



Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty

Environmental Edition, Mary Lovings, Editor

Landscape Design Edition, Dr. John Barnett, Editor

Horticulture Edition, Gail Berthe, Editor

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Landscape Design Edition

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The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

Beautification ... Conservation ... Education

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

As if you didn't know, summer is just around the corner and there are still many things that we can do in our landscapes. This editor has had the opportunity to visit two gardens very close to home. Many Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. members have toured the gardens at Oak Hill on the Berry College campus. During Garden Week in Georgia, many of us, once again, toured Oak Hill and Martha Berry's gardens. This editor chose not to tour Oak Hill, home of Martha Berry, simply because he frequents this lovely home several times a year, especially during the Christmas Holidays. This editor loves to go to Oak Hill and take a walk through the gardens during the different seasons of the year. So he chose to take a tour with a guide through the gardens again and then take his own tour a second time. However, probably few individuals have visited a different venue on the Berry campus. This editor, with Berry College in his backdoor as a child, went atop Lavender Mountain and literally played in an area that looks nothing like it does today. This editor will share that with you in this newsletter.

Secondly, this editor was introduced to a Restaurant and Gardens in downtown Cartersville, GA. recently. In this issue, he will introduce you to Grand Oaks.

And finally, this issue will give some tips on what we can do during the month of June to keep our own gardens in check. This editor hopes you will enjoy this issue. It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the first Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Landscape Design Newsletter for this administration was written. Have a great and grand summer, and we'll see you in September.

Dr. John Barnett, Landscape Design Editor



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS HOUSE?

Do you know where it is?

Don't cheat! Give it a guess.

Write down your best guess!

Landscape Design Tips

By the month of June, all northern hemisphere gardens are in full throttle. Garden chores are almost equalized across the zones. Of course, in Georgia, the zones are 7 and 8 but sometimes Mother Nature plays tricks on us. Warmer climates are still ahead of the game, shifting into a transition period northern gardeners don't experience. However, sometimes our Northeast Georgia friends may experience temperatures and climate conditions close to zone 6. But crops are still growing, insects are still feasting and, despite the heat and humidity, this is not the time to rest. So get off your 'laurels' and start (or refuel) your gardening engines and choose a few tasks from June's to Do Gardening List. Mother Nature is like a wife --- always will have a Honey Do List!!! Miscellaneous Tips for Everyone --- No matter where you live---

- ✓ **Work around the humidity** (early am, late afternoon / evening): This editor was working in his gardens today, right in the middle of the afternoon! Do as he says do, NOT what he does!
- ✓ **Keep new plants well-watered:** Yes, water bill will rise in June as some plantings need watering every day because they are sun loving plants and needs more water than some shade loving plants.
- ✓ **Check your mulch:** Most of us will mulch our plants in the fall to prepare for the harsh winter months. But mulch will decay (many times leaving nutrients for the plants) but now is a good time to remulch where needed.
- ✓ **Side dress with compost or manure or feed with fish emulsion, for mid-season pick-up:** Your favorite nursery, whether it be Home Depot, Lowes, Pikes, or a locally owned nursery can help you with these needs for your area.
- ✓ **Check foliage for signs of nutrient deficiency:** Plant nutrient deficiencies often manifest as foliage discoloration or distortion. Unfortunately, many problems have similar symptoms and sometimes it is a combination of problems. Be sure you eliminate the obvious before you kill your plants with kindness. Check first for signs of insects or disease. Foliage discoloration and stunted plants can easily be caused by soil that is too wet and drains poorly or soil that is too compacted for good root growth. Extreme cold or heat will slow plant growth and effect flowering and fruit set. Too much fertilizer can result in salt injury. Your plants may look scorched or they may wilt, even when the soil is wet. For a definitive diagnosis, contact your local cooperative extension service. Plants require a mix of nutrients to remain healthy.
- ✓ **Give the compost a turn:** FREE compost comes from our yards. Sometimes we forget to turn the composter and we do need to do this periodically.
 - ✓ **Give your houseplants a summer vacation outdoors:** Especially if you do not have a greenhouse, plants love the natural sun, humidity and an occasional watering from rain water from our Rain Barrels.
 - ✓ **Make sure the birds have fresh water:** Especially during a drought, our fine feathered friends need a place to bathe, play and drink. Keep your birdbath full and clean with new water every two or three days. Also, don't forget about the butterflies and other 'critters' around our yards.
- ✓ And without a lot of verbiage, **let's look at our vegetables:** Stop harvesting asparagus and rhubarb. Replace cool season crops, like spinach, that have bolted from the heat. Get any remaining warm season vegetables in the ground. Keep up blanching of celery, cauliflower and tender greens. Plant a new batch of bush beans every couple of weeks. Keep tomato plants staked as they grow. Pinch out suckers. Put a couple of drops of mineral oil on corn silks within a week after they appear, to prevent corn earworm.

And what about the fruits: Be prepared for June drop of fruit from fruit trees. They're just thinning out to a manageable crop size. Clean up any fallen fruit. Protect ripening berries with nets or row covers.

Trees & Shrubs: If you want to prune or shear your evergreens, do so as soon as the new growth starts to turn a darker green. Once the wisteria finishes blooming, you can do a maintenance pruning to keep it in check

Oh my! **Summer Pests:** Summer is for insects. Be vigilant! Keep watch for 4-lined plant bug damage, especially on the mint family. Japanese Beetles - They're back!

And for our **Warmer Area friends:** Start new seeds of sun loving crops, for the fall. Begin to cut back on mowing of your lawn. This is hard around the Barnett house. The Queen wants the yard manicured at least every two weeks.

And finally, for now, prepare for **hurricane season and tornado season.** Keep dead limbs pruned and discarded. Leaving a small limb can cause real damage in high winds. This editor knows from experience living in what we call "tornado alley"!

House 'O Dreams

If you guessed that the photo above is Martha Berry's House 'O Dreams, you are one hundred percent correct. Have you ever been to this awesome 'get a way' for Martha Berry? Very few Garden Clubs of Georgia have had the opportunity to visit this venue. As a child and with many friends in our neighborhood (as well as dating Martha Berry's cousin at one time) this editor hiked, rode a bike, or just wandered around Lavender Mountain until we were at the top. There was a house that needed repair done inside and out and obvious gardens that needed some handy work. During the Garden Week in Georgia, those who were able to visit Rome and enjoy the awesome tours, were taken to House 'O Dreams. What a day that was! It brought back many memories, but new memories were made with all the repairs to the House and to the Gardens. The House 'O Dreams is a large stone and board-and-batten cottage on top of Lavender Mountain. Plans were drawn by Harry Carlson of Cooledge and Carlson of Boston. It was built in 1922 by students and staff as a gift to Miss Berry on the 20th anniversary of the Schools. At 1,360 feet above sea level, 600 feet above Frost Chapel, the House O Dreams and its water/fire tower command a superb view of the campuses, the reservoir, the city of Rome, the northwest Georgia area, and neighboring states, Alabama and Tennessee. It is said that a person can see FIVE different states from the Fire Tower, but since the states are not in color as they are on a map, this editor could not figure out which state was what.



Miss Berry's mountain retreat was financed by contributions from Mrs. Emily Vanderbilt Hammond, alumni, and friends. The landscaping was done by Mr. Robert B. Cridland from Philadelphia. The terraces for fruit trees and berry patches, added at Miss Berry's suggestion, were patterned after the grounds of Castle Nemi in Italy where Eugenia Berry Ruspoli, Martha Berry's sister, lived. Many guests have enjoyed Southern hospitality at the House 'O Dreams. Miss Berry used the house as a retreat as well as a place to entertain. It is still used for meetings and "dreaming" sessions by faculty, staff, and student groups. The mountain supplied all the necessary materials for the house. The students built the furniture and designed and wove the fabric for curtains and slipcovers. The house and grounds are maintained by a caretaker who lives in a small cottage nearby. A grant in the form of a challenge to Berry alumni and friends was made in 1983 by Mr. and Mrs. William B. Stokely of Knoxville, Tennessee. The challenge was met, and through the Foundation,

Mr. and Mrs. Stokely provided funding for the full restoration of the mountaintop retreat. Completed in 1984, the restoration has assured the preservation and continued use of this historic structure. The drapery fabrics were copied at the Handicrafts shop for new curtains and slipcovers. Though few original furnishings are still available, there are plans to furnish the House at some time with replicas of what Miss Berry might have enjoyed. A few photos in and around House 'O Dreams. Hope you enjoy the quick tour and will visit 2017 Historic Preservation Fundraiser on April 26, 2017 on Berry Campus and in Historic Rome, GA. More information will be forthcoming from the Historic Preservation Fundraiser Committee soon.



House 'O Dreams back to its original look in 1922



Rustic and Rough Trail to the House



Garden at the House



Gate to the House on the Rustic Road



Aerial view of the House and Fire Tower



Tulip Garden at the House



And what tour of House 'O Dreams could be complete without climbing the Fire Tower?

Grand Oaks Cartersville Georgia



The Strickland-Thacker home was built circa 1901. Edward Strickland, son of a wealthy merchant, moved to the County Seat of Cartersville around 1897. He and his wife, Mary, opened a wholesale grocery, supplies and fertilizer store. He decided the county needed a cotton broker. While his brother, Albert, assumed responsibility for Strickland Wholesale, Edward became one of the most successful cotton brokers in the northwest Georgia region. Sometime around 1900 Edward found and bought the lot at 302 West Main Street and contracted Eugene Smith to design and build a home for his wife and five children. Mr. Smith designed and built many of Cartersville's municipal buildings and churches. He designed Mr. Strickland's home in the Neoclassical Revival Style — an American interpretation of Greek and Roman classical architecture. The Strickland-Thacker home features many of the styles and distinctions, including paired Corinthian columns supporting a full-height front portico and monumental facade. The low-pitched roof, elaborate cornice and grouped windows are also of this style. The side porch — the Georgian Room — is not original to the home, although the Strickland's had a smaller side porch to load the carriage. The house took approximately a year to build and in the winter of 1901 the Strickland's moved in. After years of prosperity Edward was financially devastated by the Great Depression in 1933, he took his own life by putting a gun to his head in his bedroom (the Rose Room). After his death, the home fell into disrepair, and went up for auction in 1934. It finally sold to Mr. Fred Dean Neel for \$3,000. He converted the house into five apartments and in the 1960s it was sold again to Dr. Wilburn of Cartersville. Eight years later he sold it to Sheryl and Gene Vance, who began restoring the structure. Ray Thacker bought Grand Oaks in 1984 and for the next four years continued renovations, including restoring the home to a single family dwelling. Many call Ray's decorating style eclectic — even chaotic — yet, to him, it is simple. Ray buys what pleases him. The result of his years of shopping estate sales and antique shops is a mix of pieces from all over the world and from several different time periods that work together to delight him and his guests. Ray believes Mr. Strickland rests well now, realizing the beauty of the home is held in what it gives to the people of this community.

Grand Oaks is a Greek Revival home renowned in northern Georgia for the weddings, receptions and other social affairs it hosts. In addition to private events, Grand Oaks offers buffet dining on select days of the month and on or during holidays. Guests will revel in the superb Victorian decor, secluded gardens and delicious food. Restaurant opened on Tuesdays from 11:30 – 2:00 with advanced reservations. Also open for groups with advanced reservations.



Photos from the Gardens of Grand Oaks



And a group from Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. joined together to enjoy a luncheon, tour of Grand Oaks and the gardens with a super buffet, fellowship and fun. Make your reservations and visit Grand Oaks in Cartersville, GA.

Howard Finster's Paradise Garden

And yet another treasure right here in Northwest Georgia. Just a few miles north on Highway 27 is Summerville, GA. And in Summerville is Paradise Garden. Howard Finster delighted in collecting and displaying his accumulation of odd objects, tools, antiques, and curios. Even as a young man he built a museum to display his collection of American Indian relics and handmade woodwork. Many self-taught artists and visionary builders throughout the country have maintained museum environments—whether it was to attract visitors, entertain neighbors, or to lend legitimacy to their unorthodox creative endeavors. These roadside museums and gardens were a part of Finster's youth. Finster felt compelled to celebrate the inventions of mankind and the unique attributes of individuals whom he felt deserving of recognition. In the "Exhibit House" on his property in Trion, Georgia, Finster assembled tools and curiosities that validated his belief in the creative, God-given talents of inventors, scientists, and industry giants. He would later immortalize these subjects in thousands of paintings. In 1961, when his family moved to their new home in Pennville, Finster took with him the nucleus of his museum/garden vision. There he began to construct what many feel was his greatest artistic work: The Plant Farm Museum, known later as Paradise Garden.

Howard started building the Garden as a roadside park in the 1960s. He often solicited friends, neighbors, children and later his grandchildren to help with the construction. In 1999, prior to Howard's death in 2001, his daughter Beverly purchased the Garden and later incorporated the nonprofit Paradise Gardens Park & Museum, Inc.

In 2011 the nonprofit Paradise Gardens Park & Museum, Inc. sold the Garden to Chattooga County. Chattooga County leased the property to the Chattooga County Development Authority who then leased the property to Paradise Garden Foundation, Inc. Chattooga County obtained a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission in 2012 to purchase the property. There is nothing so spectacular as those 'hidden' treasures in Georgia. Is there one near you? Let this editor know about it.





Objectives of the Landscape Design Study Program

- 1. Develop a greater sense of appreciation, pride, and knowledge about our private and public gardens.**
- 2. Become better educated to make changes in our surroundings so that they will be more beautiful, useful, and convenient, ecologically sound, and easily maintained.**
- 3. Stimulate interest in all phases of landscape design, including community planning that will affect all of our lives.**
- 4. Develop a contingent of qualified Landscape Design Consultants to serve in such decision-making areas of public life as providing leadership, educational programs, scholarships, awards, and promoting better landscape design.**

Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty is a monthly publication of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. Each edition focuses on one of three themes: Environmental Studies, Landscape Design Studies, and Horticulture Studies.

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