

## Over the Garden Gate

### HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

#### President's Corner

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Master Gardeners,

You seek her here, you seek her there, you seek her everywhere, and that's exactly where you will find her. Whether you are walking along a path at Hurghada on the Red Sea, riding an elephant in Botswana, or visiting Lima, Peru, you will find Verbenaceae, *Lantana camara*, MISS HUFF, the hardy one! She is drought and heat tolerant, a sun lover, who does well planted in the ground or in containers. She commands quite a presence in the garden with a height from five to six feet and a width of four the five feet. Her riotous-colored clusters of flowers called

umbels favor the garden from early summer to frost. BUT, what is really special about Miss Huff is that if planted in soil with reasonable drainage, not pruned back until new growth starts in the spring, and mulched with pine straw, she will greet us again the following year as far north as Canton, Georgia!

And although there are over 150 species of lantana and even one named Irene...(she has parts that are poisonous and handling her may cause irritation to the skin or an allergic reaction), my heart belongs to Miss Huff!

This beauty is celebrating her 10th anniversary as the

Georgia Gold Medal Perennial winner, and she will always find a place in my garden!

Happy Autumn! ~ Irene



*Lantana camara 'Miss Huff'*

#### HCMG Officers

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| President          | Irene Michaud                 |
| Vice President     | Sharon VandeWater             |
| Secretary          | Jennifer Stowe                |
| Treasurer          | Beverly Brinson               |
| President Elect    | Sarah Galshack                |
| Directors-at-Large | Wanda Cannon<br>Marsha Dickey |

#### Garden Lesson Learned

This summer my garden taught me to get to know my "weeds". As the summer rains fell and I wasn't able to work in my garden as much as I should have the weeds happily grew. What I discovered was that amongst many of the weeds were many native plants that had volunteered in my garden. I found passion vine springing up in my paths and

flower beds which sure made the butterflies in the fritillary family happy...I had a bumper crop of variegated and gulf fritillary caterpillars on these vines. Maryland aster now grows amongst my knock out roses while downy aster and goldenrod bloom at the edge of my woodland garden. Virginia Creeper is making a beautiful

ground cover in several areas and boneset and camphorweed enjoyed the wetter conditions sprouting in numerous locations. So maybe we shouldn't be so hasty to pull those "weeds" that pop up in our gardens. You may just find a free gift from Mother Nature among them.

~Karin Hicks

## Notes from the Extension Office



Painted Lady Butterfly on Wild Ageratum

What a strange and unusual spring and summer we have had! When you work in the Extension Office, one never knows what kind of season one might encounter. This cooler, wetter summer brought about many problems for the home gardener. If you could find a dry weekend to get out and do some things around your landscape, it was a welcome opportunity. But for the most part, the environmental conditions brought about poor vegetable production and many fungal

issues on our ornamental plants. The most common issues the office encountered were poor production, leaf spot and root rot. We seem to be in a drier weather pattern now. There are many chores and tasks to get started on to get our gardens and landscapes ready for the next growing season.

I have been busy taking inquiries about our upcoming 2014 Master Gardener classes and we have an overwhelming number of people interested this year! This might be the largest class

we have had in recent history. This is exciting because this will bring another great group of gardeners into the mix. The Hall County Master Gardeners are still a very large and active group of people. It seems the legacy will continue!

There have been some changes with policies within the Georgia Master Gardener program and some of these policies have been met with some concern and trepidation. The recent mandatory background

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## Event Information

Fall is the Southerner's reward for surviving summer!!!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events. Monthly meetings are the third Tuesday each month at 6:30 at the Board of Education building, 711 Green Street unless otherwise noted.

October 15th Dan Long will present a program on vines in the garden. Plants will be available for sale following the meeting

November 19th will be a panel Q&A with Elaine Kelley, Hugo

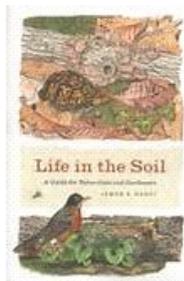
Kollmer and Wanda Cannon. They will be reviewing and discussing questions that come into the Extension Office.

December 10th our annual Christmas party will be held at Pam Keene's home. Spouses/significant other's invited. More details will be available soon.

### Thank you!

A big thank you and congratul-

ations to Brenda & Lyle Letteer for co-chairing a very successful Fall Expo...Thanks also go out to their committee chairs: Jaye Baker, Don Linke, Russ England, Sharon Van De Water, Ken Slater, Steve Burkhalter, Linda Melvin, Lisa Clement, Robbie Butterworth, Mindy Wade, Irene Michaud.



Life in the Soil  
James B. Nardi  
336 pages

## Book Review: Life in the Soil

We all garden with the help of innumerable soil creatures. Do you ever wonder about the mysterious creatures that turn up in a shovelful of dirt? Leonardo da Vinci once mused that "we know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot". *Life in the Soil* written by James

Nardi invites naturalists and gardeners to dig in and discover the diverse community of creatures living in the dirt. Nardi looks at the intricate relationships between plant roots and microscopic fungi, snails who have 120 rows of teeth, wolf spiders with glowing red eyes, slime

molds, and woodlice to name a few. There are plenty of photos and drawings throughout the book and profiles of all the creatures he covers. If you are inclined to learn more about this unique ecosystem that is often underappreciated this is a must read! ~Karin Hicks

## Hummingbird Migration

We are in the peak of hummingbird migration. Now through end of October ruby-throated hummingbirds will be migrating south. They have an internal clock based on the photoperiod (length of daylight hours) which tells them when it is time to go. So keep your feeders up and enjoy the show! You may even be lucky enough to host one of 12 hummingbird species that have been reported in Georgia during late fall and winter including Rufous, Allen's, Anna's, black-chinned, broad-billed, broad-tailed, buff-bellied, and calliope hummingbirds. Most of

these hummingbirds are natives of Western states and migrating through Georgia but some may stay the entire winter like 2 rufous hummers did in my garden last year. The most common wintertime hummingbird is the rufous. They come to Georgia from the Pacific Northwest and southern Alaska where they breed. During the winter you can keep hummingbird feeders from freezing by (1) taking the feeder inside at night when temperatures fall below 26 degrees (the 1 part sugar to 4 parts water mix won't freeze until then); (2) focus a 150-

watt outside flood lamp with an "alligator" clip on the feeder during sub-26-degree weather; or, (3) wrap the feeder with a 3-foot-long electric heat tape. If you see a hummingbird after November 1st you are encouraged to report it at 478-994-1438. There are only 3 active banders in Georgia. Georgia Hummers came to my garden to id, band and collect data on my two hummers. It was an incredible experience. The more information they can collect the better they will understand the migration patterns of these magnificent birds. ~Karin Hicks



*Rufous Hummingbird*

## Fall Gardening Calendar

Be a relaxed gardener!

The summer monsoons have apparently ended and we gladly welcome the drier weather. With the arrival of fall, there should be a diminished sense of urgency to complete our tasks and gardening becomes a pleasant exercise. As you garden, pause, perhaps to refresh yourself with a cold drink, take a few moments to observe the beauty of the

season and take notice of the many ways nature prepares for the colder months ahead.

While bountiful rains over the summer replenished our lakes, rivers and aquifers, my garden suffered terribly. Many of you may have experienced similar disappointment. Let's hope that we get better balanced weather next year. On the bright side, I only needed to water my potted

plants and didn't need to turn my compost pile, whose contents continue decomposing incredibly fast, hastened with the aid of a huge population of worms distributed throughout it. Another benefit of abundant rainfall is I won't need to drain my drip irrigation system which didn't get used much this year.

For a list of a few suggested fall chores see [page 4...](#)

### Advice from a Garden

Cultivate lasting friendships  
Sow seeds of kindness  
Listen to sage advice  
Don't let things bug you  
Take thyme for yourself  
and  
No vining!

## Growing Native: Apiaceae family

If you are interested in native plants, and in taxonomy (identifying plants), you would enjoy having a book called "Botany in A Day" by Jorie Hunkin. It describes the characteristics of plant families and makes the naming of plants more logical, and therefore easier to understand and remember. If you are hiking in late summer or fall, or driving along and taking notice of the many wildflowers

blooming along our roadsides, you will see lots of yellow "daisy-like" flowers, and also lots of plants with large white flower clusters. The yellow daisies are in the Asteraceae family, and most of the white flowers are in the Apiaceae family. The Apiaceae family is the parsley family. Key terms to remember are "compound umbels" (flower clusters) and "hollow flower stalks." There are many spices in

this family (anise, chervil, coriander, caraway, cumin, dill, fennel, and parsley) and a number of edible roots (carrots, parsnips). There is a common wildflower, Queen Anne's Lace. Then there are some of the most deadly plants in North America! So ID in this family is particularly important. Unless you're an expert, eating wild plants is NOT a good idea.

But understanding plant families is a great way to enjoy and appreciate the roadside beauty of late summer and fall. ~Janelle Whalen





## HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

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

screening and motor vehicle check with all active Master Gardeners is a big task! I appreciate all who have responded to the call and have gotten in all of the paperwork to me. Remember, I need all forms signed and completed by the end of the year in order for you to keep your active Master Gardener status for 2014.

There is also some online volunteer hour record keeping in the works for next year, which should make the logging in of hours easier and a much smoother task. Also, new marketing tools will be available through the state office. Hopefully new book marks, shirts and hats with Master Gardener logos will be available.

There is also a push to have more Advanced Training classes for all Master Gardeners who are interested. Whether you just want to brush up and enhance your knowledge with some training or are working on your gold and silver certification status, there will be many more opportunities around the state for training. Hall County hopes to host an Advance Training class sometime in 2014.

Again, on behalf of Extension, Michael and I want to thank you all for the support and help you provide us. The Hall County Master Gardeners really are one of the greatest groups in the state! There are many who volunteer in the office, step up to speak at many of the events we are asked to speak at, share their knowledge with adults and youth alike and get out and handle the physical side of the many projects and events that go on. We appreciate your enthusiasm and respect your knowledge as you share it with the community. Carry on!

~Wanda Cannon

## Seasonal "To Do" Reminders - Hugo Kollmer



- If you intend to purchase flowering bulbs, consider purchasing by mail order very soon while supplies last.
- Try planting some of the new wonderfully fragrant peony varieties, but don't neglect to verify that those you select are suitable for our climate.
- Remove dead vegetation from your vegetable garden and flower beds, being careful not to contaminate your compost pile with diseased material including mummified fruit. Be careful not to disturb any Praying Mantis egg cases you may find.
- Harvest herbs and dry them in a cool place with adequate air circulation.
- If your garden soil is workable, start fall vegetables from seed or transplants as soon as possible.
- popular vegetables include lettuce, spinach, collards, broccoli, cabbage, kale and radishes. Fertilize and till the soil before planting.
- Lady beetles and Kudzu beetles may attempt to get into your home, seeking shelter from the winter weather ahead. Its impossible to selectively kill harmful kudzu beetles without jeopardizing the beneficial lady beetles. The best course is to seal openings through which these insects gain entrance.
- During early-mid September, apply pre-emergent herbicide to prevent germination of lawn weeds.
- Stop mowing Bermuda grass by mid-October. Your mower blade can be lowered one notch at that time. After mowing, drain fuel from the mower or add a stabilizer to any fuel remaining in the tank.
- 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.
- Seed tall fescue in late September through October.
- Plant pansies, snap dragons and ornamental kale and parsley. Provide additional curb appeal with an array of chrysanthemums.
- Before the first killing frosts, protect delicate and semi-tropical plants with a thick layer of mulch.