



## Over the Garden Gate

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### *President's Corner*

*by Sharon Van de Water*

Dear Master Gardeners,  
Here comes summer and I'm sure we are all looking forward to the beauty this season always brings. We were all excited to be a part of the very successful Spring Garden Expo. We had a great turnout of vendors and local garden enthusiasts. Thanks to every member that donated time to make this a memorable event.

June brought our bi-annual Garden Walk and a chance to visit several outstanding home and community gardens. Visitors viewed the latest enhancements to Gardens on Green, learned about native plants and environmental stewardship at the newly

opened Linwood Preserve and were inspired by unique designs and whimsy of notable home gardens of fellow Master Gardeners.

As our membership continues to grow we are happy to be in our new meeting space at the Brenau Downtown Center (formerly the Mountain Center) at 301 Main Street SW. Please come early and enjoy refreshments and conversation.

Please make note on your calendar that we will be having our regular third Tuesday meeting in July but we will not hold our monthly meeting in August. Plan to attend our end of summer picnic in September in lieu of our (Sept.) meeting.

Once again, Lynn Kempler will host the event at her lovely home. Lynn's gardens will be open to us and we'll enjoy views and conversation from tables on the wrap around porch. You will not want to miss it!

#### HCMG Officers

President Sharon Van de Water

Vice President Chris Michael

Secretary Sharon Marler

Treasurer Beverly Brinson

President Elect Don Linke

Past President Sarah Galshack

Members at Large Ken Slater, Bill McMahan

### *Searching for Insect Eggs*

*by Karin Hicks*

Many animals carefully tend to their offspring, only leaving their young in search of food. Insects on the other hand do not have such parental instincts. Monarch butterflies simply lay eggs on milkweed plants, ensuring ample food for their hungry caterpillars. The destructive emerald ash borer lays its eggs in crevices of tree

bark so that the larvae can chew their way into the wood. And, many creatures such as grasshoppers, Japanese beetles, earwigs, snails and slugs deposit their eggs in the soil where they are well protected from both adverse weather and predators.

Finding a clump of insects eggs

on your plants could indicate a potential pest problem, but don't be too quick to get rid of them. Those eggs might belong to a beneficial insect. Ladybugs lay clusters of yellow or orange elongated oval eggs on the underside of leaves, usually on plants with aphids or scale insects. Their eggs, however,

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## Notes from the Extension Office



Robin Friedman  
Hall County Master Gardener Coordinator

Photo courtesy of Penny Stowe

Sustainability, community, environmental stewardship, conservation and education are words that immediately come to mind when you spend a few minutes talking to Robin Friedman, our new Master Gardener Coordinator. Robin recently transplanted to Georgia after spending the last fifteen years living and working abroad in international and nature education. She is passionate about community and is excited to set roots and grow in Hall County.

Inspired by her own children and her students, Robin began incorporating sustainable practices into her own daily life and building the love and need to be nature and humanity stewards into her daily curriculum. Building upon the natural curiosity and development of children, exploring the natural world and seed to table gardening became

an integral part of schools and institutions where Robin was involved. Everywhere she has lived has provided its own set of gardening challenges. Here in Georgia Robin is learning about our clay soil. She recently installed 6 (4 x 10) raised beds after removing 28 Loblolly Pine trees in order to provide a sunny area for growing herbs and vegetables, then installed fencing for ‘flying’ deer. Expecting the first year(s) to not be super successful, Robin has been pleasantly surprised to find her first crops overflowing and ready for harvest. As a zealous cook, Robin is enthusiastic about using harvest from her own organic garden, farmer’s markets and local food co-ops.

Her professional goals are to become a Master Naturalist, to help provide easier and affordable access to healthy foods, encourage sustainable

food practices and networks, and to grow nature education in Hall County. Believing we are life-long learners, she plans to bring Advanced Training and Continuing Education to HCMG. In her spare time she enjoys family time, yoga, kayaking, dance, building her healthy food recipes, and of course exploring the natural world. Robin is also eager to learn more about our native plants so that she can incorporate them into her mostly shade landscape on Lake Lanier.

As Master Gardener Coordinator she sees her role as connecting the interests, skills and talents of our members to the needs of the community. She would like to fully support Master Gardeners’ projects by finding out what the community resources and needs are

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If only sweat were irrigation

## Olive Oil & Rosemary Shortbread

by Karin Hicks

One of my favorite sweet-savory blends is this shortbread recipe using rosemary harvested straight from my garden.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. finely minced fresh rosemary
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 2 cups sifter all-purpose flour
- Extra virgin olive oil, for brushing

In a bowl, beat the butter on low speed until smooth. Add the sugar, rosemary and salt and mix on low speed until well combined. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and mix on medium speed until it resembles mayonnaise. Add the flour and mix until uniform in texture. Gather the dough into a ball and transfer to a piece of plastic wrap and flatten to form a rectangle measuring 10” thick. Wrap tightly and refrigerate for at

least 3 hours. Using a biscuit cutter punch cookies out and lay on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake for about 18 minutes at 350 degrees, until golden around the edges, rotating the pan midway through the baking time. Brush the tops with olive oil immediately when they come out of the oven. Let cool and enjoy. Can be stored for up to 3 days.



Photo courtesy of Gardenista

Recipe comes from *The Blue Bottle Craft of Coffee* published by Ten Speed Press

## Beware of Invasive Ornamentals

by Hugo Kollmer

Whether purchased from a vendor or gifted by a friend, including another Master Gardener, you and I have probably at some point regretted being attracted to a plant which refused to be confined. In this instance, I'm referring to annual and perennial ornamental herbaceous plants, not kudzu, poison ivy, oriental privet, bamboo, etc. Plants I've come to regret having, together with my estimation of the degree of difficulty eradicating them (on a scale of 1 to 10) include the following:

Evening primrose (*Oenothera spp.*): Bearing small pretty blooms, this plant reproduces by seed and rhizomes. It is resistant to both selective and non-selective herbicides. Persisting in my garden for more than 12 years of efforts to eradicate it, I rank this one a 10.

Mexican petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*): This tall plant with its purple blossoms reproduces by seeds and deeply rooted rhizomes reaching several feet in length. New plants emerge from even tiniest rhizome fragments. Non-selective herbicides also provide effective control. I rank this southern invader an 8.

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*): should be renamed disobedient plant. Reproduces by seeds and from rhizomes. Relatively easy to pull. I rank this one a 5.

Snow-on-the Mountain, aka Bishop's weed (*Euphorbia marginata*): Although a great pollinator attractor, this weed, which

reproduces by seed and rhizomes, is extremely aggressive and will crowd out neighboring plants. Pulling is futile because any lingering rhizome fragments will shortly develop into new plants. Non-selective herbicides are an effective control. I rank this one a 9.

Big Leaf Periwinkle (*Vinca major*): Often used in containers gardens. When planted in the ground, this semi-evergreen vine with pretty blue flowers, sends out rhizomes which quickly spread to unwanted places. It is perhaps best controlled by pulling and use of a non-selective herbicide. I rank this plant a 6.

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*): Reproducing prolifically from seed like mint, this fragrant herb also reproduces from rhizomes. It rapidly escapes its bounds, creating an infestation. Herbicides provide control, but seeds will persist and germinate in unexpected places. I rank this one a 7.

Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*): Beware of this specimen with a sweet sounding name and billowing clouds of fragrant blooms. Mine behaved itself for a couple of years before seedlings began to appear far and wide. While a juvenile, it can be pulled with relative ease. Later it becomes more deeply rooted, necessitating the use of tools to extract it. It can also be controlled with selective and non-selective herbicides. I

rank this one a 3.

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia spp.*): a long-time gardener's favorite, some varieties of black-eyed Susan are well behaved, while others are just the opposite. Reproducing from seed and rhizomes, these noxious plants spread rapidly, forming large clumps which crowd out less tolerant neighbors. Black-eyed Susan can be pulled, although with difficulty. It can also be controlled with herbicides. I rank this one an 8.

Cypress vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*): Regionally an annual, this vine with its delicate fern-like foliage and tiny red blossoms is popular with hummingbirds and some species of butterflies. Grown on an arbor, it also lends interest to the landscape. The negative aspect of this plant is it won't stay confined. Abundant seeds, spread by birds to unwanted places, produce long vines which twist around and strangle desirable adjacent plants. Seedlings are relatively easy to pull, but seeds can remain dormant in the soil for several years ensuring an annual presence to be dealt with. I rank this one a 7.

### Note to your calendar

- ◇ No monthly meeting in August.
- ◇ End of summer picnic will be held in September (in lieu of our monthly meeting) at Lynn Kempler's home.

## Growing Native: The Lily Family

by Janelle Whalen

Some of the most beautiful of our native wildflowers are in the Lily family, Liliaceae. If you think that they look distinctive for some reason it is because they are monocots. They have one seed leaf, petals in groups of three, and leaves with parallel veins. This contrasts with dicots which have two

seed leaves, petals in groups of four or five and leaves with netted veins. Stop and take a look at our natives lilies. Carolina lilies and Turks-cap lilies for example. Or look closely at trilliums, Solomon's seal, Solomon's plume and bellworts. You will see these characteristics and recognize

them in the future wherever you see them. Other monocots are grains, grasses, onions and palms. Members of the lily family also usually have petals and sepals that are identical. Choose a few of these to go in your home native garden.



Photo by Janelle Whalen



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### **In Search of Insect Eggs** *(continued from pg. 1)*

closely resemble those of the Colorado potato beetle, a pest of plants in the Solanaceae family including potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant. Both insects start laying eggs in the spring and can have three or more generations per season.

Other eggs you may find are those of the beneficial lacewing. These are distinctive eggs that are found on the end of silken stalks attached to the leaves or stems of a variety of plants. So if you find these eggs, leave them be. Your garden will thank you for it.

### **Notes from the Extension Office** *(continued from pg. 2)*

and matching them to membership's passions. As an outdoor enthusiast and hands on educator, Robin looks forward to being out in the field and connecting with the community. Please stop by the Extension Office or introduce yourself to Robin at one of our monthly meetings. She is excited to get to know our membership and is whiling to help us be the best we can be. Her extensive background in environmental education, building community and working with people of all ages will certainly be an asset to our group and future. Welcome Robin!

## *Intruder Alert...Invasion of Asian Ambrosia Beetle* *by Karin Hicks*

We have an intruder of the catastrophic variety in our garden. I first noticed the toothpick like formations emerging from the trunk of our fig tree in spring. I knew we were in trouble. Dread began to set in because this is the telltale sign that the Asian Ambrosia Beetle has begun its occupation. There is no treatment for an Asian Ambrosia Beetle (AAB) attack once seen and this is a serious pest to a garden.

The Asian Ambrosia Beetle is an introduced species, accidentally imported to the United States from China. This insect has spread all over the U.S. resulting in massive plant loss. It seems to host on a wide variety of trees including Cherry, Japanese Maples, Tulip Poplars, Oaks, Hickory, Crape Myrtles, Redbuds, Dogwoods, Pecan, Peach, Magnolia, Sycamore, Fig, Persimmon and Muscadine Vines. The list is extensive but basically it will attack almost any broadleaf tree or shrub that is suitable in size, healthy or stressed.

The female beetle bores into thin-barked

trees and woody plants in early spring so she can deposit her eggs. She moves quickly, excavating as much as an inch of wood per day. Small circular strands of compacted frass will project out from the hole entrance, sometimes several strands are visible. They are fragile and can be removed by wind, rain or your hand.

When laying her eggs the female beetle will also leave a deposit of ambrosia fungus in the hole which will serve as food for the larvae when they hatch. This fungus is often what ultimately kills the tree. Once the toothpicks are noticed there is no way to control the invasion. Plant tissue surrounds the beetle and any chemical or organic application will not penetrate the tunnels. The best way to control AAB damage is prevention. There are insecticidal sprays that can be used to prevent the beetles from landing on the trunk of trees and boring in but AAB is typically not specifically listed on product labels. These labels include generic terms such as "wood-boring

insects". There are also several brand name treatments containing permethrin that are available, however this type of control is short lived requiring repeated treatments throughout the growing season. It is recommended that gardeners remove affected plants or plant parts once they see the frass and these plants should be burned. Infested trees will most likely eventually die.



Sign of Asian Ambrosia Beetle invasion