



# Over the Garden Gate

## HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

### HCMG OFFICERS

- President** Irene Michaud
- Vice President** Michael Carson
- Secretary** Leslie Johnson
- Treasurer** Beverly Brinson
- President Elect** Mindy Wade

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### MY ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE—*Irene Michaud*

As I opened my front door this morning the scent of early spring filled the air. I saw my pansies proudly arching their little faces toward the sun, my daffodils emerging from under the pine straw, and the Morning Doves once again attempting to make a nest between the columns on my porch.

AND, to think it was just three years ago today that I was shoveling my car out from over two feet of snow! My life has certainly changed since that time. I am a transplanted Georgian, and I am grateful for the change. Now, don't get me wrong, I still love New Jersey,

my home state of 58 years, but the change has afforded me many wonderful opportunities. One of those opportunities has been becoming a Master Gardener!

I took the Master Gardener course in 2008, and to say I knew very little about gardening in Georgia would be an understatement. But the experts in Horticulture who lectured our class remedied that quickly. Now turf, which where I come from is called grass, was another story. But our very own turf guru Billy Skaggs soon taught me I had nothing to fear!

It has been my pleasure to



be a member of Hall County Master Gardeners for two years.

*(Continued on page 2—My Attitude)*

### SPRING EXPO

Spring Expo chairman Mike Carson relates that plans for the April 9th and 10th event are nearing completion.

Currently 45 vendors are on board with commitments from 8 more. Vendors will be

from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama. Eight of the vendors will be new to the Expo.

There will be 3 workshops on Saturday. Topics are flower arranging, raised bed

gardening, and conifers in the landscape. Workshops will be held in a tent set up on the grassy area near the concession stand.

There are still opportunities to volunteer at the Expo.

## GARDENS ON GREEN

As winter slowly passes and spring approaches, activity surrounding Gardens on Green has begun to increase.

Adult classes have already begun with the classes being held every Wednesday at 1 pm. The classes offer a variety of subjects by lecturers with expertise in the topics.

The "Promising Futures" program for children grades 3-5 will begin on April 13th.

This program helps children learn about the joy and value of gardening and is focused on growing edible plants. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 3:45 to 4:30 pm from April 13th through May 18th.

The Youth Green program will start on June 8th. These are high school students who have been identified by their schools as those who will benefit from some lead-

ership and work opportunities. The program is funded by the Department of Labor working with RoAnne LeVere. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 8:45 to 11:45. The program will last for six weeks.

Both of these programs offer an opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. Please consider volunteering.



## HCMG TOPS IN STATE

The 2009 numbers are final and HCMG led the state in volunteer hours. 147 HCMG members and 23 interns gave 17,997 hours of volunteer service, made 27,834 in person contacts, 4,166 telephone contacts, and travelled 72,961 miles. These are impressive numbers.

State wide Master Gardeners gave 217,010 volunteer hours valued by the Bureau of Labor as being worth 4.23 million dollars. Adding in the value of miles travelled increases that amount to 4.9 million dollars. State wide Master Gardeners made 714,144 contacts with Georgia citizens, answered 45,802 telephone questions

about gardening, and performed 14,000 community projects and demonstration gardens.

2009 saw 644 new volunteers trained in the state.

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*HCMG members gave 17,997 hours of volunteer service.*

## MY ATTITUDE *(continued from page 1)*

I have met friendly, gracious people who generously donate their time to projects that enhance Hall County and make things happen: JMG program, Gardens on Green, Wilshire Park, Cherokee Garden, Fall and Spring Expos. You have also allowed me to exercise my

organizational skills as your president, and for that I am grateful.

See you at the next meeting, and don't forget to read *Greetings from your President*. You never know what the Newsletter Question of the Month might be!

*Be prepared for the question of the month!*

## Master Gardener Day—MARCH 20 **BILLY SKAGGS**

Over the past 31 years, more than 5,000 people across the state have worked for the University of Georgia and never received a paycheck.

As graduates of the UGA Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program, they volunteer their time to assist County Extension Agents.

Master Gardener graduates are thoroughly trained by

County Extension Agents, UGA Specialists, and other local horticultural experts. While participants gain knowledge they can use in their own landscapes and gardens, the real success of the program is the work and dedication of the volunteers. They serve their communities through a variety of projects that promote their love of gardening and teach others to protect and preserve the environment.

In 2009, Master Gardeners in Georgia volunteered more than 210,000 hours of their time. Hall County Master Gardeners led the state by contributing over 17,000 hours of volunteer service in 2009, valued at over \$250,000.

For their many contributions to the State of Georgia, Saturday, March 20th has been declared Georgia Master Gardener Day.



## MASTER GARDENER DAY HALL COUNTY

In recognition of Georgia Master Gardener Day, the Hall County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation to HCMG members at their March 11th Commission Meeting. The meeting was held at 5 pm at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville.

Commissioner Billy Powell

made the presentation enumerating the 2009 accomplishments of HCMG and expressing the commission's thanks for HCMG contributions to the community.

President Irene Michaud accepted the proclamation and gave remarks concerning the organization.

County Agent Billy Skaggs

also made remarks to the commission and audience regarding the value of Master Gardeners not only to the community but also the value in helping the Extension Service carry out its mission for the state of Georgia.

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*Proclamation  
presentation at  
March 11th  
Commission  
Meeting*

## WINTER CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Although the weekend of January 22 and 23 arrived with a blustery wind and unusually cold weather, the GMGA Winter Conference was a resounding success. With over 80 volunteers from HCMG ranks working in unison, the conference moved smoothly from load in

to load out.

The Friday reception and art show extended a warm HCMG hand of hospitality to attendees and provided an opportunity to view and purchase a wide variety of items from cookbooks to outstanding art.

Saturday participants were entertained and informed by the four featured speakers.

Our thanks goes out to the volunteers and vendors who helped make the event a success. Congratulations to the organizing committee for a JOB WELL DONE.



## HALL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

734 East Crescent Drive  
Gainesville, GA 30501

Phone: 770 535 8293

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

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We're on the Web

[www.hcmgs.com](http://www.hcmgs.com)

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Spring Expo—April 9th and 10th*

*Ag Day at Tadmore Elementary School—May 13*

*Butterfly Release at Wilshire Park—May 16*

*Patriots' Day at Myers Elementary School—May 14*

*Beautify Flowery Branch—April 24*

*Gardens on Green—multiple opportunities*

*Extension Office—multiple opportunities*

*Cherokee Gardens—Contact Ed Rigel. Ed is one of our interns and has taken on this project.*

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## LUNCH AND LEARN STARTS IN APRIL

The schedule for the Hall County Lunch and Learn Series—Spring 2010 was recently sent out by Wanda Cannon. These lectures provide up to date information on useful subjects and the schedule bears repeating here for those who may have missed or misplaced the email.

The programs at the Spout Springs library will be held on each of the 1st four Thursdays in April. The time is from 12 noon until 1pm.

April 1—Ron Brechter- "All About Vegetables"

April 8—Billy Skaggs—"Top 10 Trees and Shrubs of North Georgia"

April 15—Jan Pierce—"Soil Preparation"

April 22—Jelle Tamminga—"Square Foot Gardening"

The programs at the main library in Gainesville will be held on Wednesdays at 12 noon until 1 pm.

April 7—Ron Brechter—"Growing Tomatoes"

April 14—Pat Barker—"Did You Know? A Potpourri of Gardening Ideas".

April 21— Jan Pierce- "Soil

Preparation"

April 28—Elaine Kelley—"Perennials And A Whole Lot More"

May 5—Ron Brechter— Topic not yet decided

May 12—Ron Brechter—"All About Vegetables"

If you see a topic that interests you, just bring your lunch and spend an hour learning something new.