



Over the Garden Gate

Hall County Master Gardeners

Happy Spring *Lori Carson*

The year moves swiftly and we wish we could press the pause button on this season! Vivid colors, baby birds, shade trees and swings, cookouts, and newly acquired plants are all part of this amazing celebration we call spring. Rain has been falling and the lake is recovering. The cycle always manages to mend itself and reassure us.

Our year has been busy and exciting thus far. 23 energetic and talented Interns completed the MG course. We've planned a Holiday Celebration that promises to entertain and reward everyone for all the year's hard

work. The Spring Expo was fun and successful. Gardens on Green was officially dedicated. Our membership increased significantly. New projects have been accepted and ongoing projects keep us on our toes. JMG continues to be successful. Garden Walk is upon us and promises to be fantastic. The Fall Expo will be a two day event this year. We have partnered with other community groups to increase our visibility and teaching opportunities. Eleven dedicated Master Gardeners have earned Lifetime MG status and two have earned Emeritus status. Master Gar-



dener certificates were presented to the Class of 2008. Take time to look at the great publicity we've gotten in The Times, our great website, and all the super pictures on the website.

With half the year still ahead of us, I know that we will continue to do amazing things because HCMG is an exceptional association.

HCMG Officers

- President** **Lori Carson**
- Vice President** **Tricia Terrell**
- Secretary** **Judy Lyle**
- Treasurer** **Beverly Brinson**
- Asst Treasurer** **Lee Lovett**

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Garden Walk 2009

June 13, the date for HCMG's Garden Walk 2009, is rapidly approaching. While gardens have been selected and much preparatory work has been done, there are still needs and volunteer opportunities available.

Marsha Scott still needs volunteers for various jobs. You can contact her at 770 654 2932.

To help with final prep of the gardens you can either contact Diane Korzeniewski at

korzendb@hotmail.com or Patsy Kilmartin at pkilmartin@charter.net.

Tickets need to be sold. These can be obtained at the extension office.

Farmers Market Opened May 5th *Billy Skaggs*

Imagine a picnic table filled with platters of food made with fresh produce grown in Georgia. It would be an endless smorgasbord of delicious delicacies fit for a king. At that table, folks would agree, Georgians know how to roll out the red carpet with good wholesome food and fine southern hospitality.

A wide variety of fruits and vegetables are grown right here in Northeast Georgia,

including: apples, blueberries, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, greens, melons, okra, onions, peaches, peas, pecans, pumpkins, beans, strawberries, sweet corn, potatoes, and tomatoes.

The Hall County Farmers Market provides local residents a direct line to locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Operation days for the Farmers Market are

Tuesdays from 6:30 a.m. until sellout and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. until sellout. The Market is located on the corner of East Crescent Drive and Jesse Jewel Parkway near I-985 at Exit 24.

If you have a large garden and would like to sell your produce, you are invited to join as a market member.

For more information, visit www.hallfarmersmarket.org.



Billy Skaggs

New Membership Status Awarded

Two membership categories, new to HCMG, were announced at the May 19th monthly meeting. These are lifetime status for those with 10 or more years of service, and emeritus status.

There were 10 individuals who were designated Georgia Master Gardener Lifetime Member, one Hall

County Master Gardener Emeritus Member, and one individual named to both lifetime and emeritus lists.

Lifetime members include:

Cindy Andrews, Bob Bradbury, ElaineGerke, Jesse Hall, Linda Harris, Marsha Hopkins, Ruth Johnson, Judy Kaczorowski, Joyce Link, and Janelle

Whalen.

John Outler was posthumously awarded emeritus status.

Dr Bill Jackson was granted both lifetime and emeritus status.

Congratulations to all of these individuals for their years of service.

New membership categories established for HCMG

Wilshire Park Butterflies

In spite of heavy rains the crowds were present at Wilshire Park on Sunday, May 17 for the annual Butterfly Release program.

Under the leadership of Mary Wenger, HCMG maintains the beds at the park. HCMG was present on the day of the Butterfly Release

with Lori Carson, Kathy Seals, Tammy Dellinger, and Mary Wenger manning booths and making paper butterflies and butterfly bracelets for the excited children.

While this was the last scheduled event at the park for this year, the work of

maintaining the beds goes on. The park is used on a daily basis by walkers, joggers, and families.

Anyone wishing to help with this ongoing HCMG community project should contact Mary Wenger at mwenger@charter.net.



Making butterfly bracelets

Gardens on Green Dedicated

Although the skies threatened rain and the breeze in the air was cool, the evening of April 21 was a wonderful time for HCMG.

The group gathered for our monthly meeting was large and included not only HCMG members but spouses and community guests.

The reason for such an unusual meeting was the dedication of Gardens on Green. Highlights of the evening

included Dr. Bill Coates reciting “A Blessing for the Dedication of Gardens on Green”, a poem he had written for the occasion, and a beautiful rendition of “What a Wonderful World” by Jerry Johnson.

It would be impossible to thank everyone who has played a part in making this project become a reality. A special thanks needs to be extended to Kathy and Lee

Lovett for their tireless efforts and dedication to seeing this unique and wonderful community resource through to fruition.

To all those who have participated in the development of Gardens on Green—thank you. There will be ample opportunities for others to contribute to the continuing work on this special garden in the future.



Gardens on Green

Housing Authority Project

Richard Goforth relates that work is underway on the beautification project for the Housing Authority. “We have completed preparation of two garden spots and are in the process of planning for landscape improvements at the entrance to the office area and one prominent corner location that will make a big difference in the

overall appearance.”

Richard stated that although several small chores have been accomplished, progress has been slowed somewhat due to some difficulty in being able to coordinate timing between the volunteers and the Housing Authority .

“We will continue to work

with the Authority and I’m sure everything will fit together as it usually does. One thing for sure, this is a large project and will take considerable planning and volunteer hours”.

To volunteer to help with this project contact Richard at vgoforth2004@netzero.com.

A large project that will take considerable planning and volunteer hours

Spring Expo—Another Success

Although the weather was sometimes threatening, April 10 and 11 saw HCMG stage another successful Spring Expo.

57 vendors displayed their goods and on a vendor survey a large number gave HCMG a score of 10 for the job done in putting on “the

biggest two day plant sale in Northeast Georgia”.

An exact count of visitors is not available at this time but numbered in the thousands. A new feature—an ATM machine—proved to be popular with 102 transactions.

Net HCMG receipts were

\$7816.66.

A big thanks goes to Kathleen Holdash and her committee members, as well as to all the volunteers who worked so hard, for a job well done.



Volunteer Opportunities

While there are numerous opportunities available for volunteer hours in a number of HCMG projects, we have two large events in our near future that will require many hands.

First will be the Fall Expo. Beth Kendall and Tiffany Potter will be chairing this event to be staged on October 2-3.

Next will come the GMGA Winter Conference in January. The committee leading this effort includes Brenda Bautista, Sandi Cantel, Kathy Lovett, Irene Michaud, Dave Rusk, and Mindy Wade.

We all need to be ready to “step up” when called upon to make these two events successful.

Hall County Master Gardeners

734 East Crescent Drive
Gainesville, GA 30501

Phone: 770 535 8292

Expanding the Master Gardener's knowledge of and interest in gardening and related activities.

We're on the Web

www.hcmgs.com

HCMG BYLAWS REVISION Danny Askew

At the 2/17/2009 HCMG Board meeting a decision was made to review the HCMG Bylaws and determine if revisions were needed to update the bylaws. The decision was subsequently made to proceed with revision of the bylaws and a committee was appointed for this purpose. The committee members are: Robbie McCormac, Helen Hyatt, Pam Keene, and Chairperson Kathy Seals. Lori Carson has served as a committee observer.

The proposed new by-laws have now been sent to the

membership. They have been distributed by email to those with access and by regular postal service to those members who do not have email.

A schedule has been set for consideration of the new by-laws:

1. Comments from general membership may be sent to Kathy Seals at katseals@bellsouth.net or by regular mail. The deadline for this is **May 29, 2009**.
2. Bylaws Revision Committee will meet to dis-

cuss any suggested changes from the membership on **June 2, 2009**.

3. Revised bylaws will again be distributed for membership review on **June 5, 2009**.
4. Final vote on the revised bylaws will be held at regularly scheduled meeting on **June 16, 2009**.

The entire bylaws are too long to place in the newsletter. Therefore, this article shall serve as notification as required by current bylaws.