

Over the Garden Gate

HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Inside this issue:

<i>Notes from the Extension Office</i>	2
<i>Book Review: Coffee for Roses</i>	2
<i>Emerald Ash Borer</i>	3
<i>Growing Native: Fabaceae "Pea Family"</i>	3
<i>President's Corner (continued) Summer Garden Calendar (continued)</i>	4

President's Corner

by Sarah Galshack

Dear Master Gardeners,

As Rogers and Hammerstein so aptly put it, "June is bustin' out all over!" And how did it come "around again" so soon? It feels to me that we just kicked off the 2014 HCMG year and yet 6 months have flown by. January saw the launch of our newly designed and updated HCMG website. The web team worked and continues to work to make this a valuable resource to both the membership and the community. Check it out and if you have thoughts or ideas, please contact the Webmaster.

Speaking of Websites, at our July general membership

meeting we will be shown how to access and use the mglog.org. Wanda will take a few minutes to go through the process showing us how to log and keep track of our volunteer hours.

Also in July, we'll have a look at a new project that we'd like to become involved with.

Many of you are familiar with Shay Grant, and her Bonnie Plants connection (her family founded Bonnie Plants). As a Hall County horticulturist, she has taken on the job of developing what is called The Farm at Lanier Charter Career Academy. It will prepare students for jobs in the agricultural fields.

If the next few months fly by as fast as the last ones, then it will feel like we are gearing up for the Fall Expo in about a week. Thankfully we have a little more time than that, but it won't be long before it will be time to sign up (on the web) for volunteer positions.

But before fall arrives, don't forget there are other MG projects that could use your help. Ask a Master Gardener tables at the various Hall County Farmers Markets, Monday morning story times at Gardens on Green and there is always a need for phone volunteers at the Extension office.

(cont. page 4)

HCMG Officers

President	Sarah Galshack
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Secretary	Jennifer Stowe
Treasurer	Beverly Brinson
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	Patti Lewis
	Karin Hicks

Summer Gardening Calendar

by Hugo Kollmer

Now that summer is upon us, we gardeners can fully assess the detrimental affects of the unseasonably cold weather experienced during the past winter. Some of my perennials including dahlia, angel trumpet and elephant ears didn't survive. Others were slow to break dormancy. Sadly, most of my French hydrangeas froze to the

ground. Although they too have sprouted from their base, there won't be any blossoms developing on their new growth. If any of your perennials haven't yet shown signs of life, perhaps it's time to replace them.

- Eradicating weeds in the garden is virtually impossible, but they can be managed. Controlling them,

requires patience and persistence. The distasteful task of pulling weeds with deep roots is easier when the soil is wet.

- When they are finished blooming, prune shrubs, especially those which produce flowers on old

(continued pg. 4)

Notes from the Extension Office *by Wanda Cannon*



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Every bloom, every butterfly, every bird, every raindrop is a new sentence in the garden — one that promises as much hope and daring as the words we speak to one another.

The UGA Master Gardener Volunteer Extension program has been going through a lot of changes in the past few years. Navigating through the changes and implementing new procedures has been challenging at times. As we all know, change can be frustrating and scary at times; however, the end result will be a more cohesive State Master Gardener program. The Extension Office appreciates all of the help that the membership has set forth in getting these changes in place.

One of the exciting changes has been the new MG online reporting system (MGLOG), that was launched this year. I hope everyone is logging on to it and reporting their volunteer hours for this year. It is an easy procedure and I have had positive feedback from all that have been using it. Simply go to mglog.org and get familiar with the site. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me. This system will be more efficient for logging volunteer hours and is much simpler for totaling summary

hours. Michael and I will hold another training session at the July 15th MG meeting at the Board of Education building.

The Extension Office has had a busy spring with a lot of calls about current gardening questions. It seems the focus this year was on all the extreme cold damage that was done to shrubs, trees, lawns and vines. Fortunately, most of these plants are recovering and rebounding. It is amazing how resilient some of our plant life is! Reassuring our phone callers, e-mailers and walk-in customers has been a big focus of our time and energy this spring. Now that vegetable time is in full swing, we will be answering questions about that as well.

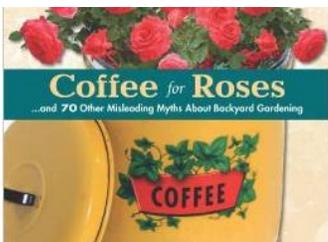
Come in and volunteer time in the office this summer. It is always a great opportunity to know what some of the pertinent issues are this season and what seems to be the cause and remedies for many of the questions asked. I hope to see many of you here!

As I write this, a successful spring expo and plant auction has already gone by. The fall

expo is in the preparation and planning stages. Set aside some time to get involved with this upcoming expo slated for September 26th and 27th. Look for a sign up sheet via email to arrive later this summer. The 2014 Hall County Master Gardener classes went well with 15 new trainees completing the course. This is a wonderful group of enthusiastic people that I hope will get involved in all the great opportunities here in Hall County. I know some are already working with Gardens on Green and Linwood Preserve.

Make plans to attend the monthly MG meetings. They always have interesting speakers and programs. Remember the meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month and you should be getting an Evite reminder every month in your email. Again, I want to say thanks to one of the best programs in the state. We had a little over 17,000 volunteer hours in 2013. This county is blessed to have such a great asset in the form of Hall County Master Gardeners. Keep up the great work! It does make a difference in our community.

Book Review: *Coffee for Roses* *by Karin Hicks*



Coffee for Roses
C.L. Fornari
160 pages

Old habits die hard, especially when they're ones that have been passed down by parents and grandparents. In *Coffee for Roses*, C.L. Fornari examines 71 common garden practices, some good, some bad and some plain silly, and shatters some long-held practices that have little to no logic in them.

Be prepared to be shocked at some of the garden myths that are revealed here, but several pleasant surprises await you as well. This book may just save you valuable time in the garden and you'll have a better understanding of what goes on in it. Fornari writes with a lot of wit and charm while

combining a little garden history and expert advice. *Coffee for Roses* is a fun way to learn to garden smarter and makes a great gift for new and veteran gardeners alike. The book includes lots of beautiful photos taken by the author.

Emerald Ash Borer

by Rachel Schneider

Master Gardeners are no strangers to the damage pests do to our flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Now we are faced with another challenge threatening all the Ash tree species of the genus *Fraxinus*.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a beautiful metallic green insect native to northern China, Russia, Japan and Korea, but its beauty is spoiled when one considers the destruction it brings to our forests. It came to the United States in the 1990's most likely on ash pallets and packing material but it was first found killing trees in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan in the summer of 2002. Now it has spread to 22 states including Georgia.

It was found in July, 2013 in DeKalb and Fulton counties prompting the US Department of Agriculture to quarantine these counties for movement and sale of all ash tree nursery stock, non-heat-treated ash lumber, ash wood chips or mulch, firewood and any other product made from ash trees in an effort to control this invasive pest. Prism traps have been set in other counties to determine its presence. Larvae in firewood is the most common way it is spread, but the adult beetle can fly 10 to 20 miles and sometimes up to 100 miles.

It is easy to identify this pest. Adult beetles are bright metallic green with very short antennae. The beetle is only one-half inch long and one-eighth inch wide. Beneath the wing covers, their bodies are metallic purplish-red. Larvae

are creamy white and have flattened, segmented bodies with bell-shaped lobes. The adult beetles lay eggs on the bark of ash trees. When the eggs hatch, the larvae bore tunnels into the bark destroying the phloem tissue and starving the roots of the ash trees. Dieback of the canopy starts from the top down. It may take 2 to 4 years for the tree to die. Adult beetles emerge from the larvae in spring and summer leaving a "D" shaped exit hole and fly to another ash tree.

If the infestation is discovered early, several treatment methods such as bark spray, foliar spray, trunk or soil injection may save the tree. Some of these are restricted-use pesticides not available to the homeowner and are very expensive.

If 50% of the canopy of the ash tree is in decline from the EAB infestation, survival is unlikely. Remove the tree, burn the firewood locally and/or chip wood debris to 1.25" x 1.25" any time of the year or let the mulch go through a heated process of 140 degrees for 3 days; however, mulch must be turned.

Contact your local County Extension office if you discover this insect this summer on any of the five species of ash found in Georgia: White ash, Green ash, Red ash, Blue ash and Carolina ash. To date, the Emerald Ash Borer does not infest other tree species. Be on the lookout for it and maybe we can prevent the destruction of our ash trees so important to our ecosystems and the economy.



Growing Native: Fabaceae: The "Pea" Family

by Janelle Whalen

Watching a baseball game near my home several years ago I noticed a tall tree across the field that was covered with beautiful white flower clusters. I identified it as a Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), a member of the pea family. This tree has flowers that look distinctively like "pea" flowers, as well as thorns and "pea pods" filled with seeds in the fall. Shortly, after that I discovered another local tree

called a Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). It also has the "pea" flowers, as well as HUGE thorns and very large "pea pods". Most members of this family have pinnately compound leaves, but some (clovers) have trifoliate leaves. Many members have root nodules that contain bacteria for "fixing" nitrogen in the soil. The "pea" flowers are very easy to recognize. They are described as having a "banner,

wings and keel". Some of them are large and some are tiny. If you look at a head of white clover in your lawn you will see that it is a cluster of many tiny pea flowers. At maturity, each flower forms a tiny pea pod! Once you start looking you will see many members of the pea family in our area. These include redbud trees, red, white and crimson clovers, kudzu and peanuts.





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President's Corner (cont...)

Since it is June, it must be picnic time for all HCMG's. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the History Center for good food, fellowship, and a chance to admire all the hard work of our Victory Garden volunteers!

Thanks to each of you for all the good work you do to make Hall County Master Gardeners an outstanding organization.

Also, a special thanks to Michael and Wanda--they are the sun that makes us bloom!

For the latest Hall County Master Gardener news and announcements be sure to visit our website at <http://www.hallmastergardeners.com/>

Please submit your ideas, news, comments and questions to your editor, Karin Hicks at kbh267@gmail.com

Summer Gardening Calendar (cont...)

wood. Refer to your MG handbook regarding when to prune. If you haven't already done so, prune *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua* now before new flower buds form. Similarly, prune and fertilize azaleas and rhododendrons before the end of June.

- Prune rambling roses.
- After you've planted your vegetable garden, don't neglect to apply a layer of mulch, consisting of leaves, pine straw, wheat straw or clippings. Spreading the mulch over 2 or 3 layers of newspaper will help discourage weeds. Mulching conserves moisture and controls soil temperature while creating a barrier to the migration of pathogens from the soil. Don't use grass clippings from a lawn treated with herbicides.
- Turn your compost pile. Mixing in a high nitrogen fertilizer will speed decomposition.
- Pinch back chrysanthemums and asters to develop fuller plants.
- Feed them every 3 weeks with liquid fertilizer until buds begin to show color.
- In June, apply a second application of fertilizer to warm season grass lawns. A 3rd and final application of fertilizer should be made before Aug. 1st. Aerate your lawn at this time if needed (10 holes per sq. ft.). Also, apply a liquid or granular fungicide to your lawn to prevent dollar spot, brown patch and other diseases.
- Inspect turf for evidence of damage from insects including grubs, mole crickets and army worms. Combat them with a listed organic or chemical insecticide.
- Apply an appropriate post emergent herbicide to control broadleaf weeds and weed grasses in your lawn.
- Remove foliage from daffodils and tulips after it turns completely brown.
- Fertilize raspberries and blackberries.
- Control aphids and powdery mildew on crape myrtles by applying a systemic insecticide.
- Examine vegetables for damage from insects, slugs and snails. If found, use appropriate organic or chemical means of control. A shallow saucer of beer will attract and drown slugs.
- Continually deadhead roses and treat them with a combination systemic fertilizer/fungicide/insecticide. Be alert to symptoms of the deadly Rose rosette disease, particularly on knockout roses. Rose rosette disease, also known as witches'-broom of rose, is a virus or virus-like disease, such as a phytoplasma, that is spread by a very small, eriophyid mite.
- Take and root semi-hardwood cuttings from camellia, hydrangea, viburnum, gardenia and other shrubs.
- Pull spent plants and collect seeds from annuals such as coneflowers, black-eyed susan and blanket flower.

Author's closing tip:

On the heels of the Kudzu Beetle, we have the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD), a serious threat to soft-skin fruit crops, which has made its way into our state. This fruit fly, of Asian origin, was first found in Hawaii in the 1980's. Be vigilant for its symptoms which include early mold, and wrinkling (observed at 2 to 3 days), soft spots and collapse of berry structure, visible expulsion of berry sap from oviposition holes, splitting of grapes and larvae emerging from berries. Learn more at http://blog.caes.uga.edu/blu_eberry/swd/