

Three Rivers Garden Club



Rome, Georgia



November/December 2010

“Enhancing Our Environment”

Brenda Harp, Editor

From Your President....



By Brenda Harp

To be a garden club member in Rome means that you are a very busy person every season of the year. Already this fall we have three informative meetings with outstanding programs. In September we visited the Eco Center, saw what has already been accomplished, and learned of future plans from Eric Lindberg, the Director of Environmental Services. Our own Sue Crist gave a program in October on how to dispose of expired medicines and chemicals properly. Choosing proper trees and sites for our yards was the topic of Community Forester John Hendrickson’s program in November.

Events hosted by other garden clubs in Rome Federation have attracted our members as well. On Veterans Day a Blue Star marker was placed at Myrtle Hill Cemetery by Mountain View Garden Club. On November 14 there was a flag and flag pole dedication at Rotary Park by Thistle Garden Club. A number of our members also attended the re-dedication of Marshall Forest, a GCG project planned and led by Caroline Alford. Seven members participated in the Laurel District meeting at the Marietta Country Club. An awards workshop led by John Barnett was held.

Three Rivers members continue to be involved with the South Rome Boys and Girls Club “Cultivating Young Minds” project, the plantings at the Rome Visitors Center, garden therapy, library arrangements, the puppet show, and other community projects. The opportunities to be involved are numerous. Pick your favorites!

Our annual Christmas covered dish luncheon and auction will be on December 1. The auction is one of our big ways and means projects for the year. Members bring items—many of which are homemade—to be sold to the highest bidder. It is interesting to see demonstrations of the many talents our members possess, so take this opportunity to “show off” your creativity and make money for our club’s projects.

Today I have been working on finding places to keep my pot plants during the winter months. I have been thinking about how cool nights will soon turn to freezing temperatures. Thanksgiving is next week and Christmas can’t be far behind. Christmas decorations will soon come out of storage and adorn our homes. The beautiful poinsettias and Christmas cacti will add color to our tables, entrances, and mantles. This is truly the time of the year when we gather with family and friends to show thanks for our material and spiritual blessings. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to each of you!

Laurel District Meeting. . . .

By Georgia Burns

One October highlight each year for garden club members is the Laurel District meeting. No matter what area of the district has volunteered to host the meeting, it is always so much fun to travel to see garden club friends from other towns. As we sit around the table with those we don't know, we have a chance to learn of the projects and programs other groups have planned and get great ideas for our club.

Our district officers and board work all year performing their duties and at this meeting they connect with everyone for a day of education and information and to conduct the business of the district. The state president is always the honored guest and many state officers and chairmen, as well as many of the other six district directors, travel long distances to be with us. It is so nice to connect a face with a name when we need help in our club or want to ask a question of the Laurel board member who holds the job we hold in our club.

This year Brenda, Mary Louise, Diane, Wanda, Vicki, John, and Georgia traveled to Marietta for the meeting and tied for second place for the attendance award by having one third of our members present. Brenda accepted the certificates won by Three Rivers, most importantly the Standard of Excellence Award. Following the meeting, a tour of the beautiful Smith-Gilbert Gardens was enjoyed by the members.

By Vicki Blankenship

On October 21 I had the opportunity to attend the Laurel District meeting at the Marietta Country Club. Before lunch we had the chance to mingle with other gardeners and visit various tables with an array of garden items to purchase. After lunch the guest speaker was head gardener at the Smith-Gilbert Gardens. He gave an overview of the gardens and the use of "Art in the Garden."

Afterwards, we toured the gardens where I saw luscious roses with blooms as big as softballs. The conifer garden was amazing. Of particular interest was a Thunderhead Pine. It was an educational and informative presentation and a delightful tour of a fabulous garden.



Smith-Gilbert Gardens

Membership. . . .

In October Ginna Wise joined Three Rivers Garden Club. We welcome her and hope she enjoys the fun, fellowship, and opportunities for service that our club offers. She has already participated in the anti-litter puppet show at North Heights Elementary.

Website. . . .

Dekie Hicks and John Barnett have been working diligently to update our website and plan to enter it for an award again this year. This past year the site won a second place award—not bad for a first attempt. Be sure to visit the following sites:

www.3riversgardenclub.com

www.laureldistrict.org

www.uga.edu/gardenclub

www.dsregion.org

www.gardenclub.org

Pictures from Programs. . . .



Three Rivers members enjoy program at ECO Center



ECO Center at Ridge Ferry Park in Rome



John Hendrickson, Community Forester, presenting program on trees in the newly renovated Garden Center

Projects. . . .

By Winnie Holland

The Three Rivers Puppeteers performed their first performance of “Don’t Be A Litter Critter Be A Litter Quitter” to the third grade at North Heights Elementary School on November 1, 2010. The third grade students gave their complete attention throughout the puppet show.

The next performance is scheduled at West End Elementary School for January 14, 2011. In the early spring the puppet show is to be a part of the Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2011 at the Elm Street Elementary School.

The complete cast consists of John Barnett, Diane Harbin, Bobby Mixon, Beverly Goolsby, Euylse Townsend, Georgia Burns, Winnie Holland, Dean Guinn, Ginna Wise, and Wanda Mixon.

This group has worked together for two and a half years with the script, “Don’t Be A Litter Critter Be A Litter Quitter,” to bring awareness of keeping our community clean of litter throughout the City of Rome and Floyd County.



Federation Projects. . . .

The Garden Center with its new roof and newly renovated interior is now a neat, clean, comfortable place to meet for all the clubs in the Rome Federation. The hard work of so many people to make the money needed for the repairs and the donations that helped to make it all possible are appreciated immensely by the membership. It is amazing how much can be accomplished with great leadership and willing workers.

Cultivating Young Minds....

The garden at the South Rome Boys and Girls Club continues to be enjoyed by the children. The joy and enthusiasm with which they have embraced this Rome Federation Project is a source of pride for all the garden club members. The addition of the gazebo and the arches this summer made the area even more beautiful as well as provided a place for instruction and study.

A continuing need is for donations of books for the library at the center. Bring some to our next meeting if you would like to help.

Junior Garden Clubs. . . .

By Mary Louise Dixon

Our two youth clubs at East Central School have been busy this fall with involvement with Smokey the Bear/Woodsy Owl contests. Many wrote poems for the contest about daffodils. We hope that we will have a National Grand Prize Winner who will win a free trip to Washington, D.C.

Exciting plans for the winter and early spring are taking place. We planar to participate in Earth Day and Arbor Day activities. There is no telling what the youth will do for they are very enthusiastic.

December Luncheon and Auction....

"Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly"

December 1, 2010

11:00 a.m.

11 Ridgewood Road

706-235-6292

The annual auction will soon be here. Have you thought about what you can bring? If you cannot make something, maybe you can visit a local bakery for that special dessert, bread, or cookie. Unused

gifts that you have received might just be the right items to bring. Let's try to top last year.

Horticulture Tip. . . .

By Sue Crist

Mosses are a primitive plant with no true root system. Gardeners often use sphagnum moss in containers and enjoy the visual appeal of southern Spanish moss. But, how many of us know it is a close cousin of the pineapple?

The ideal time to plant mosses is late fall to early spring. Mosses are easiest to spot in the winter landscape after a rain greens them up. They will thrive in the right environment. For Rome that means filtered sunlight to dense shade. Mosses also need good drainage as well as dry periods and do not tolerate standing water.

You may obtain mosses from "stock" i.e. dried specimens or by selectively collecting and transplanting from your yard or your fellow gardener's yard. Mosses prefer an acidic soil of at least 5.0 pH. Work your soil to 4" before planting and amend with equal amounts of peat and sand. Add stepping/hand stones to your area so that the mat may be maintained without crushing and finally add complimentary plants like ferns and hostas.

Mosses carry no known diseases, provide year-round interest and will be the simplest garden you will ever plant!

Environmental Concerns. . . .

Make an effort to stay informed on issues concerning water usage. Riverkeepers are asking for water conservation, keeping in mind the 3R's:

RESPECT for neighbors downstream

REVEAL negotiations

REDUCE metro water demands

Calendars. . . .

By Linda Dean

One day last week, I took a break from redistributing all the newly fallen leaves and pine needles in our yard, and I spent a pleasant hour *reading* and learning from our new, 2011 Garden Clubs of Georgia calendar, "Expressions".

It's much more than a collection of little boxes with numbers. In addition to the beautiful photographs of floral designs, there are short articles about "critters" we might encounter in Georgia. Some I have seen in my garden (Green Anoles, Swallowtail Butterflies, Ladybugs and Turkeys), some I would like to see (Bluebirds and Bald Eagles), and one I would skip altogether (namely, the Black and Yellow Argiope - look it up!). There are even recipes, good advice, and a dab of poetry --

What do you suppose?
A bee sat on my nose.
Then what do you think?
He gave me a wink
And said, "I beg your pardon,
I thought you were the garden."

All of our **Three Rivers** members should receive a calendar; it's included in your annual dues. Proceeds from calendar sales support the Scholarship Fund, and there are many students in Georgia who benefit from these funds. (See the announcements of awards, also in your calendar). Please let me or Dean know if you still need your calendar, and we will get it to you.



Flowers at Visitors Center

GCG Distinguished Member. . . .



State President Betty Grimes presenting "Distinguished Member" Award to Three Rivers Member Georgia Burns

Ways and Means. . . .

By Jo Holder and Dean Quinn

The "Ways and Means" is an on-going project. We have a raffle item (furnished by the hostess) at each meeting. The purpose is to add money to our treasury. We encourage all members to participate in the raffle.

Selling garden stones as a ways and means project will be reactivated this fall and next spring. Orders will be taken and payment must be made in advance. The price is \$30 for the smaller size and \$40 for the larger. Mary Louise Dixon will be taking orders.

Themes and Projects. . . .

Renee D. Blaschke, President, National Garden Club
Theme: "The World Around Us Love It—Beautify It—Protect It"

Mary Sue Colvin, Director, Deep South
"Together as One—Our Hands are P.O.W.E.R."

Betty Grimes, President, GCG, Inc.
Theme: "Flourish Our Future"

Victoria Chandler, Laurel District Director
Theme: "Laughter in the Garden"

Carolyn Walker, Rome Federation President
Theme: "Blessings from the Good Earth"