

Three Rivers Garden Club



Rome, Georgia



September 2010

"Enhancing Our Environment"

Brenda Harp, Editor

From Your President....

This year I have been reading daily from a book called Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. Recently, I have been on a section dealing with creativity. These readings have made me think of many of you and how creative the members of Three Rivers Garden Club are. While I have never considered myself a particularly creative person, this book points out that the things we do on a daily basis can be an art form if we approach them with a creative spirit. I admire people who are artistic and often gain inspiration from them. So many of you have inspired me, especially this past year, as I have come to appreciate your many talents.

Presenting the anti-litter puppet show in local schools by those of you who can act, narrate, and work behind the scenes is a great use of your talents. The children have benefited from your willingness to bring this entertaining show to them.

The sewing, cooking, and handicraft skills of several members was demonstrated at the Christmas auction when you offered your aprons, jewelry, and baked items for sale. In addition, your skills brought happiness to patients at Northwest Regional Hospital as you decorated stockings and eggs for them.

Your flower arranging and gardening talents have enriched our meetings. The May meeting demonstrated how accomplished some of you are in the art of flower arranging and judging. We were eager to hear your helpful hints and words of wisdom as you critiqued our designs. The club has been the recipient of the money our

gardeners have won from the plants and horticulture you have entered at the Coosa Valley Fair. Several of you have attained the status of master gardener. Our community and Three Rivers, appreciate your hard work.

There are other talents and skills that many of you possess—painting, decorating, scrapbooking, teaching, and writing poetry to name a few. In addition, you are all leaders as you have proven by giving programs, starting new garden clubs, heading committees, holding offices, etc.

Ms. Breathnach in her book says that playing it safe is the riskiest choice we can ever make. Let's branch out, take chances, and share our talents with each other and with our community. Take a few minutes to think about how you can use your abilities to help Three Rivers be the best garden club we can possibly be in 2010-2011.

Programs....

Mary Louise Dixon and her committee have planned a variety of programs that should help educate us. The September program will give us a chance to tour and learn more about the new ECO Center. Did you know that ECO stands for Etowah, Coosa, and Oostanaula, Rome's Three Rivers for which our club is named?

On October 6 Sue Crist, one of our new members, will tell us about the growing problem of how to dispose of medications. Our water supply needs to be kept safe and free of dangerous chemicals. This is a timely subject which Sue can help us understand.

Membership....

Our active membership is now down to 20. Beverly Goolsby and Eulyse Townsend have resigned due to health concerns. Invite prospective members to a meeting and give them a copy of the brochure that gives information about our club to new and prospective members. Tell them about the variety of projects that are sponsored by the garden clubs. Chances are there will be several that will interest them.



Committees and Projects....

The Coosa Valley Fair will be here soon. Start grooming your plants to enter into the Horticulture Show. Not only is this a ways and means project for our club, but it is a learning experience that is fun. If you need help deciding what to enter or how to fill out the entry cards, just ask someone who has participated in the past. Plants and cuttings should be carried to the Fair Grounds on Sunday, October 3. Remember it costs you a fine of \$5 if you don't enter.

Begin planning for the Christmas auction. Use that creativity you possess to make items that your fellow members would enjoy purchasing. Last year's auction was quite successful and kept us afloat financially.

Yearbooks will be ready for our September meeting. The 2009-2010 was a state winner in our category. It has been updated and improvements made, so it looks like another winner to me! Thanks to John and his committee for the hard work. Read it from cover to cover and learn more about all levels of garden clubs.

Calendars will be ordered soon. Let Linda Dean know whether you prefer the large or small size. The cost is included in your dues, and the money goes for scholarships for students.

The Visitor's Center flowers looked good all summer. Wanda Mixon and all the members who watered helped make the "little train station on the hill" extend a welcome to our city's visitors. Rome Federation presented us with a second place award in the parks division.

Federation Duties....

A special thank you goes to those who volunteered to provide flowers and refreshments for the August 30 meeting of the Rome Federation. Refreshments were provided by Sandra Norman, Diane Harbin, Sue Crist, Mary Louise Dixon, Winnie Holland, and Brenda Harp. Georgia Burns provided paper products and instructed us on how to have a "green" meeting. Martha Joy Herndon did a beautiful floral arrangement. When I put out a call for help via email, the response is always great.

Our club will be responsible for an arrangement at Rome-Floyd County Library the weeks of September 12-25.

Federation Projects....

Due to publication problems, the cookbook has been delayed. It will be available in November in time for Christmas gifts.

The Garden Center has a new appearance from top to bottom! The new roof was put on this summer along with a new ceiling. The walls were painted, and new carpet was installed. Shutters will be arriving soon. The entrance has been improved with a new sidewalk. Diane Harbin and John Barnett worked hard on the flapjack breakfast at Applebee's and the cookbook which provided the funds to cover the expenses.

Cultivating Young Minds....

Cultivating Young Minds was the Overall Winner of the 2010 National Special Achievement Award. Our Federation project continues for another year under the capable leadership of Diane Harbin and her committee. The children at the South Rome Boys and Girls Club have taken over more of the cultivation of the garden and have enjoyed the fruits of their labor.

The gazebo and arches were built earlier this summer by students and faculty at Coosa Valley Technical High School. The gazebo is a shady spot where the leaders can assemble the children for teaching. The arches and flowers provide a beautiful entrance to the garden. This garden has been a source of unending joy for everyone involved. Community support has been outstanding.

Several members were interviewed by Susan Cooley and Mary Hardin Thornton from the Library TV Channel promoting their "Go Green" emphasis. Look for it soon.



Laurel District Fall Meeting. . . .

The Laurel District Fall Meeting will be in Marietta this year on October 21. All members are invited to attend so mark your calendar.

The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc....

The Marshall Forest monument will be re-dedicated on September 16, 2010, at 4 p.m. Following the ceremony, a reception will follow at the Rome Area History Museum.

Caroline Alford has headed this project for The GCG. Our club members need to show our support for her and this state project located on Horseleg Creek Road. Plan to be there.



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"

Websites....

Be sure to visit the following sites for more information :

www.3riversgardenclub.com

www.laureldistrict.org

www.uga.edu/gardenclub

www.dsregion.org

www.gardenclub.org