

## Over the Garden Gate

### HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

### President's Corner

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Master Gardeners,  
What a busy six months we have had. My thanks go out to the best volunteers ever!

JANUARY~We started the year off fine...with a visit from Randy's Perennials. We welcomed our new trainees.

FEBRUARY~We announced our Garden Walk hosts and their team leaders...Cathi Crawford/Robbie McCormac, Ann Nixon/Christine Holcomb, Cheryl Ellenburg/Jean Carmack, Shantha McDonald/Becky Mensinger & Sandra Perry, Al Pennel/Jan Tuttle, Joe Wyatt/Deborah Cooper & Kathy Lovett. We awarded JMG grant \$\$\$.

MARCH~We honored Jesse Hall and Dr. Bill Jackson with emeritus status and commemorative plaques.

APRIL~We held a successful Spring Expo thanks to co-chairs Vicky Ginn & Mindy Wade and their team. We celebrated the opening of the new Pollinator Garden at Elachee Nature Center chaired by Fran Henry and crew. We held our first Continuing Ed program featuring Walter Reeves and Shannon Pable-thanks to Sharon Vandewater!

MAY~We laughed at Oakwood Elementary School's Ag Day...Thanks to my co-chair Mindy Wade and all the "kids at heart" who

volunteered. We got gum and worked shifts. My thanks to The Wrigley's crew...you know who you are!! We treated visitors to our Garden Walk's 7 fabulous gardens. Thanks to my co-chair Leslie Johnson and y'all who made it come together. We almost had the Butterfly Release at Wilshire Park but Mother Nature didn't cooperate. Thanks to Sally Walters and the folks who helped prepare for this event. Maybe next year!

JUNE~W had a blast at our annual picnic. Thanks to hosts Lynn Kempler and her husband, Gary for opening their home to us. We spent a lovely evening at

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#### HCMG Officers

President	Irene Michaud
Vice President	Sharon Vandewater
Secretary	Jennifer Stowe
Treasurer	Beverly Brinson
President Elect	Sarah Galshack
Directors-at-Large	
	Wanda Cannon
	Marsha Dickey

### Fascinating Fasciated Foxglove

Sometimes nature makes "mistakes". These mistakes are called mutations and have a genetic basis that are sometimes passed on to future generations. Those mutations that provide favorable adaptation can be incorporated over time into most of the species (think of the celosia plant) while non-adaptive mutations are typically eliminated

from the population. One type of mutation is known as fasciated. It is usually the result of a growing point changing from a round dome of cells into a crescent shape. This results in a growth with a flat stem. It is known to happen in over 100 vascular plant species. Woody plants, annuals and even cacti are

affected. Scientists aren't really sure what causes fasciation but they think hormones plays a part. There is a fasciated foxglove growing at Gardens on Green in the Pollinator Garden. If you've never seen this mutation it is worth a look. Perennials that exhibit this mutation one year will usually be normal the next.

## Notes from the Extension Office



*Fasciated foxglove at Gardens on Green*

Spring was refreshingly enjoyable this year...lots of rain and cooler temperatures. Gardening calls and visits are picking up since the soil temps are finally warming up and people are beginning to see blossoms and fruit in their gardens. Questions this year seem to center around fungal issues as a result of our cooler, wetter conditions. We saw a lot of problems with the rose slug on knockout roses. It is always interesting to see what type of

issues come up every year due to environmental conditions.

The Hall County Farmers Markets are open and slowly but surely the harvest is coming in. Visit one of the three farmers markets around town this summer. The traditional Hall Co. farmers market on Jesse Jewell, The Gainesville on the Square market and the Sprout Spring library market are all unique and different. Each one is an enjoyable experience. Plans for a few visits from the HC MGEV at our popular *Ask a Master*

*Gardener* booths are in the works. If you would like to volunteer at one of these booths, this is a great way for the MGEVs to educate and inform our community about all things garden. Just give me a call. We are planning on having a table at least once a month at these markets. It is important for us to get out in the public and inform and educate as much as we can. Plus it is fun! The Extension Office also appreciates your help with answering

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## Upcoming Events



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.

July 16th at the **Ag Center** Building, Penny Stowe, Marsha Dalton and Linda Chastain will demonstrate how to make hypertufa, seed bombs and leaf

molds. Bring a dish to share like the old days.

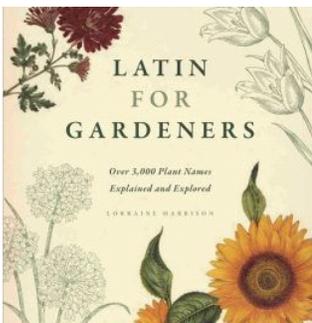
August 20th Scott McMahan will speak on new plants.

September 17th speaker to be announced soon.

October 15th Dan Long will present a program on vines in the garden.

Linda Melvin is working hard to provide us with some fabulous door prizes at our monthly meetings. She would love input from you...what kind of door prizes would you like to win? Do you want more plants, garden art, gift cards to nurseries, garden equipment, or books? Please let Linda know by emailing her at [lm5609@gmail.com](mailto:lm5609@gmail.com)

## Latin for Gardeners



Book Review: *Latin for Gardeners ~ Over 3,000 Plant Names Explained and Explored* by Lorraine Harrison

An informative and beautifully illustrated book, *Latin for Gardeners* includes an alphabetical listing of names, and shows how botanical Latin

can reveal where a plant originally comes from, along with properties of shape, form, color and smell. Each name is defined and includes a pronunciation guide. In addition, stories recount the adventures of important plant hunters, and explain how their discoveries affect the way our

gardens look today.

This book is available for around \$25.00 224 pages, Hardcover

-Robbie McCormac

## Building an Insect Hotel

Our gardens are home to a wide range of living creatures but often we tend to keep our gardens very neat and in doing so we are taking habitat away. Why not invite more beneficial insects and pollinators to make their home in your garden by creating an insect hotel? An insect hotel offers native bees a place to nest as well as a place for lady beetles, lacewings and butterflies to seek shelter. The structure can be made of mostly recycled or reclaimed materials. Start with a basic structure made from old pallets, plywood, bricks or cinder blocks. Make sure the structure is safe and secure and then fill the

gaps with:

Dead wood ~ essential for the larvae of wood-boring beetles.

Crevices hold centipedes and other insects.

Holes for solitary bees ~ old canes or pieces of hollow plant stems placed in tube provides female bees a place to lay eggs

Straw & Hay ~ provides opportunities for invertebrates to burrow in and find safe hibernation sites

Dry leaves ~ mimic the litter on the forest floor

Corrugated cardboard ~ rolled up and placed in a cylinder provides a home for lacewings.

Loose bark ~ firefly larvae,

beetles, centipedes, and spiders all lurk beneath the decaying wood and bark. They help to break down woody plant material and are essential parts of the garden recycling system.

Other materials such as twigs, pinecones, coir fiber, or pine straw needles provide general shelter for small insects.

Site your habitat in semi shade by a hedge, under a tree or near a pond. Solitary bees like a warm sunny spot so put tubes for bees on the sunniest side of the habitat.

This is a fun and rewarding project which can easily be done with children.



## President's Corner

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a Gardens on Green fundraiser arranged by Kathy Lovett. The concert featuring Katie Deal and Chris Wright was delightful.

Appreciation and thanks also go to...those who support our gardens: Sid Manning and Vicky Ginn, Sally Wise, Fran Henry, Joan Rigel, Kathy and Lee

Lovett and their entire "Green gang"; our editor-in-chief, Karin Hicks; our very own "Brenda Starr", Penny Stowe; our travel agent, Wanda Cannon; bargain hunter, Linda Melvin; banner/flyer designer, Jennifer Stowe; the Lunch and Learn speakers, and the publicity crew.

AND thank you's go to our HCMG executive board,

Michael Wheeler, Wanda Cannon and Becky Rogers for all their support.

Cheers,

~ Irene

Don't be afraid to break the rules about what to use for garden tools!

## Growing Native: *Asclepias tuberosa*

Butterfly weed is most often noticed as the beacon of bright orange in fields and along roadsides. They are never seen growing in great swaths but rather as a handful dotting here and there amongst the wild grasses. It prefers dry, rocky soil and full sun. Butterfly weed is a must in any butterfly garden. Its brilliant flowers

attract a variety of butterflies and is the larvae host for the Monarch, Queen and Grey Hairstreak butterflies. But don't let the name throw you, in addition to butterflies the plant will also attract a number of beneficial insects including lady beetles and bees. And if you are really lucky you may even catch a glimpse of a

hummingbird hovering around the plant too. Inevitably butterfly weed will get aphids. Leave them for the lady beetles to munch on or spray with soapy water. Just beware that even soapy water can harm butterfly eggs. It is best to grow this plant from seed as the long tap root makes it difficult to transplant well.





We're on the Web  
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**Notes from the Extension Office (cont. from pg. 2)**

gardening calls and visits from our community. Extension relies and depends on you as volunteers to support and assist us whenever you can. The HC MGEV are a vital asset to UGA Cooperative Extension in so many ways. There are many things we could not do and would not have the time to do without you here to assist. Plus you learn something new all the time. So consider doing some of your volunteer time here in the office. It can be very interesting!

The 2013 Spring Expo and Garden Walk were both a success and we got some very positive feedback on both events. The Spring Expo was a fundraising success and all 7 gardens on the Garden Walk were beautiful and unique.

The Hall County MGEV are such a great group! I have said it many times and I will say it again. You all bring so many talents and strengths to the program and I so enjoy supporting and working with you all! Extension wishes you all a safe and happy summer!

~ Wanda Cannon

For up to the minute news, information and photos be sure to like Hall County Mater Gardeners on Facebook.



*Seasonal "To Do" Reminders - Hugo Kollmer*



- Weeds thrive under our current weather conditions. Controlling them requires patience and persistence. Pulling weeds with deep roots is easier when the soil is wet.
- When finished blooming, prune shrubs, especially those which produce flowers on old wood. Refer to your MG handbook for guidance on when to prune.
- After planting your vegetable garden don't neglect to apply a layer of mulch (leaves, pine straw, wheat straw or grass clippings not contaminated with herbicides)
- Put out hummingbird feeders, keeping them clean and replenished with fresh nectar.
- Prune & fertilize azaleas & rhododendrons in June.
- Turn your compost pile. Mixing in a high nitrogen fertilizer will speed decomposition.
- Prune conifers, including arborvitae, juniper and hemlock.
- Prune rambling roses.
- Apply a second application of fertilizer to warm season turf in June. Also apply a liquid or granular fungicide to your lawn to prevent dollar spot, brown patch and other diseases. A third/final application of fertilizer should be made before August 1st.
- Stake tall flowering plants, including hollyhock, hibiscus, dahlia and gladiola.
- Collect seeds from hellebores, oriental poppies and columbine. Share them with friends.
- Fertilize raspberries & blackberries.
- Control aphids and sooty mold on crepe myrtles by applying a systemic insecticide.
- Take and root semi hardwood cuttings from camellia, hydrangea, viburnum, gardenia and other shrubs.
- In late summer, fall webworm nests can be destroyed with a stick exposing caterpillars to predators.
- Accessorize with an arbor, fountain, bench or statue.