza**

**Date:** 09 April 2016

**Time:** 8:00AM - 2:00PM

**Cost:**

**Location:** State Botanical Garden of Georgia

**Phone:** (706) 542-6014

**Details:**

Athens is known as a gardening destination year-round, but when three University of Georgia entities have plant sales from 8 am to 2 pm Athens will be the place for gardeners to be! Sales are at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at 2450 S. Milledge Avenue, The Trial Gardens at UGA at 220 W. Green Street, and the UGA Horticulture Club at the intersection of College Station Road and Riverbend Road. Each sale offers a different experience.

### **Azalea Chapter ARS Annual Plant Sale**

**Date:** 09 April 2016 - 09 April 2016

**Time:** 8:00AM - 4:00PM

**Cost:** Fee to public; plants sold from \$5.00 to \$30.00

**Location:** 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, GA 30033

**Phone:** (770) 262-6491

**Details:**

Oak Grove United Methodist Church, 1722 Oak Grove Road, Decatur, GA 30033. The sale features regionally grown Native Azaleas, Evergreen Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Camellias, Mt. Laurel and Companion Plants, not typically available at local garden centers.

### **Georgia Native Plant Society Plant Sale**

**Date:** 16 April 2016 - 16 April 2016

**Time:** 10:00AM - 2:00PM

**Cost:** None

**Location:** McFarlane Nature Park, Marietta

**Phone:** (770) 343-6000

**Details:**

Join us for our annual Spring Native Plant Sale. Each year our volunteers come together to offer thousands of native plants for sale. These plants come from a variety of sources: they are propagated by our volunteers, rescued from local construction sites, donated from our members' gardens, donated by nurseries and purchased from reputable sources.

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

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**CCMGA Scholarship Committee, Kim and Richard Littleton, co-chairs**

March 17 - 2:00 at the Ag Center. Anyone who is interested in helping us update the Carroll County MG Scholarship process is invited to a planning meeting with Richard and Kim Littleton. We need a good bit of input and would love to have a round table discussion on all of the aspects of the annual scholarship that we give. We'll be making some recommendations to the Board as a result of this discussion.

We'd like to get more guidelines in place concerning who is eligible and, if there are multiple applicants, how preference is awarded. Richard and Kim plan to market our scholarship through the connections that Richard has made with local high schools and the technical and 4 year colleges that offer the programs we'd like to support as Master Gardeners.

If this interests you at all, please come to the meeting. This does not mean that you have to serve on the committee, but the more input we have the better the ideas can be vetted and worked through.

If you are planning on coming just email me at [khlittleton@yahoo.com](mailto:khlittleton@yahoo.com). I'll send you the agenda ahead of time so you can be thinking about things. Hope to see you on March 17 at 2:00 at the Ag Center.

Thanks. Kim and Richard

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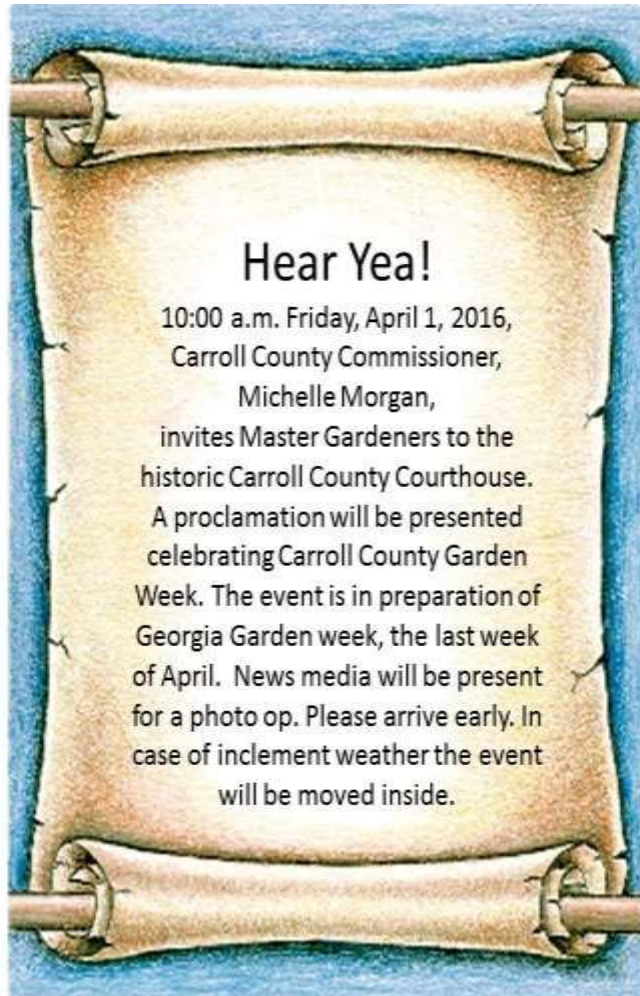
**Junior Master Gardener Program, Katy Lazar**

Our next JMG meeting will be Monday, March 14th from 4:30-6 pm at the Ag Center. We are learning about Zen gardening.

We are pleased to announce that we are expanding! In September, we will be adding 2 more programs, Sprouts and Teens. The Sprouts group will be for ages 6-8 and the Teens group will be for ages 13-16. JMG will be for ages 9-12. We will all meet on the same night, have snack together as a big group and then go into separate groups. In December we will all meet together to do our community service at the Veteran's center. The applications for Sprouts and Teens are now ready. Please fill the forms out completely before adding your child or grandchild to the sign up list. We are taking a maximum of 12 kids for Sprouts and Teens as of right now, due to space limitations. If you have questions about Sprouts please email Katy Lazar at [katylazar@hotmail.com](mailto:katylazar@hotmail.com), JMG please email Carrie Tarpley at [carrietarpley@bellsouth.net](mailto:carrietarpley@bellsouth.net) or Tyler Hemrock at [mgardener13@yahoo.com](mailto:mgardener13@yahoo.com), and for Teens please email Tee Davis at [teedavis49@yahoo.com](mailto:teedavis49@yahoo.com). We are looking forward to expanding our program!

Camp applications will be available in April. Camp is just for junior master gardeners ages 9-12. We are offering a 4 day camp this year from June 7-10.

If you would like to help with any of our programs or camp please let me know. Thanks! Katy Lazar





**“March winds and April Showers  
Bring forth the  
Master Gardener Mother’s Day Plant Sale”**



Now is the time for potting plants.

There is a supply of plastic pots located in the far right corner of the outside arena. Paula is allowing us to use this area until April 24. The Ag Center will be hosting a livestock show beginning April 25. Please plan accordingly and keep the storage area neat and tidy.

Potting soil is located beside the school house. Soil will be replenished as needed.

As you prepare plants, please email me a list of your donations so that the signage committee can prepare appropriate colorful signs. This helps clients identify plants they may wish to purchase.

Mini blinds are needed for plant markers. Please bring donations to the Plant Sale shelf located in the Master Gardener closet. Just drop by the Ag Office and an office volunteer can open the closet.

## Seed Savers, Carol Hight

We can still use prescription bottles, but please remove the labels, or your personal information. Put them on top of the seed cabinet.

If you have seeds left over after you plant your own garden, consider donating leftover seeds to the seed cabinet. Just put them in an envelope and write the kind of seed, year of harvest, and any special instructions for growing. If the seeds are in a seed envelope, just put the envelope on top of the cabinet and I'll put them in jars.

If you have silica gel packets that come in medicine bottles, shoe boxes, etc. Please save those for the seed cabinet. These absorb moisture and keep the seeds viable much longer. And don't forget to get seeds from the cabinet for your own use.

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### ***Monthly Recipe Box***

This month's recipe was provided by Joyce McArthur from <http://www.food.com/recipe/green-chili-and-corn-casserole>

### **GREEN CHILI AND CORN CASSEROLE**

4 cups whole kernel corn (from frozen, not canned)  
1 cup butter, melted  
4 eggs, beaten  
1 cup yellow cornmeal  
3 teaspoons salt  
2 cups sour cream  
2 cups monterey jack cheese, grated  
8 ounces green chilies, peeled

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#### DIRECTIONS

1. Combine the first seven ingredients.
2. Rinse seeds from chilis, chop the chilis and add to mixture.
3. Pour into a greased casserole pan.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes (or until casserole is firm and has a golden brown color).

## SAVE THE DATE

### GMGA 2016 State Conference Sneak Peek

Between now and the opening of the GMGA 2016 Conference here in Carrollton, we will give everyone a quick look behind the scenes at the preparations as they move forward. We want the entire membership to have a stake in the success of this event and one of the best ways to insure that is to keep everyone up to date with the myriad details as they get put in place.

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One of the confirmed speakers is Felder Rushing. He is a 10th-generation American gardener whose colonial and pioneer ancestors settled across the Southeast, bringing many plants with them. Rushing's overstuffed, quirky cottage garden has been featured in dozens of magazines and TV programs - including a cover of Southern Living and in the New York Times; the celebrated garden includes a huge variety of weather-hardy plants along with a collection of vernacular folk art. There is no turfgrass, just plants, yard art, and "people places."

Felder is the international founder of **Slow Gardening**, a highly satisfying approach that focuses on finding and following personal garden bliss, using all senses through all seasons. It is a guide towards paying better attention to and savoring what you do, and encourages the cultivation of locally-adapted plants grown sustainably and shared with others.

The author or co-author of 18 gardening books, including several national award winners, and former Extension Service urban horticulture specialist (fully retired, at an early age) who actually started the **Master Gardener** program in his state, Felder has written thousands of gardening columns in syndicated newspapers, and has had hundreds of articles and photographs published in regional and national garden magazines,

Felder, who was featured in **Southern Living** magazine's 25th anniversary issue as one of "twenty five people most likely to change the South" has been singled out in three times in full-length **New York Times** articles.

Believing that too many would-be gardeners are intimidated by a crush of "how-to" experts ("We are daunted, not dumb," he says), Felder uses an offbeat, "down home" approach rife with humorous anecdotes and garden-irreverent metaphors, zany observations, and stunning photography to help gardeners of all styles and skill levels get past his own beloved "stinkin' rules" of horticulture.

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The second speaker to agree to appear at the conference, *Ken Druse* has been called a "gardening superstar." With sixteen books to his credit, frequent television appearances, regular articles for leading national newspapers and magazines, and now with his Podcast, he is one of the nation's leading voices of natural gardening. His groundbreaking book, "The Natural Garden," initiated a design movement that continues to grow in popularity today.

An organic gardener, writer, photographer, designer, and naturalist, Ken's passion is to inspire and empower others to make gardening part of a balanced life, and to enhance their community through taking care of their piece of the earth.

In April, 2004, Ken received the Sarah Chapman Francis Medal for "Literary Achievement" from the Garden Club of America. This lifetime award was presented for Ken's entire body of work communicating about gardening and the environment.

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Make sure you reserve October 1, 2016 to see these and other speakers extend their knowledge to all of us who attend. Register early, volunteer for helping out, and help spread the word to all and sundry who love gardening.

**\*\*\*\*\*NEW FEATURE\*\*\*\*\***

Starting with January'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**

Article for 2/9/16 Times-Georgian

Can a Bird Fly Through It?

Apple Tree Pruning

By Marilyn Van Pelt

Carroll County Master Gardener Volunteer

It is said that a bird should be able to fly through your apple tree without touching a branch. Pruning any tree or shrub seems to be the great mystery to many gardeners. I have finally concluded that pruning is not only a science but an art form when working with decorative trees and shrubs; however, apple trees need strategic cuts that encourage fruiting spurs and keep the branches open so that sunlight and air can reach all the ripening fruit. Apple trees should be pruned in late winter, but you can prune into the

spring and summer if you must. Pruning apple trees improves the tree's health and fruit production. Most of the critical pruning should take place the first 3 years of an apple tree's life.

All fruit trees benefit from moderate annual pruning but removing more than a third of the tree could stimulate more branches and no fruit. In addition to proper pruning, branches may need to be gently forced into a more open canopy to allow for light and air circulation. This can be accomplished by bending them to as close to horizontal as you can get and securing them with soft rope or twine, staking it to the ground. There are also manufactured spreaders that can accomplish this. Ideally, branches should be in the 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock positions, rather than growing straight up. When choosing apple tree varieties, it is important to know which varieties do best in our area. Some varieties need cooler climates. Also, knowing which trees are pollinators and which varieties need pollinators is most important. Many nursery catalogues include pollination compatibility charts or recommend good apple varieties to use as pollinizers. Always read the labels on the trees.

Many people get frustrated when the fruit trees they plant in their gardens seem to take forever to bear fruit. On average, standard size apple tree varieties take from 3 to 5 years to produce. Dwarf varieties of apple trees should start producing earlier, many within the 2nd or 3rd growing season after transplanting. There are other factors that affect when your tree starts to bear.

Location, soil and weather play a big role in successful fruiting. A tree in full to partial shade is fighting an uphill battle. Apple trees can survive in partial shade, but they will take longer to begin bearing fruit. They require some nutrients to survive. But excessively rich soil or heavy fertilization may encourage branch and leaf growth at the expense of fruit production. If buds have been forming and not opening, it is probably the weather that is at fault. A particularly cold, windy winter can damage susceptible flower buds. More likely it would be the result of a late spring frost, especially if the buds have already begun to swell.

Too much fruit doesn't seem like it should be a problem, but there are two drawbacks to over abundance. First, a large fruit set means that the tree's resources are stressed. You usually have to choose between a large harvest of small fruits or a small harvest of good-sized fruits. Secondly, some fruit tree varieties deal with the stress of a large crop by taking a rest the year after a heavy harvest. You can correct both problems by thinning the crop while the fruits are still tiny, about three weeks after bloom time. Remove all but one fruit from each of the spurs or small branch offshoots where the fruit is produced. Leave the largest, hardiest looking fruit to survive.

The apple season in Georgia generally spans mid June through early December. It's best to select apple tree varieties based on our particular apple tree region because of weather conditions and temperature fluctuations. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension addresses this issue by dividing the state into apple zones, then assigning the most suitable varieties to each zone.

Carroll County is in Zone 3. Ideal types for this apple zone are Ginger Gold, Gala, Mollie's Delicious, Ozark Gold, Red Delicious, Jonagold, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Mutzu, Yates and Granny Smith.

Confession: I have several apple trees that don't produce very well. Although I prune them, some are probably poor choices for this area, planted in the wrong place or they have diseases and pest problems that I don't address very well. This is a topic for another article. The truth is, many fruit trees need a schedule of care. If it's been at least 5 years and you've provided your fruit tree with good care and growing conditions and still nothing, contact a Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer at 770-836-8546, via e-mail at [ccmg@uga.edu](mailto:ccmg@uga.edu) or visit our office in the Ag Center at 900 Newnan Road in Carrollton.

## Ask a Master Gardener

February 16, 2016

Kitty Barr, Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer

Q. I'm going to lay sod in my front yard this weekend. I need to get my soil tested pronto so I'll know what to add to it. What do I do? Eddie E.

A. First, slow down and let's read a little bit about dirt. Anything, whether organic or chemical, that you add to your soil won't change its chemical composition for about 3-4 months. That's how long it takes for the ground to absorb it and for added matter to change the pH of your soil.

It's the pH in your soil that you are trying to adjust. If your pH is out of whack 50% of the fertilizer you put down will not be used by your lawn, shrubs, vegetables and/or flowers. Nutrients can't be absorbed if the soil in which they are planted is either too acidic or too alkaline for that particular plant. For example azaleas, blueberry bushes and potatoes like soil with a pH of 5 – 5.5. Most garden crops want the soil pH to be 5.5 – 6.5. Adding lime to the soil can change the pH.

First, let's discover what pH means. An explanation even I can understand is this: the "p" represents power, or potential, while the "H" stands for Hydrogen or a concentration of hydrogen ions in the soil. The pH scale as you remember from school measures the acidity and alkalinity of everything. It ranges from 1-14. To give you an idea: Gastric stomach acid has a pH of 1; water is neutral with a pH of 7; and bleach has a pH of 13. Remember litmus strips? You dipped them in solutions to determine their pH. If put in an acid like orange juice they turned pink, and if put into ammonia they turned blue.

Soil needs to be between 5.5 – 6.5 pH to make fertilizer and other natural organic material available to most plants. This is called lightly acid soil and in Northwest Georgia usually involves adding lime to our naturally acid Georgia red clay. You can purchase pelletized lime at any garden store. You want to specify the pellets because the powder is a mess to handle and you will have as much on you as on the ground.

How do you find out how much to use? Here's where your tax dollars work for you. All over the United States, state universities provide services to citizens about thousands of topics through their "Cooperative Extension". The UGA Cooperative Extension has an office in Carroll County (an "extension" of the University of Georgia) where you can bring soil samples which will be mailed to Athens, GA, analyzed, and a report mailed or emailed to you with information on what to add to your soil.

To get a soil sample from your property that will be usable for analyzing you must take 6-10 samples from your lawn, or garden. Dig down about 4 inches for lawns (no, they don't want the actual grass, just the dirt) and 6" for gardens and wander all around getting samples from all over the area. In order not to contaminate your soil, use a clean, washed spade or trowel and put your dry soil in a clean container.

Mix your soil samples from each area together thoroughly. Note, don't mix your vegetable soil with your lawn soil! Keep each area's dirt separate. Bring at least a pint of each dry sample in a new quart plastic bag (say, a pint from the lawn, a pint from the garden, a pint from your shade garden), to the county Extension office. Write on each bag where it came from and what you want to grow in that area. Maybe you want to keep growing what you have – zoysia grass, or tomatoes – label it accordingly. If you want to try a new crop write on the bag what the new crop will be.

The Carroll County UGA Extension office is located at 900 Newnan Road in Carrollton. Open weekdays 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm. The staff there will ask you for name, address and phone number and fill up a small brown bag with each of your soil samples. Samples are mailed to UGA's Soil lab where

they will be analyzed and results returned by the following week. Staff will e-mail or mail you the results including tables showing what and how much to add to your garden areas or lawn.

For more information contact a Carroll County Master Gardener Extension Volunteer at 770-836-8546 or ccmg@uga.edu, or visit the office in the Ag Center at 900 Newnan Road in Carrollton.

**\*\*\*\*\*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 2/29/2016 |  |                 |                 |               |                  |                  |                       |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|  |  | INCOME          | EXPENSE         | NET TOTAL     | BUDGET           | TILL AVAILABL    | Bank Balances         |
| ADMINISTRATIVE                                 |  | 239.28          | (181.36)        | 57.92         | 2,000.00         | 1,942.08         |                       |
| AG HERITAGE                                    |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 500.00           | 500.00           | Checking \$36,483     |
| CHRISTMAS PARTY                                |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 1,000.00         | 1,000.00         | Money Market \$11,331 |
| DEMO GARDEN                                    |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 5,500.00         | 5,500.00         | CD \$10,041           |
| DONATIONS                                      |  | 5.00            | 0.00            | 5.00          | 2,500.00         | 2,495.00         | \$57,855              |
| EDUCATION*                                     |  | 0.00            | (109.74)        | (109.74)      | 3,500.00         | 3,390.26         |                       |
| GRANTS*  |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 2,500.00         | 2,500.00         |                       |
| HOSPITALITY                                    |  | 0.00            | 311.78          | (311.78)      | 1,000.00         | 688.22           |                       |
| JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS                        |  | 123.00          | (131.27)        | (8.27)        | 5,000.00         | 4,991.73         |                       |
| MEMBERSHIP                                     |  | 1,320.00        | 0.00            | 1,320.00      | 0.00             | 0.00             |                       |
| SCHOLARSHIP                                    |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 3,500.00         | 3,500.00         |                       |
| STATE CONFERENCE                               |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 5,000.00         | 5,000.00         |                       |
| COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS                         |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 2,500.00         | 2,500.00         |                       |
| CCMG MEMORIAL FUND                             |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 500.00           | 500.00           |                       |
| HIDDEN GARDEN TOURS                            |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 1,000.00         | 1,000.00         |                       |
| PLANT SALE                                     |  | 0.00            | (585.00)        | (585.00)      | 0.00             | 0.00             |                       |
| WREATH SALE                                    |  | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00          | 0.00             | 0.00             |                       |
| <b>TOTAL YTD</b>                               |  | <b>1,687.28</b> | <b>(695.59)</b> | <b>368.13</b> | <b>36,000.00</b> | <b>35,631.87</b> |                       |

(provided by Neville Brewer, 2016 Treasurer CCMGA)

## CCMGA MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 2016

Nancy Dombrowsky, our 2016 vice president, introduced James Hembree, our speaker for the evening. She reminded us of the many things James has accomplished. He is an honorary Master Gardener; a member of the Chamber of Commerce; serves on the Winery Board; has been a Boy Scout leader for 25 years. His sons achieved the status of Eagle Scouts.

James' topic for the program was "Plants with Winter Interest." That interest can be derived from structure, color, foliage, blooms, architecture. It can be as simple as placement. An oak tree's beauty can be lost in a thick forest, but alone in a field, it can be an inspiring sight. James described many plants that can provide interest in the winter garden; grasses, in particular, show a great deal of interest. Miscanthus sinensis, panicum virgatum, and sedge sweet grass are three good ones which are pretty year round, but each one will save something special for the winter season. Some will change color with the seasons. Calendula is a winter bloomer which can bloom with frost on it. However, most gardeners feel that camellias are the ultimate winter bloomers which provide color from late September through March. UGA has a list of the best varieties for North Georgia. The tea olive also blooms in the dead of winter and has a lemon scent. The native Devilwood is an especially unique variety. James went on to describe many more plants that offer color, texture, and interest year round. He also revealed that many of these plants are not available at local outlets, but most can be ordered on line and gave us three suggestions: Woodlanders, Inc; Nurseries Caroliniana; and Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. James told us about a special project for Earth Week; he will be leading volunteers to landscape the corner of Lovvorn Road and Brumbelow. He will give more information to be sent out on the list serve. James also brought a plethora of beautiful plants for door prizes which delighted lucky members leaving with a plant to bring interest to their very own garden.

At 8:35 pm Dorothy Rothbart, our president, called the business meeting to order. The first item was approval of the January minutes; WH made a motion to approve, and Cherrie seconded. The motion carried.

Neville Brewer presented the treasurer's report as follows: checking – \$37,198; money market – 11,330; cd – 10,041 with a total of \$58,569. A report will be included in the monthly newsletter to show what has been spent by each committee and how much remains in the budget. Richard moved that we accept the report; Mark seconded. The motion carried.

Paula thanked Jim Langham and all who helped with the breakfast this morning. She also expressed her appreciation of the enthusiasm of the trainees in this new training class and the response to the mentor program. She welcomed those trainees who attended tonight.

Dorothy shared information about MGEV Appreciation. Several years ago Governor Deal signed a proclamation that the third week of April would be Georgia Garden Week. Michelle Morgan is the project chair for the Spade & Trowel Garden Club and a county commissioner. Her intention is to work with local garden clubs to recognize Garden Week in Carroll County. She is planning the proclamation for April 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. If it is raining, she has made plans to move inside. Photographs will be made and sent to the newspaper in time for the third week in April. We will announce this again to have representation for this event.

WH Smith, chairperson for the 2016 GMGA State Conference, reported that the various committees and sub committees have been established and are working diligently to organize an outstanding



conference. The state president, Dot Martin, and the state treasurer, Linda Nunez, will be here on the 18<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming executive committee meeting.

Cherrie Glover, co-chair for the Hospitality Committee, thinks that the system we are currently using is working well. Each member is contacted and asked to help in the month following his/her birthday. Susan Thomas has almost finished the update to the membership file, but she needs a few more photographs.

The Mother's Day Plant Sale Committee is working on bringing some different varieties to the 2016 sale.

Vicki Andryc reported that the Education Committee is planning 3 field trips this year: Hills and Dales on March 23<sup>rd</sup>; in May we will visit Atlanta Botanical Garden for the Chihuly display; and the last one to the Birmingham Botanical Garden. We are also working on a spring workshop for April 2<sup>nd</sup>; the theme will be landscape design.

Flo Hayes informed us of a new schedule of workdays for the Buffalo Creek Trail; all workdays will begin at 10:00 am: February 17<sup>th</sup>, February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Work will be focused on the Greenbelt entrance; there are a great many plants to put in the ground. On 2/16 the Native Plant Society will have Giff Beaton to speak on dragonflies and damselflies; the program begins at 7:00 pm. Richard Littleton will lead a Backyard Poultry Workshop over 4 weeks covering 4 different areas of poultry production. Attending a single session costs \$15; attending all four costs \$45.

Ginny McGee informed us that February 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> will be the dates for a special quilting display entitled "Expo at the Depot" at the museum. There will be displays and vendors which will highlight quilting and sewing. The applied quilts of Jan Cunningham are on display, and the guild has a display at the regional library this month.

Paula reminded everyone of the next Advanced Training on March 11<sup>th</sup>; this session will focus on vegetable production and be hosted by the Douglas County master Gardeners. Paula also updated us regarding the new driveway to the garden which will probably be installed in front of the schoolhouse. With the new construction hopefully there will be a plan that we will gain some parking space.

Another project will be improving water drainage around the building; one of the first steps will be pulling out the wooden borders around the beds and another step will be to remove the overgrown hollies. We will develop a new design for more attractive and more appropriately sized plantings.

Paula also reminded us to enter hours on MGLog; she will update us on some of the new techniques and a new method that allows us to use the application on our phones. Paula reminded us again of the April 1<sup>st</sup> appearance on the historic court house steps at 10:00.

Flo Hayes moved that we adjourn at 8:50 pm; Joan Bagwell seconded. Motion carried.

## CCMGA PHOTO GALLERY

Photographs used with permission and credited where possible. This month's photos are courtesy of Dorothy Rothbart, Phyllis King, and the last from David Weiner



**Here's the 2016 class again. This time with their mentors and Paula.**



**The CCMGA Training class for 2016. If you see them, tell them "welcome".**



**The inimitable James Hembree from UWG talks about “Winter Bloomers”.**



**Two of the new trainees learning from one of the best. Thanks for sharing your expertise, WH.**



**The sharing of knowledge is one of the best parts of the monthly meetings.**



**Grant McGukin and Nancy Dombrowsky hailing a cab at Masee Lane Gardens**



**Nancy and Phyllis get up close instructions on grafting techniques for Camellias.**



**Air layering of Camellias at Masseur Lane.**



**Grafting explained...**



**Making a mini-hothouse for your graft....**



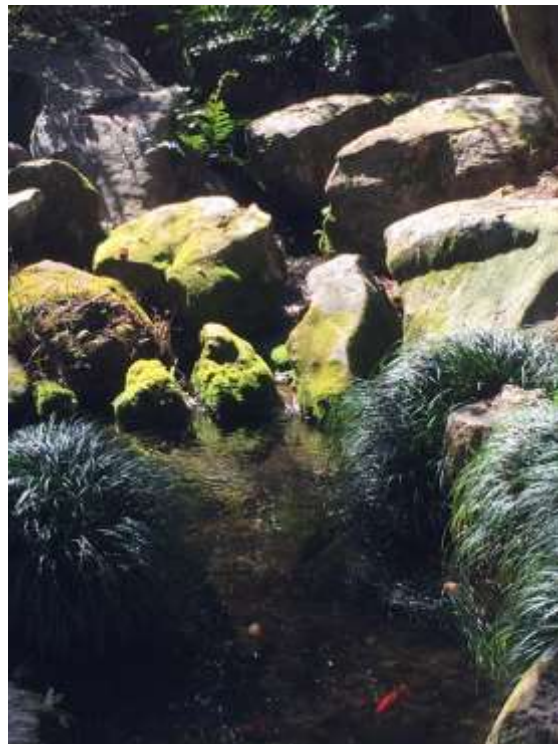
**Just a parade of lovely views throughout the Gardens...**



**The stars of the show....**











**It's not all Camellias: Platycerium in the Greenhouse.**



**Planning the GMGA State Conference 2016: the Executive Committee, Committee co-chairs, and the visitors from GMGA gather together to plan what should prove to be an outstanding event. Want to help???**

