



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

Volume III, Number 6

Landscape Design Edition

October, 2016

**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.
Beautification ... Conservation ... Education**

COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR

WOW! It is so hard to believe that summer, 2016 is over! Fall is here with cooling of temperatures and this editor is so ready for fall. I am sure you are too. This editor has had the opportunity to visit several gardens and homes around the area. Since this editor began writing Landscape Design Edition, I am amazed at all the beautiful gardens around our state, as well as, right around the corner from Lindale, where I live. This editor hopes that you will be able to visit some, or all, of the Mansions and awesome gardens spotlighted in “Sowing Seeds of Knowledge Reaps Conservation with Beauty: Landscape Design”. It has been an absolute thrill for this editor to be sent information and, of course, just HAS to visit as many as possible and let you know what is in and around our state. This editor and several Laurel District members had the opportunity to have lunch and tour the house and gardens at Grand Oaks in Cartersville, GA again. You need to visit this house and gardens again soon also (and, of course, have lunch.)

Secondly, this editor is always excited to spotlight our own members. Chuck Baumrucker, a member of Cumming Garden Club, is spotlighted in this issue. I have enjoyed getting to know Chuck Baumrucker (via email) and viewing his gardens and masterpieces. Wiinie Holland has an awesome landscape as well. Her gardens/landscapes are equally spectacular. I know you will enjoy this spotlight on members. With that, if you have a garden (and/or mansion) that you would like to show off in Landscape Design, send that information to DrB9565@aol.com and put Landscape Newsletter in the subject line. More the merrier and showing off throughout our state is surely an honor. Not only these two members' gardens and home, but we will take a trip from the North Georgia mountains to the Savannah sea in this issue, as well.

It is hoped that you have enjoyed the coming of fall, cooler temperatures and ready for new happenings in gardening this garden club year.

Dr. John Barnett, Landscape Design Editor



“And, this is why I love gardening!”

Quote from Chuck Baumrucker. This editor finds this photo a sure pleasure to cause us to do more work in our gardens! And what better way to show our National President's program of Bees and Butterflies. Isn't this just tootly awesome! This editor sure thinks so!

Landscape Design Tips for the Autumn Gardens

Though the temperatures in Georgia are still in the high 70's and low 80's, it is time to think about the cooler weather to come. You may think it is quite early to think about this, however, if we don't plan now, the right time will sneak up on us. The fall garden... it's that time of the year when the weather begins to cool and there's a nip in the air (around October in Georgia), you know it's time to begin preparing your garden for fall and winter. This is especially important for your vegetable garden. A smooth transition will help you get the greatest yield as you transition from the summer garden to a fall garden and then shut things down for the winter. Here are some smart ways you can make the most of your garden during the cool and pleasant autumn months.

Reap Your Garden Harvest: Autumn is the traditional time for harvest, and after all of the hard work you have put into growing your vegetables you can now reward yourself by spending pleasant days in your garden harvesting your delicious homegrown produce. Autumn is the perfect time to harvest your root vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and onions. Additionally, winter squash should now be ripe for the picking. As the days grow cooler, you will have the perfect weather for preserving your fresh veggies for the wintertime by freezing, canning or dehydrating. If you have an herb garden, now is the time to cut back your herbs and hang them to dry or freeze them for use during the winter months.

Clear Your Garden Bed: After your final harvest, you will want to begin preparing your soil for winter. Pull up your old plants and use them for composting for next year. Simultaneously, pull up any weeds that may be invading your garden space. Be sure to dispose of them properly by bagging them and sending them off with the trash or by burning them. Take care not to add them to your compost pile. And I don't like to burn them because if the weeds don't burn properly, seeds may fly out of the fire and plant themselves all over your garden and lawn. So do the best thing and put them in a bag and send them to the trash pile.

Amend Your Soil & Balance Your pH Levels: Once your harvest is in, you can check the pH levels of your soil and make proper amendments to adjust them so that your garden will be ready for planting in the spring. If you don't already have an electronic tester or pH kit, take a trip to your local plant nursery or shop online. These tools are an important investment that cost little and help you make the most of your home vegetable garden. It also works great for your flower perennials. For your veggie garden, your soil should measure slightly on the acidic side. Ideally your pH level should be between 6.3 and 6.9. If you find your soil to be too acidic (below 6.3) amend it with lime to increase alkalinity. On the other hand, if your pH level is above 7.5 your soil is too alkaline. In this case, you would want to add elemental sulfur to lower the alkalinity. Both lime and sulfur are organic amendments you can pick up at your local garden center. Adding them in the fall gives them plenty of time to work their magic on your soil so you can get busy planting as soon as all danger of frost passes in the spring.

Work in Some Compost: The nutrients in organic compost are released slowly, so it's smart to work a generous amount of manure or compost into your vegetable garden beds at the start of winter. Begin by adding a layer of one or two inches of manure or compost over the top and then till it in. It will break down slowly throughout the winter and replenish the nutrients in your soil.

Mulch! Mulching Leaves: Nutritional Benefits for Soil: Be sure to protect your garden bed by mulching with straw, leaves, wood chips or a thick layer of working compost. This will help keep moisture in and prevent leaching of nutrients through the winter. Take care not to mulch with straw, hay or grass clippings that may contain weed seeds. This will only cause you problems when the growing season begins. (Oh me! I need to practice what I preach here!). Decayed leaves not only improve the soil condition, but they can increase the yield and flavor of fruits and vegetables. They also bring a greater profusion of bloom to the flower beds, and better health, and more beauty to evergreens, and flowering shrubs.

Avoid Frozen Pipes & Hoses: Whether you water with an irrigation system or with a garden hose, it's smart to defend against freezing long before the first frost. Once your harvest is done and you have tested, amended and protected your soil, disconnect your irrigation system or roll up your hose and store it properly. Make sure all water is out of your hose! Just a small amount will leave you with a crack or hole

in the hose! If you are using an irrigation system in a very cold climate, be sure to blow out the lines with an air compressor to prevent freezing, swelling and burst pipes.

Plant A Winter Crop: Before the first freeze, plant your garlic for next spring. The temperatures outside and in the ground should be cold but not yet freezing. This is important because if you plant your garlic too early, it will begin to grow too early and may be subject to freezing. Planting your garlic late in the autumn provides just the right amount of exposure to the cold. This helps ensure that you will enjoy an abundant crop of fresh, healthy garlic in the spring time. TIP: To plant garlic properly, bury individual cloves at spacing intervals of 6 to 8 inches. The cloves should be planted three inches deep, covered well with freshly amended soil and mulched generously with compost or straw. Each of your cloves of garlic will become a full head by summertime.

Keep Composting: Once you've finished your fall garden preparations, your compost heap is likely to be fairly depleted. Take some time to turn the remains of the heap and continue adding to it throughout the winter with your kitchen and yard scraps. This will ensure that you have a good supply of natural, homemade compost when the spring garden season gets into full swing.

Remember, as the old saying goes, "do as I say do, NOT as I sometimes do"! I plan to do better this fall and winter. I plant more flowers than I do veggies. However, I am going to try my luck with garlic. I hope you will try your "green thumb" with a veggie that will be ready for spring harvest.

Spotlight on the Landscape of Chuck Baumrucker

Chuck Baumrucker, a 78 year old and one who has an obsession for color. He was raised 30 miles west of Chicago, has an engineering degree and spent 5 1/2 years in the Navy. His last year he was a company commander in Vietnam.. PTSD training gave him his daily drive. Chuck, married 48 years to a well known artist, haunts art galleries and plant nurseries in a 150 mile radius. Let's make it perfectly clear. The garden is a joint effort- 50/50.. There is lots of discussion with a little wine thrown in.. As you will see, Chuck believes portraits should be taken of flowers, for the bloom doeth fade too soon.. He spends about 3 hours a day [early] either working or photographing. Light is the key to photography, so one has to be out there all the time, for good light is fleeting and is never the same again. Plants do very well in North GA or not at all.. So, the first concept for a showy garden is plant diversity.. He has wiped out his rose garden twice. Poor use of chemicals. Without diversity, he would have nothing. Keep the area compact. Chuck said, "[My garden] is 85 feet by 85. Terraced about 12 feet. If one gets spread out you lose the impact you want." Adding, "Hey what is around the next corner.. Plant for 4 Seasons. Try not to have any dead time. Lots of bold color." White is his favorite. It shows well at night. Plant in vignettes. Here is a picture and over here is another. Shade, full sun, Partial etc. Always have something somewhere going on. Chuck tells this editor that dead time is March/April.. After all, he was in sales. The bottom 10 % always were let go. The same applies to plants. Out by 7 AM.. you also get to plant something new that is doing well. Plant in bunches to make a statement, to make a focal point. Singles are rare for him. Also, plant big, early and tight. Chuck sends a big shout out and thank you to Dr. Armitage, UGA. The really big key in all of this is the steroid for plants. Humic Acid. Hard to find. Chuck uses Pro Mate Platinum granules with Humic Acid. Regarding plants, he pretty much uses what the commercial landscapers use. Chuck comments, "I am not inventing the wheel here, just adjusting the color palette." Now, on what to plant. Note: "Roses are my favorite. I use other plants to frame the rose garden. However, I sprayed incorrectly and defoliated most of the Roses . I am now rebuilding for the next year."

"Soil is critical.. It is a tough balance between too much clay and too many amendments which have too much drainage and will need excessive watering. Also heavy mulching here is necessary. "I use a lot of Garden soil from Green Bros which seems to hold a lot of moisture. Thank you Ryan Tillie Roses by Ryan. Also worm casting and Soil 3 compost from SuperSod. Plants I like.. Encore Azalea's.. Blooms 3 times. Takes a lot of water. Begonia's- Big Leaf.. Zinnia's Dreamland. Lantana's. Day lily's.. 40 +.. Cora Vinca's..50 +.. Lily's.. Oriental/Asiatic.. Phlox David.. nothing sophisticated here. I can go on for awhile. If you take away anything, it's Humic Acid, sparingly!"

Chuck lives off exit 400 and if you are in the area, please stop by. Let's take a look at some awesome photos from his gardens and landscape.



Patio Entrance



Rose Pope John Paul II



South Tier Raised Bed



Oak Tree Perimeter in Fall



Hummingbird Haven



Yard North facing Tier

Spotlight on the Landscape of Winnie Holland

Another garden close by (actually in Rome this time) is the landscape of gardens of Winnie Holland. Winnie is a former president of Three Rivers Garden Club in Rome, GA. She has an awesome passion for garden clubbing and gardening. Obviously, she is an avid gardener. Following is just a taste of what you may experience in her landscape.



Can you see the Monarch Butterfly?

On Our Way to Middle Georgia

I am always amazed at the many historic gardens in our State. And, it is always a great day when my family and I have the opportunity to visit so many of them. We found an awesome Georgia State Park historic site. It is said "Dating back to 1847, through generations of family members, Jarrell Plantation Historic Site is one of the last remaining examples of a vanishing culture with its authentic nineteenth and early twentieth century plantation buildings typical to Middle Georgia representing the change from an agricultural to an industrial based economy."

In the Georgia red clay hills, this cotton plantation was owned by a single family for more than 140 years. It survived General Sherman's "March to the Sea," typhoid fever, the cotton boll weevil, the beginning of steam power and a transition from farming to forestry.

In 1847, John Fitz Jarrell built a simple heart pine house typical of most plantations and made many of the furnishings visitors see today. In 1860, the 600-acre plantation was farmed by 39 slaves. After the Civil War, John increased his land to nearly 1,000 acres farmed by former slaves. As John aged, most workers left and the slave houses deteriorated and disappeared.

After John's death, his son, Dick Jarrell, gave up teaching to return to the farm, and in 1895, he built a small house for his family that grew to 12 children. Dick diversified the farm, adding a sawmill, cotton gin, gristmill, shingle mill, planer, sugar cane press, syrup evaporator, workshop, barn and outbuildings. In 1974, his descendants donated these buildings to establish Jarrell Plantation Historic Site. "A picture is worth 1000 words!"



Well kept landscaping from the days gone by to the preserved land of today.



Jarrell Plantation is an amazing and well preserved piece of history where one can travel back in time and see how things were in the life of the early settlers, slaves, and plantation owners. Refer to photos #1 - #4. Photo #5 gives a view from the front porch and Photo #5 shows the new public picnic area.

A Trip to Augusta with Tons of Information

Meadow Garden is one of Georgia's oldest dwellings dating back to 1791. The National Historic Landmark is a quiet and an alluring and attractive oasis in the heart of the industrialized city of Augusta, Georgia. Make plans to visit this beautiful historic treasure. The home features 18th and 19th Century American and English furnishings, porcelains, paintings and primitive household equipment. George Walton was born in Virginia in late 1749 (possibly early 1750). His father died within a few months of his birth, and his mother died before he was seven. He was reared by his uncle, also named George Walton, of Prince Edward County, Virginia. At the age of fifteen, young Walton apprenticed himself to a bulider Christopher Ford, with whom he worked for several years. At the age of nineteen, after having terminated his apprenticeship, Walton traveled to Savannah to begin a new career there.

Walton's older brother John had already come to Georgia and had established himself in Augusta. George Walton was able to obtain a position in the office of Henry Yonge, Jr., a Savannah attorney, and studied law under Yonge's tutelage. In 1773, Walton took the oath of allegiance to the king that was required before an attorney was allowed to practice law in the colony. In two years he built for himself one of the most successful legal practices in Georgia.

As friction between America and Britain grew more intense, George Walton became one of the leading activists in Georgia. He was on the colony's first Council of Safety and soon became its secretary; then president. In February 1776, Walton was appointed to the Continental Congress. Because of his position in the state militia, he was delayed in leaving Georgia, but finally arrived in Philadelphia in late June 1776, only a few days before the formal approval of the Declaration of

Independence on July 4. At the age of twenty-six Walton was the youngest man to sign the Declaration.

Walton continued to serve in the Continental Congress for another sixteen months before returning to Georgia in late 1777. Upon his return to Savannah, Walton resumed his position in the state militia and an active role in state government. In September 1778, at the age of twenty-eight, he married a fourteen or fifteen-year-old Savannah girl named Dorothy Camber.

In November of that year, only two months after Walton's marriage, the British launched a new invasion of Georgia. Because Walton was the senior colonel in the state's militia, he became the acting commander of the state militia forces. When the British assault on Savannah began in late December 1778, Walton's men were located at the critical point of attack. The raw militiamen were overwhelmed by the vastly superior British forces, and Walton was severely wounded in the action. The conquering British took Walton captive as they swept through Savannah, but fortunately for Walton, he received humane and skilled care for his wound from the British surgeons. He was later sent on to Sunbury where he was held prisoner with other captured Americans.

When Walton was finally exchanged in October 1779, Savannah which had been the seat of state government, was still in the hands of the British. Walton traveled to Augusta where he joined a small group of whigs who were trying to reorganize a state government in order to continue to resist the British. The new assembly elected Walton governor and then later reappointed him to the Continental Congress. Walton's role in this government involved him in a bitter controversy with Lachlan McIntosh that became one of the important points of Walton's public career.

In June 1791, Walton acquired two adjacent lots of approximately fifty acres each in Augusta Township, and it appears that he was living on the property by early 1792. By 1793, he was identifying himself by the name of his new home, "George Walton of Meadow Garden." Because his financial troubles never fully abated and because he needed to insure that his family would not be deprived of their home, Walton never listed the property in his own name. Instead he had it listed first in the name of his nephew, Thomas Watkins, and then later held in trust by John Habersham and Anderson Watkins for his son, George Walton.

Despite the fact that the property was never formally listed in his own name, there is no doubt that "Meadow Garden" was the home of George Walton. His letters throughout the 1790s and until his death in 1804 are continually headed "Meadow Garden." When Walton was appointed to the United States Senate in 1795-6, he wrote back home to his wife with advice to her about how to manage Meadow Garden. When he died, his funeral procession began at Meadow Garden.

The Augusta Chronicle carried a full account of the death and of the funeral. Walton's body was carried from Meadow Garden to a family cemetery on the plantation of one of his nephews. His body was later disinterred and taken to be buried at the Signers' Monument in Augusta. Meadow Garden passed from the ownership of Walton's surviving son, George, in 1812. Much of the above information was told by Dr. Edwin C. Bridges. Dr. Edwin C. Bridges is a former Archivist for the State of Alabama. His doctoral dissertation (University of Chicago) was a biographical study of George Walton. [Information used by permission.](#)





A Short Trip to Savannah

The Owens-Thomas House is considered one of the finest examples of English Regency architecture in America. Completed in 1819, and occupying a full block, the home features a columned entrance portico, handsome cast iron balcony, winding double stairway, and arched second story windows. The interior boasts a magnificent stairway of mahogany, cast iron and brass and elegant furnishings. The foundation of the home and garden walls are built of tabby, a regional material made of sand, shells and lime.

Congressman, Lawyer and one-time Savannah Mayor George Welshman Owens purchased the home in 1830 for \$10,000. The Owens-Thomas house remained in the Owens family until 1951 when Owens granddaughter, Margaret Thomas, bequeathed it to Savannah's art museum, the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. This architectural treasure is a National Historic Landmark. Information about Owens-Thomas House was retrieved from the National Historic Register.



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.

Environmental Editor: Mary Lovings, marmgl@bellsouth.com

Landscape Design Editor: John Barnett, DrB9565@aol.com

Horticulture Editor: Gail Berthe, gail.berthe@gmail.com