



Even if something is left undone, every one must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn...

George Eliot

October, 2009

Dear Gardeners and Habitat Owners,

Once again my favorite season of the year is here. Yellows, oranges, purples and gold abound. The leaves of some trees are already starting to show tinges of color.

Next Monday night, October 5, will bring back the favorite speaker of all time – **Bobby Wilson** of the UGA Cooperative Extension Service. The requests for him to come and talk about fall and winter gardening – especially cool season veggies – has been overwhelming. As usual, the meeting will be at 7:30 PM at D'Youville Clubhouse. Turn into D'Youville Trace off Chamblee Dunwoody Road across from the Chamblee Methodist Church and follow the road to the top of the hill – the clubhouse and pool will be on your right. I don't know how to describe him, except he has more knowledge on gardening than anyone I've ever met. You can't miss this one!

I'm pleased to announce that we have several members of our group applying for the very few Master Gardener spaces for the class of 2010! Gary Peiffer told me he thought I had sent the whole group over there! Jackye Ham, Allison Metheny, Dale Campbell and Maureen Mahoney are in this group. If more of you have applied, I'd like to know. I'm sure things are a lot different than the class of 1996 that I was in! I wish them all the luck – each one will be a super candidate.

The Wednesday plant walks and sales are going on now at Georgia Perimeter College, South. Check out the website at GPC.edu for more information. Also, our neighbors in Norcross have a big event coming up on October 3 and 4 in Thrasher Park (near the train station). Art Fest will give you chance to meet Connie Weathers and her group, who will have a booth. There will be a concert on Saturday evening at 7:30 PM.

Our field trip to nurseries in the Athens area had only 5 people, and you all missed a chance at great plants. A thought came out of that trip that we visit each other's gardens and swap out plants – or just dig up a few to give away. It's the time to divide, and this can add to your own garden, as well as sharing with others. If you like the idea, let me know – Leslie Robson, Jean and Dave Otness, and I are willing to participate and share. I know there must be others who have overgrown perennials available. We will set a date and time when we see how many are interested in the Passalong Plant event. We'll even share with those of you who don't have any to dig.

Yes, it's time to divide and transplant. You can re-arrange your garden, but remember to put markers on what is going where so you won't plant over anything! Other October chores include sowing larkspur and other hardy annuals, and removing old annuals from the garden. Plant seedlings in their permanent place. I would hold off on planting bulbs at least one more month. Mulch existing bulbs with shredded leaves and bone meal. I have found (when I had a lawn) that October is the best time to aerate, fertilize and plant fescue. It prefers the cool evenings to become acclimated. DO NOT put pre-emergent weed killer on newly planted lawns! The nursery stock of shrubs and trees is best now – buy and save for November planting.

Always remember that your fallen leaves are ready to become black gold! It's easiest to mow your grass with a bag attached. This shreds them and makes them ready for the compost pile. I like to put my leaves in my shade garden. (You can always get leaves others have raked, dump them in the driveway and run the mower over them!)

I look forward to a BIG crowd next Monday night! Hope to see you there - Love, *Kay*