



THE DIRT

Roswell – Ours to Beautify and Conserve

Volume 7
July - August 2011

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Hello Ladies,

The summer has been extremely hot and I know we all are looking forward to cooler weather so that we can do more of what we love most----gardening. I am thankful that we just had some great showers which will help my poor plants which are looking not so great. A few days away and no rain and I came back to plants begging for water. The weeds, however, really don't mind the heat and drought. They grew and grew so that I had to use my heavy-duty tools to get them up—the roots were headed to China! Hopefully you haven't had this problem. I started weeding at 8 in the morning and stopped around 11:30 several days with sweat pouring off. If you have been gardening this summer, you know what I am talking about.

During the summer Virgil and I have spent a few days at a time about three times in Ellijay staying in and staying cool. We bought ripe peaches twice and I made about five dozen half pints of peach preserves. They are so yummy!

I know some of you have had wonderful vacations and have sent me pictures--so check them out in the following pages.

I am looking forward to more get-togethers with you. I have missed your fellowship. You are a wonderful group and I appreciate all you do for RGC and Roswell.

Carolyn H.

Roswell Recreation Center
Roswell Area Park
10495 Woodstock Rd
Roswell, GA 30075

OFFICERS:

President: Carolyn Herndon
1st V-President: Sandy Hanlon
2nd V-Presidents: Beth Carpentier
& Brenda Villwock
Secretary: Florence Anne Berna
Treasurer: Linda Becker
Auditor: Mary Rogan
Parliamentarian: Debbie Vann
Historian: Linda Lee Parker

~~~~~

### **MEMORIAM**

Hazel Wall, a long-time member, passed away in May. Her body was taken to Washington State for graveside services beside her first husband. At her son's suggestion, RGC sent a donation in her memory to Vietnam Veterans Association .



|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Inside this issue: | page |
| Garden Reports     | 2-3  |
| Vacations          | 3    |
| Hort Tips          | 3    |
| Fulton Fed mtg     | 4    |
| RGC birthday plans | 4    |
| Fulton Fed mtg     | 4    |
| WAFA-Gretchen      | 4-5  |
| Important Dates    | 6    |

## SMITH PLANTATION

**HERITAGE HYDRANGEA GARDEN** - Most plants are growing fine, but a few are having a difficult time and may need to be replaced.

There will be a clean up of the Hydrangea Garden at Smith Plantation on **Friday, August 12, at 9 a.m.** This will be in preparation for their trolley crawl on 8/20. Please e-mail Florence Anne if you are planning to participate.

([fanneberna@hotmail.com](mailto:fanneberna@hotmail.com)) We need all the “worker bees” to help spruce up the grounds at Smith.

**KITCHEN GARDEN** - The zucchini plants have gotten huge and are producing really big zucchini. Some were more than a foot long and about 3-4 inches in diameter. The sunflowers were extremely tall with beautiful flowers. I think all this growth is due to the chicken “fertilizer” that was used—very powerful stuff.

**COTTON GARDEN** - The cotton plants are growing and healthy and starting to have flowers. Notice in the picture pink and white flowers.



**TRILOGY TROLLEY CRAWL AT SMITH ON AUGUST 20, 2011--** Since this is a huge event, I still need additional volunteers. I especially need people who will volunteer to work the later shift. One shift will run from 6:30-9:30 and one duty will run from 9:30 to 11:30. We need people to check tickets, work information and drink tables, meet people at the parking lot, staff the downstairs of the house as people walk through, and generally mill around supervising the crowd. If you have already definitely committed to work this night in exchange for a free ticket to enjoy the rest of the evening to party at all three houses, you do not need to respond. If you would like to volunteer or have not definitely committed your time, please respond asap so I can schedule you. We have several husband and wife teams working, so please let me know if you would like to work with your spouse. Also, if you have a friend that would like to work with you, I could schedule you together. If you need more information about the event and volunteering, please email or call me. Once I have all the volunteers, I will contact you again to let you know your duty and time schedule. I try to accommodate everyone’s wishes the best I can. Again, your prompt response would be greatly appreciated. Thanks,

*Carolyn Tatum*

**Programming/Education Coordinator  
Archibald Smith Plantation**

---

### BARRINGTON HALL BUTTERFLY GARDEN

We are planning a cleanup soon to get ready for the Trilogy Trolley Crawl.



### ROSWELL ADULT RECREATION CENTER ENTRANCE GARDEN

Linda Becker has been monitoring and doing maintenance at this garden. Marigolds look beautiful.



**WAIST-HIGH GARDEN** -- Hilary has been checking and watering this garden. Everything is doing well, especially considering the heat!!!



## VACATION REPORTS

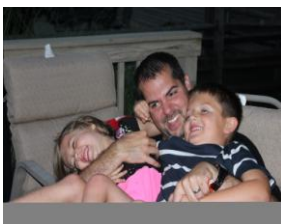
Brenda Villwock, Marcia Camp, Linda Lee Parker, and another mutual friend, Isabel, had a wonderful two weeks in Grand Cayman Islands.

We sunned, walked, had adventure sightings in coral, took salsa lessons at The Wharf, read, shared devotionals, ate, prayed, danced to steel drums in Camana Bay, played in the fountains of water and light, shopped in Georgetown, watched the cruise ships enter, and hung with the locals.

Learned 101 ways to use Rum, and we did a photo shoot for Meltinghearts, a Banger Beach sunglass company.



Mary Rogan -- Visited with son, daughter-in-law, and Grandkids in Mason, Ohio.



Carolyn Herndon -- Visited many daylily gardens and exhibited in the daylily show at the Galleria. My garden below:



Winner of the Design Section of the Daylily Show was Betty Thompson.

Hilary and Dennis: We are going to England for a family celebration for my much older sister's 80th birthday. We are going to see the Queen (only kidding); we do have tickets to visit Buckingham Palace and other attractions in London.

### HORTICULTURE TIPS

- \*Collect seeds from hosta, cleome, and other types of seed pods to save for planting next spring.
- \*The soil in indoor clay pots dries out quickly. Poke holes in it with a pencil to make sure water saturates the soil when you do your watering.
- \*Plant fall-blooming bulbs now.
- \*Cut back annuals & fertilize to extend their blooming into the fall.

**FULTON FEDERATION** - The next meeting will be September 12. Speaker will be Jack Driskel - Cobb County Master Gardener & Smith Gilbert Gardener - "A Day in the Garden". Location has changed to the Ashe-Simpson Nursery. **RGC will be hostesses.** Please let Carolyn H. know if you wish to go and what item you can take. 770-650-6658

### **NOTE FROM BRENDA**

Please bring tab tops from aluminum cans. Only 2 meetings after this one to do so!

**Personal request:** also bring any Bed, Bath + Beyond coupons you can spare (any coupon-current or expired-will do) for my dancer daughter living in NYC.

---

## **RGC HAS A BIRTHDAY!**

This year RGC will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club was formed in 1951. Plans are underway for a huge celebration. There will be a planning meeting at Carolyn H.'s house on **Tuesday, August 16.** Anyone interested in being on this committee is invited to attend. Please let me know if you can come or, if not, pass on your ideas. I know all of you want to be a part of this event. Let's celebrate!

---

## **GRETCHEN COLLINS -- A STEWARD AT THE WORLD FLOWER SHOW IN BOSTON**

The World Flower Show marked the 30th Anniversary of its founding this year at a show in Boston. All thirty of the WAFSA countries were represented at the show this year. It was the 10th show and the 1st to be held in this country.

When asked if I would volunteer as a steward I had no idea what a fascinating experience would follow. My job was to monitor one of the classes in the show with 17 entries. I was there to try to answer any questions, to be sure that most of the work was done on the floor, [not in advance] and to help the exhibitors stay within guidelines. We were told to dress in black and would be given an apron with pockets for our gear as well as a red bandanna to wear around our necks. My understanding is that many non Americans think of us as cowboys so this seemed quite appropriate. It did distinguish us as helpers at the show.

Most of the exhibitors came on Tuesday afternoon between 3:30 and 7 pm to bring in their materials, put cut flowers in buckets of water and become familiar with their location. Wednesday morning I was there again at 5:30 am waiting for them to arrive at 6 am to begin their work. They were allowed 6 hours to complete the design and several did work for close to that amount of time. This number of hours allowed me to observe and enjoy the different personalities and styles of the designers. Our design was entitled "Chameleon" and was a two sided design on a large pedestal, 24" square and 42" high. Most entrants had several boxes of flowers to work with, primarily pre-ordered at the Boston Flower Market. The top winning design took 4 to 5 hours to complete while the 2nd place was done in an hour or less. Most designers used 3 to 6 hours as there was great detail in their work. My designers were: 9 from the USA, 3 from the UK, one from Canada, one from France, one from Northern Ireland and 2 from Japan. Several of them had also entered other classes and were running from one to the other to finish in time.

Yoko Nishiyama appeared to be quite young, perhaps in her twenties, and unable to speak English. She was very serious and created one of the award winners with just two materials: palm boots and asplenium [Bird's Nest Fern] fronds. She carefully wired the dry wood-like boots to a metal stand and created an intricate mechanic of wire and moss in the center to hold the second side with the fern fronds. Possibly an hour and a half more was spent carefully curling and forming the fronds to perfect her design. Enormous discipline produced a rhythmic and award winning perfection of rust and green forms.

I watched a ballet being performed by Andrea Hoffman from Fairfield, CT. As she created her design she seemed to become one with it, using arm and body movements to follow the lines. She was, as most all seemed to be, totally immersed in the process of building the design. The result was a serene blending of color, form, pattern and texture. I failed to ask if she was a dancer.

Also from the USA, Lee Lapointe balanced giant foliage and large blooms in a free form pottery container. The contrasts were more evident in form than in color. Lighting for all of the 500 plus designs in this show was an

enormous challenge. After the designs were in place electricians were traveling the hall to try to give proper illumination to each design. Lee complained to me that her lighting was poor. I told her the lighting did produce dramatic shadows in her design but that was not what she wanted. It did not deter the judges from giving her a ribbon.

I observed the art of a tea ceremony as Mariko Uehara began her design by carefully draping embroidered fabrics across her pedestal. This was followed by red lacquered dishes being placed at each corner. Flowers were added to each dish and finally a tall display irrupted from the center of the pedestal. A charming young woman came by to translate, helping us to communicate. I watched my two designers from Japan and hoped they were alright and had not been impacted by the recent disaster.

Susie Barwick from the UK covered the top of her pedestal with blocks of lime green oasis and then created a landscape of color with brilliantly colored sticks and wires. It took hours for her to complete this, finally adding flax and colorful Vanda orchid blooms.

Much of the design work was meditative rather than rushed. However, Betty Call from Florida was able to combine the plant materials in her large design in an hour and receive a second place ribbon. Her finished design was dramatically balanced.

His home is Philadelphia but Lazaro C. Fontanilla, Jr., was emphatically Japanese in appearance and manner. His design was both large and intricate and he easily was involved with this work for 9 hours including both days. He explained to me his unhappiness because the printed cards on his pedestal had left out his middle initial and 'Jr.' It was his feeling that the design was not truly his with an incorrect name and he hoped this could be fixed. I made a request for the correction to be made. The second day, he again told me about the problem and I explained that I had followed up and hoped it would be done. I again requested the change and found out that by show time the corrected cards would be displayed. Lazaro had bought quantities of flowers for his elaborate design and had quite a few extra. He handed me a bunch of anthuriums and protea as a gift. He then added a huge king protea bloom and I tried to refuse the extra. His very serious response was that when given flowers one must never refuse. For the final 2 hours of my shift I was toting my lovely flowers along with my notebook, tape measure, etc. I left a few protea for the chambermaid. The bell hop who stowed my suitcase for several hours managed to keep my flowers safe. I carried them through taxi and bus ride back to New Hampshire and home where they are now being enjoyed as I think of my new friend Lazaro.

Each of my designers deserved to be mentioned but I am going to finish with Marie Luce Paris from France. Her first place winning design used a technique I have seen in French design books and it was fascinating to see it executed. The design had possibly 30 or more red cordyline leaves layered and wired to create one side of the design. Many green aspidistra leaves were split and glued to cardboard for the opposite side. It was finally studded with orchid blooms. This was time consuming work and Marie Luce was not the first to arrive that morning. Warnings were given that our time was ending and all must finish and exit by noon. Marie would not leave and I finally was waving my arms and saying 'Au Revoir, Arrete.' I knew the time was tight before judging began and she finally left at 12:10.

In addition to observing the design work in my own class I was able to follow some of what was happening in adjacent areas. Due to being able to observe the work and time involved, my view of the show when it opened was markedly different. It is possible I will not see another World Flower Show and I am extremely grateful for having the opportunity to be present at this one.

## **POWER OF PINK LUNCHEON**

*Sept. 23, Country Club of Roswell  
Celebrating Women, Business & Survival*

Power of Pink luncheon to benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Atlanta Affiliate. Presented by North Fulton Hospital at the Country Club of Roswell. Luncheon, Fashion Show, silent auction, fellowship & enjoyment. [www.powerofpink.co](http://www.powerofpink.co) (not .com), 770-751-2867 for additional details.



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

8/10 -- Liz Nunley

8/20 -- Linda Becker

8/27 -- Aniece Hicks

8/17 -- Rose Polatty

9/11 -- Stephanie Ludtke

9/22 -- Jeanie Wheeless

9/25 -- Hilary Boyle

9/27 -- Debbie Vann

9/27 -- Renea Winchester



## **SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**SPEAKER:** Daryl Pulis (Mrs. Green Thumb)

[DP2413@comcast.net](mailto:DP2413@comcast.net)

From Cumming, GA.

Presentation "Great New Plants"

Mom was member of the RGC in the 70's.

**Be sure to mark the date on your calendar—you won't want to miss hearing her speak!**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- 8/9 -- Dogwood District Board meeting, Sandy Springs Library
- 8/10 -- Dogwood District awards workshop, Callanwolde
- 8/12 -- Smith cleanup, 9 a.m.
- 8/16 -- RGC birthday celebration planning meeting
- 8/20 -- Trilogy Trolley Crawl
- 9/12 -- Fulton Federation meeting, RGC hosts
- 9/23 -- Power of Pink Luncheon
- 9/27 -- RGC meeting

**Laughter, joy and kindness are the herbs  
to gladden the heart and delight the soul.**