



Over the Garden Gate

HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

HCMG Officers

- President** **Lori Carson**
- Vice President** **Tricia Terrell**
- Secretary** **Judy Lyle**
- Treasurer** **Beverly Brinson**
- Asst Treasurer** **Lee Lovett**
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LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR - *Lori Carson*

I am excited and a bit anxious as I begin my term as HCMG President, but am quickly learning that when I need reassurance, information or assistance, my fellow Hall County Master Gardeners and The Extension Office Staff are more than willing to help out!

We accomplish amazing things with our resources. Fundraising projects enjoy increasing success every year. We support numerous ongoing community projects with dedication and enthusiasm. None of this would be possible without members who give so freely of themselves and their time.

Speaking of our members, I have quite a few to get to know better. I believe we should each make a special effort to interact with a different fellow HCMG at every meeting, project and event. Find out what people like to do and what their special talents are. You never know who you might have something in common with, or who has that special talent we've been looking for.

For continued growth and success, we must accept several challenges. We need to become more efficient and organized in our procedures, policies, and written guidelines. We must be dili-



HCMG President Lori Carson

gent in maintaining group unity by putting the priorities of HCMG before personal agendas. If we welcome fresh insights and ideas, encourage each other to utilize our varied skills and talents, and go one step beyond our comfort zone, then we will continue to shine as one of the premier *(continued below)*

LOOKING FORWARD *(continued from above)*

Master Gardener groups in the state. We will achieve more than we could have imagined and we will benefit our community as never before.

These are my challenges for

you this year. Start with something simple like attending monthly meetings on a regular basis. The effort will be appreciated. Take a deep breath, try something different, and you will see that even if you feel a little

nervous like me, your fellow HCMG and Extension Office Staff are right there to encourage and assist you. Give it a try. With everyone's enthusiasm, cooperation, and cheerful attitudes, this will be a fun filled year.

Spring Gardening Tips— *Billy Skaggs*

Spring is upon us and now is a good time to start tackling some landscape and garden chores. Here are a few tips and suggestions for the landscape and garden.

If you have peach trees, thin the fruit to 4 to 6 inches apart for large, high-quality fruit.

Keep fruit trees well mulched to provide even moisture and protection from lawn mowers and

string trimmers.

Caladiums need generous amounts of water and fertilizer to encourage continuous production of new leaves during the summer. Apply light side dressing of 5-10-5 fertilizer every two weeks, and water thoroughly to encourage bright colored foliage.

Successful eggplant development is dependent on a span of temperatures (80 to

90 degrees F) and plenty of water. Water well when the plants are young. Water at least two times a week when temperatures are high and there is no rain.

Bright red and deep red salvias are good for concentrated color in full sun. Use the lighter pastel shades of salvia in partial shade.

Impatiens are the most satisfactory annual for shady areas



Billy Skaggs

Spring Expo April 10 and 11

The biggest two day plant sale in Northeast Georgia—our own Spring Expo—is rapidly approaching.

Kathleen Holdash is chairing the event this year.

The Spring Expo will again be held at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center on April 10th and 11th.

The Expo will feature plant growers and retailers, garden related crafts and garden art, and hardware and gardening accessories.

While Kathleen and her committee members have been busy making preparations and lining up vendors, there will be plenty of opportunities for HCMG members to

volunteer to help with this event.

Help will be needed in setting up the booths on Thursday, April 9th and taking down the booths after the event closes on Saturday, April 11th. Contact Kathleen or her committee members to see where you can help.

“The biggest two day plant sale in Northeast Georgia”

Garden Walk 2009—*Robbie McCormac*

In Our Own Back Yards is the theme for this year’s Garden Walk.

Chaired by Robbie McCormac, the event will be held on Saturday, June 13 and will feature the gardens of 5 of our members and Gardens On Green.

Gardens will feature: 1) a butterfly and hummingbird habitat where you can learn about vermiculture, 2) a “gentleman’s” flower and vegetable garden, 3) a “young” perennial and rose garden highlighting water saving methods, 4) a shade garden with fountains and

hostas and, 5) a collector’s garden with a rockery and fairy spots.

Each garden will also have music, refreshments, and “how-to” educational material and pass along plants.

Volunteer coordinators are Pat Barker and Marsha Scott



Gardens on Green to be on Tour

2010 GMGA Winter Conference—*Dave Rusk*

The 2010 GMGA Winter Conference will be hosted by the Hall County Master Gardeners on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the First Baptist Church on Green Street in Gainesville. The theme Selected is "Georgia— A Gallery of Gardens".

The First Baptist Church opened a beautiful conference center in 2008. The main conference room is large enough to seat 700

people for dinner. Sate of the art audio-visual support is available as well as a large commercial kitchen.

Our plan is to include vendor booths in the conference room as well as the seating for participants during speaker presentations.

There is a large entrance foyer area for registration and refreshment breaks, as well as space for the luncheon. There is also plenty of

parking available.

The planning committee is finalizing speaker selections, planning pre-conference workshops, and tours for Friday afternoon. A reception for attendees and speakers is being planned for Friday evening as well.

Committee co-chairs are Brenda Bautista, Dave Rusk, Irene Michaud, Kathy Lovett, Mindy Wade, and Sandi Cantel.



First Baptist Center

MEMBERS HONORED

Congratulations are in order for 3 HCMG members.

Kathy Lovett was named the 2008 Master Gardener of the year. Kathy co-chaired the Gardens on Green Project and the Junior Master Gardener Program. Through her efforts and dedication of her time, both of these programs have shown great

progress during the past year.

Lisa Clement was named Intern of the Year for 2008. Lisa was honored for her enthusiasm for and leadership in HCMG activities throughout the year.

George Winstead recently received the 2009 Grand Award from the Georgia

Green Industry Association for over all single- family residential landscape design categories. George also received the 2008 Merit Award from the Metro Atlanta Landscape & Turfgrass Association for the single-family residential landscape design category of gardens costing less than \$100K.

*Members honored
for achievements*

CLASS OF 2009

In January the HCMG Class of 2009 began its journey toward becoming Master Gardeners.

The 23 members of this class have now passed the half way mark—and as reported by Wanda Cannon all 23 successfully passed their midterm exam.

Soon this group of students will become the Intern Class of 2009 and begin assuming responsibilities associated with that distinction.

While we all need to welcome these new members of HCMG, and be willing to help "show them the ropes" of being a Master Gardener,

there is now the opportunity to be an Intern Mentor.

The Intern Mentor Committee is chaired by Mindy Wade. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Mindy at wademelinda@bellsouth.net.



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

Remembering who we are

The following is an excerpt from information prepared by Pam Keene for media information. Sometimes it is good to be reminded just who we are.

Hall County Master Gardeners is a volunteer program offered through the Hall County office of the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension. Through this intensive educational program, individuals are trained and certified in horticulture and related areas. Hall County Master Gardeners donated almost 15,000 hours to the community in 2008.

Ed. Note—We are now more than 180 strong. While we can be proud of our accomplishments, let us not forget that it is all about giving back to the community. Look over the list below on this page and remember to volunteer!!

PROJECT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2009 NAMED

HCMG President Lori Carson has released the names of the project and committee chairs for 2009. As you look over this list, begin deciding which project or event you would like to participate in and contact the chair. You can be certain that they will welcome your help.

Cherokee Garden—Tom and Polly Reins

Elachee Butterfly Gardens—Jan Tuttle

Gainesville Housing Authority Gardens—Richard Goforth

Garden Walk 2009—Robbie McCormac

Gardens on Green—Kathy Lovett

GMGA 2010 Winter Conference—Brenda Bautista, Sandi Cantel, Kathy Lovett, Irene Michaud, Dave Rusk, Mindy Wade

Gold Medal Garden—Mary Richards

Habitat Landscaping—Patsy Kilmartin

Hospitality—Leslie Johnson

Intern Mentor—Mindy Wade

Junior Master Gardeners—Kathy and Lee Lovett

Membership—Pat Barker

Project Review—George Winstead, Helen Outler

PR/Advertising—Pam Keene

Photography—Janelle Whalen, Kimberly Riggan

Quarterly Newsletter—Danny Askew

Smithgall Liasion—Diane Korzeniewski

Spring Garden Expo—Kathleen Holdash

Trips—Rosie Weissman, Ron Brechter

Website/Merchandise—Helen Hyatt

Wilshire Park—Mary Wenger
