



Over the Garden Gate

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Inside this issue:

<i>Notes from the Extension Office</i>	2
<i>Book Review: The Living Landscape</i>	2
<i>Be Your Own Nursery</i>	3
<i>Growing Native: August & September Asters</i>	3
<i>Extension (continued) Summer Garden Calendar (continued)</i>	4

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President's Corner

by Sarah Galshack

Dear Master Gardeners,

Happy Autumn! I love everything about Autumn...cool weather pumpkins, apple picking, football (Go Jackets!!), those big fat chrysanthemums, and trees all dressed in orange and gold. It's a beautiful season.

As gardeners we always have to be thinking a bit ahead, and in the fall this means planting spring bulbs. Although there are many kinds of spring bulbs, it's daffodils that I am particularly fond of. Who cannot love those little green sprouts pushing up through the soil looking for sun on a cold January day?

It's easy to have daffodils in your yard. In September wait for the summer heat to break and the soil to cool. Choose a spot that gets at least six hours of sun a day winter through mid-spring. Bulbs should be planted at a depth of three to five inches.

There are about fifty species and over 25,000 registered cultivars. Something for everyone—early, mid and late bloomers! There are even fragrant ones and of course, many different colors.

Some good choices for North Georgia are early bloomers, Tete a Tete, and February Gold. Mid-season's Carlton

and Fortune. And late bloomers, Scarlet Royal and Yellow Cheerfulness. For more information visit the American Daffodil Society's web page at www.daffodilusa.org



Hope to see all of you at the Fall Expo and remember to get your tickets (hallmastergardeners.com) for your continuing education seminar on October 18th.

Fall Gardening Calendar

by Hugo Kollmer

Be an expectant gardener.

I hope your garden is looking awesome. Unlike summer last year with overabundant rain which promoted problems with insects and disease, gardens this year fared better under drier conditions.

Many gardeners consider fall with it's cooler weather and vibrant colors, their favorite season of the

year. Fall finds many of us outdoors raking leaves, dividing plants, planting bulbs and otherwise busily preparing our gardens and landscape for the approaching dormant season ahead. While engaging in these activities, take the time to observe the interesting ways God's creatures have for making their preparations for winter.

Here are a few suggestions for your fall to do list:

- If you intend to purchase flowering bulbs consider purchasing by mail order very soon while supplies last.
- Reputable mail order merchants offer high quality

(continued pg. 4)

Notes from the Extension Office

by Wanda Cannon



Painted lady butterfly on hairy sunflower

As the summer season begins to wrap up, the Hall County Master Gardeners are preparing for the 2014 Fall Plant Expo at the end of September. I am always amazed at how well the Chairs and Co-chairs put this wonderful event together. The Spring and Fall Expos have become quite popular around these parts and their success as a major fundraiser and community event is a huge example of what a great organization the Hall County Master Gardener group continues to be!

It is hard to highlight over 160 plus members contributions and all of their various positive influences they provide for the community at large, but I personally want to thank each and every one of you for the differences you make. The Hall County Mater Gardeners provide gardening education and resources to so many in this county that it is hard to cover them all. But from the Extension offices point of view, we are thankful and appreciative of all you do, from answering questions in the office to providing your muscle, knowledge and service spirit to

each and every opportunity out there. Some of the recent master gardeners that were highlighted in *The Times* were Bobbett Holloway, Lee Lovett, Rachel Schneider, Lynn Kempler, Mary Richards, Pam Keene, Margaret Rasmussen and Jan Tuttle. If I missed anyone, please forgive me!

Thanks to all of you! You all make this community a better place to live in!

This summer was really a nice reprieve from the wet one we had last summer. Most gardeners were happy with their summer tomatoes as well as other veggies. Most of our calls in the office were related to winter damage in lawns and ornamentals. Hopefully, we will not have a repeat of last year's record breaking temps. Other calls included the never ending Leyland Cypress issues and rose rosette disease on our knockouts. Mole and vole questions and "the march of the little centipedes" were common calls.

Recently, I sent out applications to a large number of interested people about the upcoming 2015

Master Gardener classes. I will be wrapping that process up by the end of October, so if you know of anyone that wants to take the class, send them my way. I am always excited about the possibilities and talents this new group will bring. Also, if you are interested in being a mentor for the next class, send me a shout. Mentors are a really important component to the new trainee's development and they give them the support they need through the 3 month class time.

Kudos to the HCMG website and Facebook teams. Our new website looks great and it is very easy to navigate. Continue to go online for the latest events and opportunities. The website is the go to place for my monthly newsletter and other important information.

Thank you to all that are going to the new recordkeeping online site and recording your volunteer hours. If you have not gone on the site and need your username and password, please contact me and I can get

(cont. page 4)

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you sow.

Book Review: *The Living Landscape*

by Karin Hicks

Next month as part of our continuing education program the Hall County Master Gardeners will be hosting Doug Tallamy, an entomologist, ecologist and author of *Bringing Nature Home*, so I thought it only fitting to review his latest work. *The Living Landscape* is a collaboration with Rick Darke,

author of *American Woodland Garden* who has a background in field botany and ecology and spent several decades as Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens. People often think that gardening for wildlife means you can only use native plants or that your garden looks untidy. *The Living Landscape* debunks that myth

and shows how you can have a beautiful garden that nurtures wildlife as well as providing space to play, entertain and incorporate well-behaved non-native plants by simply adding or enhancing layers which include canopy and understory trees, perennials, shrubs and ground covers. The book explains the importance of

each layer and provides lots of examples and beautiful photos. There is even a handy reference in the back of the book which lists plants and their ecological and landscape function by region.

The Living Landscape is 392 pages and retails for around \$39.95

Be Your Own Nursery

by Karin Hicks

My garden turned 7 years old this year. For years we were buying plants at the Master Gardener expos, local nurseries and on-line retailers to fill in our large beds. Don't get me wrong, I love shopping for plants, it's my healthy addiction, but it does get very expensive.

An easy way to fill in gaps in the garden without buying plants is to leave the seed heads on your plants and let them self sow. The birds will also thank you for doing this as they will feast on the seeds all fall and winter. But if you want to add some of your plants to other areas of your garden and have a little say in where they call home collecting seeds is the way to go.

This is admittedly my newest garden passion and fall is the best time to walk around the garden and begin collecting seeds just before they start falling off or blowing away. Bring a few bags or containers with you on your morning or afternoon strolls and start picking.

One major benefit of collecting seeds grown in your garden is that you know the mother plant, and the conditions it thrives in in your garden. Also, if you don't use chemicals you know the seeds are organic. Think about it, you can't get more locally sourced seeds than those out your back door.

Once you've collected your seeds you can begin to sow them. Remember from our master gardener class that many seeds need cold or wet stratification and winter is the perfect period to provide these conditions. So

get some old nursery pots (from all those plants you bought at the fall expo) fill them with soil and broadcast your seeds in them. Let the cold, wet winter that we are forecasted to have this winter do its job and come spring you will have lots of seedlings popping up ready to pot up or put out in your garden.

If you don't use all your seeds you can save them for next year or share with friends.

Strip each seed from the chaff, which is often the feathery or crunchy part connected to the seed.

Let the seeds dry out. If you pick seeds when they are already falling off the plant, they should be pretty dry. But if you pick them after rain or other wet weather, they'll need several days or weeks to dry out inside — spreading them on a pan or table helps speed up the drying.

Store in a paper bag, which provides good air circulation (glass and plastic will encourage mold growth). Lunch bags work great and you can easily label them with the plant name and year collected. Store bags in a cool, dry, dark place.

My garden will be littered with pots over the winter which will come alive in spring. Growing plants from seed is an incredibly rewarding experience especially when I can share my passion with my friends!



Growing Native: August and September Asters

by Janelle Whalen

Anyone who takes a peak out the car window in August or September notices the tall stalks of golden wildflowers along the roadsides. Stopping to take a look, it's obvious that there are MANY different kinds! Trying to ID them all is a big project, but it's inspiring just to observe the beautiful sculptural shapes of each one.

They are all in the "Asteraceae" family, but there are several genera found in Northeast Georgia.

There are three common ones and, interestingly, they can be identified by looking at the BACK of the flowerhead. Pick a few flowers to study, and then turn them over to look at the back. A Rudbeckia has

large bracts (modified leaves) around the back. A Coreopsis has simple rows of bracts around the back. A Helianthus has multiple rows around the back. A wildflower guidebook will give you clues to the other asters. Enjoy the variety, then collect a few seeds to try growing them in your home garden!



Georgia aster
(*Symphotrichum georgianum*)



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Extension (cont...)

it to you. **I will need all of 2014 hours submitted by December 31, 2014**, so keep logging them in where we have an accurate count! We put in over 16,000 volunteer hours last year and as of this date, there are about 4,000 hours that have been submitted. If you have problems of any kind I am more than happy to assist to make sure we get accurate hours for the year. Go to mglog.org and get started. Happy Fall!

Hall County Master Gardeners Officers

President	Sarah Galshack
Vice President	Marsha Dickey
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Directors-at-Large	Patti Lewis Karin Hicks

Fall Gardening Calendar (cont...)

- bulbs in an amazing number of varieties not commonly found in local stores. They will ship bulbs so that they arrive at the proper time for planting.
- Plant daffodils, tulips and other bulbs after the soil has cooled (mid-November through mid-December). Bulbs can be stored in your refrigerator or in a cool dark basement for a short time prior to planting.
- If you don't already grow them, try planting a few of the many gorgeous varieties of Asiatic lily bulbs.
- In addition to planting bulbs, mid to late fall is a good time to divide and plant perennials, including peonies. When dividing plants, consider sharing if you have more than you need. This period is also the ideal time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs.
- Remove dead vegetation from your vegetable garden and flower beds, being careful not to contaminate your compost pile with diseased material including mummified fruit. Don't disturb any praying mantis egg cases you may find.
- Plant a fall vegetable garden with seed or transplants as soon as possible. Popular vegetables include lettuce, spinach, collards, broccoli, cabbage, kale, arugula and radishes. Fertilize, amend and till the soil before planting.
- This year, in addition to lady and kudzu beetles, attempting to get into your home, seeking shelter from the winter weather ahead, you may experience and invasion by stink bugs. The best prevention is to seal openings through which these insects gain entry.
- During early to mid September, apply pre-emergent herbicide to prevent germination of lawn weeds.
- Stop mowing Bermuda grass by mid-October.
- Winterize machinery by cleaning, lubricating and changing the oil. Also sharpened mower blades.
- Seed tall fescue in late September through October together with an application of starter fertilizer. In September apply a low nitrogen fertilizer to established fescue turf.
- Beautify your flower beds with pansies, snapdragons and ornamental kale and parsley. Provide additional curb appeal with an array of chrysanthemums.
- Before the first killing frost, protect delicate and semi-tropical plants such as Angel Trumpet with a thick layer of mulch. Also, make pesto from your basil leaves.
- Hummingbirds will be actively storing up energy before beginning their annual migration. Help them by keeping their feeders supplied with adequate nectar.
- Plant garlic and shallots around mid-November. Plant in well-drained soil amended with compost or manure and they will be ready to harvest around Memorial Day. Obtain them from a reputable source and not from a market or grocery store. Take care to not plant shallots too deeply.