



# Scatter Info As We Bloom and Grow

Horticulture Edition, Gail Berthe, Editor

Environmental Edition, Judy Keenan, Editor

Landscape Design Edition, Jane Hersey, Editor

Volume I, Number 1

Horticulture Edition

September, 2013

*Several months ago our new The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. President, Suzanne Wheeler, asked three members to participate in a project similar to “Wings over Georgia” which was a quarterly newsletter devoted to birds and butterflies. For the 2013-2015 term of office she has requested a similar newsletter except this will be published monthly but alternated between **Horticulture** (Gail Berthe, Editor), **Environment** (Judy Keenan, Editor), and **Landscape Design** (Jane Hersey, Editor). The first of these publications will be sent by email in September to be followed each month by **Environment** or **Landscape Design**. We hope you will learn from these newsletters and will share any opinions you have with us.*

## Let's Define Horticulture

---

Webster's II College Dictionary says Horticulture is “**1. The science or art of cultivating fruits, vegetables, flowers, and plants. 2. The cultivation of a garden.**” That is a pretty broad statement and could include everyone from the ‘dig in the dirt gardener’ to supervising the installation and maintenance of an elegant garden. What do these gardening methods have in common—both require a certain amount of horticultural knowledge and expertise!! If you don't know how to garden it is not possible to be successful! Some understanding where specific plants will grow is essential if the garden is to thrive. Nothing is

more frustrating in the garden than to plant a favorite specimen and discover it does not grow or thrive in the selected location. To insure success a plant is placed in the right location with the appropriate light, water, and soil conditions.

### **How to Study Horticulture Skills**

---

**National Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Georgia offer outstanding opportunity for study.** From programs presented at club meetings and organized garden trip much knowledge can be gained. Two excellent established academic opportunities certified by National Garden Clubs, Inc. are offered by The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Another outstanding school is the Cooperative Extension Office Master Gardener Course

🌱 **Basic Horticulture Study Units:** *the Horticulture Study Course provides instruction in basic gardening practices for those members who do not have the opportunity to attend Gardening Studies School.*

🌱 **Gardening Study Courses** *focus on helping members become accomplished horticulturists. Courses cover all aspects of growing from understanding soil structure to pruning techniques, plant identification, etc. Courses may be sponsored by member clubs, groups of clubs, State Garden Clubs, etc. and may be open to garden club members and non-members. [A new Garden Study Course will be offered this term in Americus; contact Rebecca McNeill, [rrdmcneill@live.com](mailto:rrdmcneill@live.com) or [ffrazier@sowega.net](mailto:ffrazier@sowega.net) for more information.]*

🌱 **Master Gardener** training is also an outstanding program. Contact your local UGA Cooperative Extension Office or Georgia State Coordinator, [Sheri Dorn](#) at 770/228-7243].

Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty! (But do wear gloves! And sun screen and a big sun hat.)

**There are some excellent books available from the library or to purchase and are such a help to any skill-level gardener.** Some suggestions are listed below—not necessarily in any preferential order.

- *Southern Living Garden Book*—very general and related to the local area.
- Any Allan Armitage book—various specific titles relating the type of plant discussed, such as perennial, annual, native plants, vines, etc. Dr. Armitage is very down to earth and easily read.
- Any Micheal Dirr book—his books are related to woody plants primarily.
- Erica Glassner has several books relating to Georgia plants and is easily read.
- Walter Reeves is a very popular author and speaker specializing in Georgia and Florida.

If you are a novice gardener, start with the basic books and work up to the more esoteric tomes.

**Gardening magazines are a good source of general knowledge, inspiration, ideas, and information about what other gardeners are doing.** A few to which this editor subscribe are listed below:

- ✿ *Georgia Gardening* primarily includes Georgia authors and deals with Georgia topics of interest.
- ✿ *The American Gardener* is the magazine of the American Horticulture Society and has excellent articles *and* your subscription helps support an important organization, The American Horticulture Society.
- ✿ *Horticulture* is a good general horticulture magazine.
- ✿ *Fine Gardening* is a favorite of mine but is not necessarily Georgia specific.

A good way to make decisions about subscriptions is to check out the magazine racks of a good book store—these publications aren't generally available at the grocery store!

**Your membership in a local garden club; participation in the educational opportunities available through GCG and NGC; reading *Garden Gateways*, GCG's quarterly magazine; subscribing to and reading *National Gardener*, NGC's quarterly magazine; and *Scatter Information as We Bloom and Grow* in your monthly study will enable you to perfect your knowledge of horticulture.** Here are two examples of the kind of information to be included one is an announcement from National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the other includes general gardening activities to be accomplished between now and the next

Horticulture Edition of *Scatter Information as We Bloom and Grow* to be published in January 2014. There will be no December 2013 edition.

### **National Garden Clubs, Inc. Announcement**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. reports a partnership with the organization, **Crown Bees**. The announcement includes information concerning a very serious horticulture/agriculture dilemma. There are many different causes and solutions for this situation. NGC is supporting one of these solutions, as reported below.



#### **Crown Bees and National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

##### **Partner to Add Gentle Mason Bees to Gardens**

National Garden Clubs, Inc. announces a partnership with Crown Bees to increase native bee awareness, and encourage gardeners to add gentle, rarely stinging mason bees for food and flower pollination. Creating edible landscapes and bee-safe habitats in backyards can help save the food supply threatened by declining honey bee pollinators.

NGC President Linda Nelson says that “MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE” in our environment is the goal shared by this newly formed partnership”. Crown Bees is a mason bee pollination and education company and National Garden Clubs, Inc is the largest worldwide nonprofit organization of volunteers pursuing gardening’s best practices and education for a sustainable environment.

President Nelson says that, “The hallmark of National Garden Club activities is to protect and conserve our natural resources, and to promote education so we may all be better caretakers of our beautiful planet.” She also says that, “Increasing bee awareness and promoting the use of bee safe products allow us to be part of this powerful solution”.

Debbie Skow (Native Bee/Bee GAP Chairman for NGC) stated that she will be working to collaborate with Crown Bees to implement 1) A NGC Bee Speakers Bureau to increase bee awareness and practices, 2) encourage bee products in annual plant sales by individual garden clubs, 3) develop a bee education program for our youth programs and 4) to implement the BeeGAP (Gardeners Adding Pollinators) program where members raise mason bees to pollinate gardens. Crown Bees purchase excess bees to send to commercial farmers to supplement honey bee pollinators.

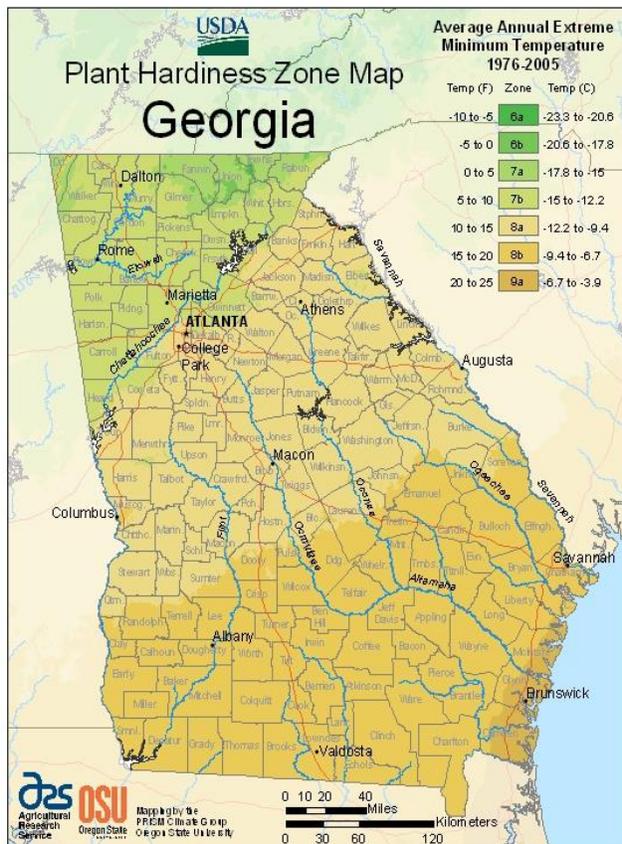
Dave Hunter, founder of Crown Bees, said, “This is a groundbreaking alliance to reach communities everywhere with an easy backyard garden solution to the declining honey bee population. Nearly 1/3 of our food supply is threatened by lack of pollination. We need more alternate bee pollinators to keep food on tomorrow’s table. Bees flourish in an edible landscape, and that is a great solution in which we all benefit.”

For more information related to any of the above subjects you may visit NGC at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) or Crown Bees at [www.crownbees.com](http://www.crownbees.com)

## Autumn's Rewards and Chores in the Garden!

Season's change no matter where you live has rewards and tasks—but it's the tasks that help you enjoy the rewards! You know what the rewards are, so let me remind you of the importance of the tasks. The chores listed are certainly not a complete list, but they will provide ideas. This editor always discovers that once the tools and gear are assembled just being in the garden provides lots of reminders of 'things to do!'

### September



■ Early September is about the last opportunity to divide and move **spring blooming** perennials. **It is essential they have an opportunity to develop a good root system before freezing weather arrives.** Check the first frost dates in your area using a reliable Hardiness Map. The USDA map is an excellent choice and is available on line by searching *USDA Hardiness map*. Georgia has quite a range of temperature extremes making it very important to check exactly where you are located on the map. Another good source of information is your county extension office. Search web for

your county [extension.uga.edu/about/county](http://extension.uga.edu/about/county).

- Fall blooming annuals and perennials can be added to the garden in September for fall color—perennial asters and chrysanthemums are examples. They will bloom for you this season **IF** they are kept watered and

will probably overwinter especially if you carefully mulch later in the fall season.

- Keep blooming plants deadheaded so they can continue to bloom.
- It is too late to prune shrubs and trees—pruning encourages new growth and the new growth will not have time to harden before a freeze. South Georgia may have a couple of weeks to accomplish this task.

## October

- It is almost real ‘fall’ with the leaves starting to turn mid-month and the autumn flowers in full fall color.
- I like to let my summer annuals set seed. Just let the seed fall in place and then remove the dead plants. It is such an amazing fact that nature will replenish many of your annuals from the seed overwintering in the ground—not all annuals are reseeding, and hybrids won’t always come back true to their parents—in fact they hardly ever do, but it is great fun to see in the spring what does come back. My Zahara™ Zinnias came back great, and they are a hybrid. Cosmos and larkspur are two very dependable reseederers. If you want the new plants to be in a different location just scatter the seed in the new spot.
- This is the beginning of tree and shrub planting time, though later in the fall can be better—dormancy of the plant makes fall planting more successful.
- Enjoy the garden in this most lovely season!

## November

- Winter for Georgia is almost here. Time to really concentrate on getting plants put to bed.
- Listed below are some of my opinions about **what not to do** in the garden:
  - Don’t prune summer blooming shrubs such as butterfly bush until spring.
  - Do not remove healthy foliage from the more tender perennials—it helps protect the roots from hard freezes.
  - Don’t put down new mulch until the ground has had an opportunity to get cold—this is important, because early mulching keeps the

ground from cooling and encourages plants to keep growing rather than preparing for the coming really cold weather.

These are some suggestions for thing **to do** in the garden:

- Start planting spring flowering bulbs—daffodils etc. (Tulips should go into areas the deer can't reach!)
- Remove all diseased, dead material, and invasive plant roots and seeds from the garden—do not mulch or burn this debris—dispose of in closed plastic bags. This is a rare instance when, in this author's opinion, a 'big black garbage bag' is needed. Some few very noxious situations call for extreme measures. A little black spot—use a paper horticulture bag, but a borer infested branch, a really invasive root or seed, use the big black garbage bag. Consider the consequences and make the best decision.
- As trees and shrubs begin to lose their leaves and go into dormancy is a good time to prune for shape and health—no crossing limbs, 'whips', diseased branches, etc. Be sure they are dormant! (Save the evergreen trimming until December for seasonal decorating)

And in Conclusion!

---

Future editions of the Horticulture issue of the newsletter will include seasonally appropriate gardening suggestions and information to be of use to you in this challenging and sometimes rewarding hobby/obsession. It is helpful for me if you have suggestions or questions about gardening please contact me at [gail.berthe@gmail.com](mailto:gail.berthe@gmail.com) and your information will be included in following editions, or if it is a question that needs immediate answer please include your email or phone number. The next Horticulture will be issued in January, 2014. The Environmental issue will follow the Horticulture edition in October, and Landscape Design will be issued in November. (No December issue) The three editors are looking forward to providing a resource for our members and allow us to *"Scatter Info as We Bloom and Grow."*

*Gail, the Happy Gardener,*

[gail.berthe@aol.com](mailto:gail.berthe@aol.com)