

Ripples from Three Rivers



Rome, Georgia



February 2011

Three Rivers Garden Club

Brenda Harp, Editor

“Growing in Membership, Gardening in Our Community, Embracing Our Environment”

Membership. . .

How can clubs attract new members? The first step is simply to ask someone that you know from other organizations, friends, members of your church, co-workers, etc. If the person is interested, invite her (him) to a meeting as your guest. Introducing the guest to other members and giving the guest a warm welcome is a big first step.

Good programs, worthwhile projects, fellowship with others, and a feeling of being needed and wanted will make a guest want to become a member. Because garden clubs are involved in so many activities, too much information can be overwhelming. A brochure or a simple written outline of the organization can be helpful—federations, district, state, regional, and national structure needs to be shown in a simplified manner. The club’s officers, committee chairmen, projects, etc. can also be listed. Yearbooks and more detailed information can be given when the potential member shows interest in joining.

Since becoming a member, I have noted that one member of Three Rivers excels at inviting guests and attracting new members. **Mary Louise Dixon** invited me to join after I retired from teaching school. She has played a big role in the club’s growth. As I look over the list of the 24 members in Three Rivers, she has been instrumental in up to 8 of the members including our newest member **Ginny D’Ambrosio** becoming members. That is one-third of our members! How did she do it? She simply asked women from other clubs to which she belongs, members of her church, fellow teachers, etc. What a challenge to the rest of the members of our club!

In June a membership tea is planned in an attempt to grow our clubs. The Tea will be held at Dianne Harbin’s home. The entire Federation and visitors will be invited. This is a great opportunity for you to invite your friends who you think might have an interest in becoming a member of Three Rivers. Share the fun of gardening, the opportunity to improve our community, and a chance to learn.

March Meeting. . .

Three Rivers Garden Club will meet at the Garden Center on March 7, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. for social time and 10 a.m. for the business meeting and program. **Mary Hardin Thornton**, Keep America Beautiful Director for Rome and Floyd County, will present a program entitled "Be Green—An Environmental Program."

Brenda Harp and **Georgia Burns** will be hostesses and will provide the ways and means items.

Happy Gardening. . .

by Barb Littlefield

Having lived in Rome for 5 years now, I am just getting accustomed to the difference in gardening from Florida to Georgia. Then, along comes this strange winter. . . So, as of today, my daffodils are blooming, the forsythia has budded, (I brought a few branches in to force), my holly bushes are loaded with bright red berries and Jerry and I planted 2 flats of pansies yesterday. I am a little confused, but love flowers so much, I decided to just plant some of what the nurseries have. Whether they bloom early, get frostbite, or bloom late . . . I will enjoy them while I can. Happy (spring?) gardening!"



Membership Expo. . .

The Rome Federation of Garden Clubs will sponsor a Membership Expo at Rome/Floyd County Library as part of Garden Week in Georgia. The purpose of the Expo is to attract people in the community who may be interested in forming new garden clubs.

The Expo will be held in the combined Coosa and Oostanaula Rooms from 10 a.m. until noon on April 21. Attendees will be welcomed as they enter and asked to sign a guest book. Tables will be set up with displays from each club showing projects, garden spots, and information about the club. Federation projects will be displayed along with videos, brochures telling how to form a club, books of evidence, pictures, etc. Information from the district, state, region, and national levels will be available. Refreshments will be provided.

A publicity campaign to inform the public will include radio and TV interviews, newspaper ads and articles with pictures, flyers, etc. Members are asked to extend an invitation to prospects as well.

The membership committee, which consists of the membership chairman and president of each club, recently met to assign duties to the clubs. Three Rivers will help with publicity, setting up tables, and invitations to special guests. In addition to a display for Three Rivers, our members will be involved in displays for Marshall Forest, Boys and Girls Club, Puppets, Junior Garden Clubs, and awards.

Following the expo, it is hoped that some garden clubs will be willing to sponsor the formation of a new club and work with the members until the club is self sufficient. There

are specific guidelines which help to be sure that a new club is properly organized so that they can succeed.

Programs in January and February. . .

Keith Mickler, the Floyd County Extension Agent, spoke at the January meeting of Three Rivers. “Properly Pruning Various Shrubs and Trees” was his topic. In an entertaining manner Keith talked about why to prune and when to prune both mature and young trees. Brochures were given out for more information.

A guide of best management practices which included a list of common trees, shrubs, and ground covers along with how to prune each was handed out. The simplest practice is to remember to prune plants that flower before July 1 immediately following flowering; plants that flower after July 1 should be pruned in late winter or early spring before growth starts.

The February program was “Making Floral Designs” presented by **Art D’Ambrosio**, who is an instructor in horticulture at Georgia Northwestern College. He is also the husband of Ginny, our newest member.



Using a variety of greenery and flowers, Art made two arrangements for Valentine’s Day. A drawing was held for the arrangements.

Arbor Day. . .

By Georgia Burns. . .

Georgia Arbor Day was celebrated on February 17 with a ceremony at the Silver Creek Trail and Bridge sponsored by the Rome Tree Board, Xavier Chapter of DAR, Rome Federated Garden Clubs and Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful. Three Rivers Garden Club was represented by **Diane Harbin, John Barnett** and **Georgia Burns**. Diane had a part on the program as DAR Regent and Georgia was a representative of the Tree Board and Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Commission.

A special flag was presented to recognize Rome had fulfilled all the requirements to become a Tree City USA for the 22nd year and for a Growth Award for the 5th year. Rome can be proud of these prestigious awards and accomplishments.



Along the trail ten trees were planted which had originally been started years ago as seedlings in the city nursery adjacent to the water treatment plant. A Bald Cypress was designated as the Rome Federation tree and we can be proud to have it along the trail to be enjoyed for many years to come by those seeking pleasure in the beautiful natural environment of this area of South Rome.

Trip to Gibbs Garden. . .

A trip to tour Gibbs Garden is being planned by Laurel District for Friday, May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The tour will cost \$35 and include a tour of eight Manor House Gardens

and eight Valley Gardens. Lunch is also included. Buses will be available for transportation from Rome to the gardens which are located near Ball Ground, Georgia. Members should purchase their own tickets using the form that is in “Garden Gateways.”



The February issue of “Southern Living” had an article on landscape architect Jim Gibbs and pictures of the daffodils which now number over 5 million. It is believed to be the largest daffodil display in the United States. While the daffodils will not be blooming in May, we will be able to a variety of plants and trees on the nearly 300 acres.

Litter Critter Puppeteers. . .

by Winnie Holland

The Little Critter Puppeteers from Three Rivers Garden Club sing and speak out our message to boys and girls of our 3rd grades to encourage the keeping of Rome City and Floyd County clean and beautiful.

Our puppeteers have traveled to Main Elementary on January 13, 2012 and presented it to a super group of third graders. We were received with open arms. Our next presentation will be at North Heights Elementary on February 23, 2012.



Our puppets all have a new wardrobe and new hairdos. Our own **Barbara Littlefield** did the out fitting and hair styling of these characters.

Georgia Burns is working to help secure a grant for up grading the dialogue and the set that is needed for us to continue with this project. We are hoping this will be possible by this summer. This is to help us upgrade this worthwhile project.

Websites. . .

Be sure to visit the following sites:
www.3riversgardenclub.com
www.romefederatedgardenclub.com
www.laureldistrict.org
www.uga.edu/gardenclub
www.dsregion.org
www.gardenclub

Themes and Projects. . .

Shirley S. Nicolai, President, National Garden Club
Theme: “Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities”

Sara Lanier, Director, Deep South
“Membership Offers Opportunities For Everyone”

Caroline Silcox, President, GCG, Inc.
Theme: “Our Garden of Georgia”

Mary Ellen Roos, Laurel District Director
Theme: “Stop and Smell the Flowers”

Jackie Fulmer, Rome Federation President
Theme: “Honoring Our Past – Caring for Our Present – Ensuring Our Future”

John Barnett, Three Rivers President
Theme: “Growing in Membership, Gardening in Our Community, Embracing our Environment”