



EACH ONE – PLANT ONE

National Garden Club, Inc. Plant America initiative to plant at least 165,000 trees annually continues through May 1, 2021. Submit your plantings to Leanne Penman

AGENDA

Call to Order/ Welcome members and guests

THANK YOU to Trudy Rudert for hosting us on her Zoom account

INSPIRATIONAL “How to Make New Year’s Resolutions” with a personal bonus inspirational suggestion from Cathy Nelmes

GARDEN THERAPY Chairman Hazel Ringlestein – Christmas contributions statistics for Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries (NCM) and January contributions i.e. Youth diapers Size 4/5 (not newborn sizes) and/or new undergarments

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Leanne Penman and Cathy Nelmes

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER - First Vice President Cathy Nelmes

Gwinnett County Master Gardener and association president Lynda Pollock will showcase 15 gardens she visited in Philadelphia while attending the 2019 International Master Gardeners Conference. Philadelphia is known as America’s Garden Capital.

RE-CHARTER STATUS Membership renewal numbers

2nd Co-VP/Membership Nancy O’Reilly

2021

How to Make New Year’s Resolutions

When setting New Year’s resolutions - always set **SMART** goals.

This acronym stands for:

- SPECIFIC:** There should be no room for misinterpretation.
- MEASURABLE:** Plan how to track your results objectively.
- ACHIEVABLE:** Set realistic New Year's resolutions.
- RELEVANT:** Ensure your goal aligns with who you want to be.
- TIME-BOUND:** Set deadlines for each part of the process needed to achieve your goal.

For example, as a Norcross Garden Club member here’s a goal for you:

GOAL: I will expand my knowledge of plants in my garden.

Specific: I will make a list of at least five perennials in my garden or other perennials of interest. I will note their current growing conditions, i.e. full shade, hot afternoon sun, low damp area, slope, etc.

Measurable: I will learn the common and scientific name and how to pronounce plus their preferred growing conditions. Why do I like them, i.e. winter interest, early blooming, tough as nails, a great screen, ideal in containers, blocks out weeds, etc.

Achievable: I will write 4 or 5 attributes, positive or negative, about each plant. I’ll explore online sources or garden magazines, i.e. Plant ID apps, Georgia Gardening, Walter Reeves site, UGA publications, etc.

Relevance: Why did I join the garden club? #1 & #2 reasons, “I want to learn about plants and to have fun sharing with others.”

Timeline: By April 16th, the NGC Plant Sale, I’ll be able to tell an inquiring customer why they should buy or not buy, a plant at the sale.

IF you’re going to achieve your New Year’s goal, you must believe it’s possible. Use words like “**I will**” instead of “I plan” or “I hope.” As the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt said,

“Believe you can, and you’re halfway there.”

Lastly, focus on quality, not quantity. You may feel full of enthusiasm and want to make a bunch of New Year’s goals. Don’t. If you try to get fit, eat healthier, earn more money, develop your relationships, and start meditating at the same time, you’re likely setting yourself up for failure. As the Russian proverb goes,

“If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one.”

So, set no more than three New Year’s resolutions. Or better yet, set just one - then, once you’ve mastered it, you can start another one later in the year.

Upcoming Events 2021

JANUARY

COME PRUNE WITH US Norcross GC cottage garden 2pm Thursday, January 14

ANNUAL DUE REMINDER PAY before next Program meeting, February 8
Dues \$35 per member Two household members may hold membership for a single payment of \$45 Two ways to pay:

1) Mail check/cash to: Norcross Garden Club, PO Box 576, Norcross GA 30091

2) PayPal link here: <http://norcrossgardenclub.org> Look under "Contact Us"

Questions, contact jennyjordanallen@gmail.com or Nancy oreilly1@mindspring.com

GARDEN THERAPY deliver by Saturday, January 16

Contributions for the Neighborhood Cooperative Ministries

Youth diapers Size 4/5 (no newborn sizes) and/or new undergarments.

Four drop off locations:

Norcross - The Norcross Garden Clubhouse Cottage 33 College Street

Peachtree Corners - Saundy Kittle 4476 Springfield Drive 256-227-1106

Duluth - Cathy Nelmes 3338 E. Whippoorwill Drive 404-455-9537

Lawrenceville - Leanne Penman 2191 Sugar Valley Lane 770 715-4901

MLK DAY OF SERVICE STREAM CLEANUP 8:45am to 12noon Monday, January 18

Norcross Garden Youth activity coordinators have teamed up with Gwinnett Water Resources, the Gwinnett Soil and Water Conservation District, and the City of Norcross for a MLK Day of Service Stream Cleanup in Pinnacle Park. Member Tixie Fowler has invited a speaker to come and briefly connect MLK Jr.'s message and environmental stewardship, and then the group will spend time wading into the creek to collect trash and working the stream banks.

Participation is capped at 15 due to COVID. To participate register here:

https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console_id=0024&console_type=event_list&ht=1&event_id=3804

UGA EXTENSION PLANT SALE Pre-order: January until March 5

Print pre-order form here: <https://extension.uga.edu/content/dam/extension-county-offices/gwinnett-county/events-and-classes/UGA-Plant-Sale-Order-Form-2021.pdf>

Pick up & Bonus Sale: March 18th 9am to 5:45pm

Gwinnett County Fairgrounds 2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy

VIRTUAL FULTON FEDERATION MEETING ZOOM 10am Monday, January 18

Being RESCHEDULED

Announcement of awards from last May

VIRTUAL GWINNETT COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION 7pm Monday, January 18

Speaker: Sam Landes, Atlanta Mushroom Club

Login will be emailed

VIRTUAL CATHEDRAL ANTIQUES SHOW 50th Anniversary January 21 - 23

See the best in floral design from well-known designers Shane Connolly, Christin Geall and Hitomi Gilliam. Experience the joy of floral design and take actual online classes. Enjoy floral creations from our very talented Flower Guilds and Garden Clubs.

To register: <https://www.cathedralantiques.org>

VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING ZOOM 7pm Tuesday, January 26

FEBRUARY

VIRTUAL EVENING PROGRAM MEETING ZOOM Monday, February 8

Begin logging in @ 6:30pm for the 7:00pm program

"Best Perennials for the Atlanta Area" Gwinnett County MG Shirley Bohm

RSVP by Friday February 5th JennyJordanAllen@gmail.com, call/text 770-881-2134

VIRTUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY 9am to 1pm Wednesday February 10

Native Plant Symposium State Botanical Garden, Athens Cost: \$35

<https://outreachregistration.uga.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=1837790&parentSite=SBG>

Growing and protecting native plants are important for many reasons: they celebrate our state and region, they are well suited to our region's growing conditions, and they are the foundation of the complex ecosystem that supports insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Native plants can be tough, beautiful garden plants for your home landscape as well as delicate harbingers of the changing seasons. Join us this year as we explore the conservation of monarch butterflies. Learn about the plants that attract monarchs and other pollinators to our gardens, their importance to our ecosystems, and how we can continue to protect them.

VIRTUAL 2021 CAPITOL CONSERVATION Wednesday, February 17

Here you will get an update on pending bills before the state legislature. There are many current initiatives that impact our environmental quality of life. Stay informed by consulting the Position Papers on the GCG website. Stay tuned for details

<https://www.gawater.org/capitol-conservation-day-details>

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION FOR GEORGIA DETAILS TO COME Friday, February 19

"Plant America", National Garden Clubs, Inc EACH ONE (member), PLANT ONE

MARCH

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE March Program meeting: Thursday, March 11

Installation of new officers

January Garden Tips

- If a few, consecutive, warm days have caused your bulbs to nose out from under protective mulch, plan to thicken the mulch layer as soon as cold weather returns to prevent freezing by exposure.
- Watch for poison ivy when working outdoors. The leafless vine and roots can cause a powerful reaction if accidentally touched even in the winter.
- Start seeds of these and other slow-developing flowers in January or February: alyssum, coleus, dusty miller, geraniums, impatiens, marigolds, perennials, petunias, phlox, portulaca, saliva, parsley, and verbena. Bottom heat and a bright grow light close to the growing plants will encourage sturdy growth.
- Plant asparagus, horseradish, Jerusalem artichoke, and rhubarb roots in beds well worked with compost. Mulch them heavily and fertilize as these are all heavy feeders. If you haven't done so already, test the garden soil for these plants and add lime according to recommendations.
- Review your vegetable garden plan. Perhaps a new layout and/or smaller footprint will help you keep up with weeding and care. Think about trellis options and creating raised beds to make access to produce easier. Keep bed widths under 4 feet so you can easily reach weeds and produce.
- Turn under cover crops planted last fall in areas which will be used for vegetables in February and March.
- Before ordering your spring seed, do a "rag doll" germination test on those seeds left over from last year's order. Roll 10 or 20 seeds in a damp paper towel. Keep them moist and in a warm location. For most crops, germination of viable seed will occur within a week. If half the seeds germinate and you have enough left, plant twice as many as you usually do, you should get an adequate stand. Otherwise, order more seed. It's a small investment of time to insure success and maybe save some money.
- You can prune trees now without hurting them. Deciduous shade trees (those that lose their leaves during the winter) and flowering trees should have one central leader/trunk and 5 to 8 strong lateral branches along the main trunk. Major limbs should begin about 5 feet above the ground and have good spacing around the main trunk.
- Prune fruit trees. Pruning fruit trees improves the tree's health and fruit production. Most of the critical pruning should occur the first 3 years of the fruit tree's life. Not all fruit trees are pruned the same. For correct pruning instructions Google "UGA Home Garden Fruit Trees".
- This is a great time to plan new construction projects and planting zones. Research what you want to plant and begin creating beds. **You can still plant trees and shrubs now if the ground isn't frozen.** Just remember to water consistently. Mulch the areas that will be receiving new perennials and annuals later in the spring.
- A garden needs water even when the temperature is low. Water in the morning to allow the foliage to dry out before night. Pay special attention to trees and shrubs planted this past fall. Evergreen plants especially need regular watering. Remember to water outside containers.
- Check indoor plants for insects like spider mites, scale, and mealybugs. Most pests can be controlled without the use of chemicals if the infestation is light. Remove a light infestation of mealybugs or aphids with a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol. Treat with insecticidal soap. For more information Google "UGA Growing Indoor Plants with Success".
- Continue to feed the birds. Nutritious winter foods for birds include black oil sunflower seed, hulled peanuts or peanut hearts, Nyjer (thistle) seed, suet mixes with seeds and fruit, peanut butter and white millet seed.
- Sterilize your tools, pots, and anything you use around your plants. Use one part household bleach to nine parts water. Soak for about 15 minutes, rise, and let dry. Sharpen shovels and other cutting blades. Lightly oil the metal surfaces to prevent rust.
- If you are spreading the ashes from your wood burning fire/stove in your garden, be aware that, over time, you are raising the pH of your soil. Have your soil pH tested before applying any more wood ashes.

These tips for the landscape & garden were adapted from Bob Westerfield, State Consumer Horticulturist for the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service, and Walter Reeves, Retired Extension Agent for DeKalb County and Saturday Morning Gardening Show Host on WSB Radio