

Over the Garden Gate

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President's Corner

by Sharon Van de Water

Dear Master Gardeners,
 Fall color is just weeks away and expected to be in peak form this year in hilly North Georgia. We can look forward to a very long colorful foliage season with much beauty to enjoy with cooler and less humid temperatures.

A huge thank you to Lynn and Gary Kempler for hosting another fabulous picnic at their beautiful home. I think I speak for all who attended that strolling through the gardens and enjoying the comradery of fellow gardeners in such a bucolic setting was a real treat.

Our Fall Garden Expo is this weekend, September 25th and 26th. Don Linke is organizing the event with a varied list of

vendors and fresh offerings. We have a full roster of volunteers, but if you are interested in joining the team, please check your email for the *Signup Genius* link and pick your spot.

Are you interested in expanding your knowledge of native plants? Then be sure to sign up for our next continuing education program when Jim Rodgers from Nearly Native Nursery will show us how to integrate natives into our landscape. This event will take place on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:30 pm at Brenau (Room B&C). A selection of native plants will be given away as door prizes. The \$10 registration fee will go toward your 2016 membership dues.

Registration information will be sent out shortly.

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20th with guest speaker Tom Cox with Cox Arboretum in Canton, Georgia. He will share his expertise of conifers. His book, *Landscaping with Conifers & Ginkgo for the Southeast* will also be available for purchase and signing.

As gardeners we all know we get great insights in sharing experiences. These events offer opportunities for sharing knowledge, catching up with friends and making new acquaintances. Do plan to join us!

A Boring Subject: EAB update

by Rachel Schneider

The beautiful, Emerald Ash Borers (EAB), no more than half an inch long, are wiping out millions of ash trees in 24 states and Canada. The larvae of these beautiful, metallic green beetles are boring into all 16 ash species devastating the trees so important to their environmental niches as well as the economy. The beetle was first discovered in Detroit,

Michigan and is now thought to have been introduced in ash wood used to stabilize crates during shipping. Since 2002, this Asian invasive has killed 99 percent of the Ash species in Michigan alone and millions more trees in the Eastern and Midwestern states. Attempts to control it with quarantines, spraying, traps and biological controls have been



(continued on pg. 4)

Great Sunflower Project

by Karin Hicks



Now is the perfect time to take part in the Great Sunflower Project, since pollinators are flying around and preparing for their fall migration or winter slumber. Some bee populations have severely declined in recent years, which is affecting food production. It is still unclear how these declines influence gardens. Information gathered through this citizen science project will be used to determine the state of our

pollinators and their relationship with plants. You can participate from your own garden, a school garden or your favorite green space. All you have to do is focus on a particular site for 5 minutes and count the number of pollinators you see on the plants in that space. Each time you visit the area you can count pollinators and make note of their preferred plants. Data can then be submitted to

www.greatsunflower.org

Need help identifying the types of bees or pollinators you are seeing? The site also has a helpful guide to assist in identifying these insects.

Use Pesticides Wisely

by Karin Hicks

Cut back on pesticides is the message the DNR is getting out to Georgians. The U.S. EPA estimates that 80 million pounds of pesticides are being sprayed every year on our lawns alone. That's 10 times more than farmers are using on crops! (*U.S. Fish & Wildlife*) While pesticides do kill targeted pests in the landscape they also kill a wide array of beneficial

insects such as birds, frogs, lizards and other wildlife, who are dependent on insects as a food source. The overuse of chemicals is leading to a decline in song birds and other critters. So, be cautious when using pesticides in your garden. Be sure to read the directions, use and store correctly, and contact your local waste disposal agent or recycling

facility for correct disposal directions. Don't simply throw it away in the trash. Frogs are an indicator of the health of your garden environment, so if you are seeing lots of toads or frogs hopping around your garden beds you are not overusing pesticides. You can enjoy a beautiful garden and reap the benefits of a diverse wildlife community by using pesticides wisely.

"The milkweed pods are breaking,
And the bits of silken down
Float off upon the autumn breeze
Across the meadows brown."

~Cecil Cavendish
The Milkweed

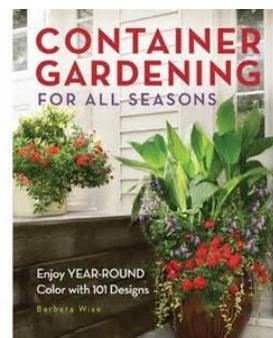
Book Review: Container Gardening for All Seasons

by Karin Hicks

When visiting public gardens, I often admire the stunning containers overflowing with colorful blooms and textured foliage. At a visit to the Toronto Botanical Gardens this summer I had the privilege of watching Paul Zammit (Director of Horticulture) create one of his innovative containers. He stuffed more plants into one container than I use to fill 10 pots. It was absolutely magical.

So, how do you translate an over the top garden arrangement into something doable in your containers at home? Author Barbara Wise has put together a fabulous book, *Container Gardening for All Seasons* to help. It is formatted like a recipe book, where gardeners can choose from over 100 ideas by seasons (yes, including winter!) that fit sun or shade conditions. Each recipe includes all the ingredients you'll need to

create the plant combination shown in the full color photos. A shopping list and helpful diagram for each container option is included. This is an easy, no-fail, step by step instruction manual for creating impressive container arrangements. Inspiration is found at every turn of the page. If you're like me, struggling to create eye catching arrangements this book is for you!



ISBN-13-978-1591865261

Got Stink Bugs?

by Hugo Kollmer

The four species of stink bugs that inhabit Georgia include the Southern Green Stink Bug, the Green Stink Bug, the Brown Stink Bug and the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. All of these insects are harmful to a broad range of ornamentals, grains, forage crops, fruits, nuts and vegetables. These insects are also a nuisance, particularly when seeking shelter in the fall, hiding inside homes and other buildings, and then again in the spring when they emerge from hibernation.

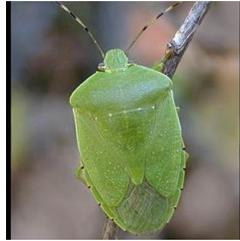


Adult Southern Green Stink Bug (*Chinavia bilare*)

Since introduced from Asia and first seen in 1998, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has vastly increased its range and accelerated its population growth, perhaps making among the most serious insect threats to crops. Georgia is one of three states with the highest population of these insects. While no comprehensive statistics are available, annual direct and indirect losses to farmers certainly exceed one billion dollars.



Adult Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)



Adult Green Stink Bug (*Chinavia bilare*)

Like other species, Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs cause damage by using their piercing-sucking mouth parts, pumping salivary fluid down their long beak like structure (rostrum) and bringing liquefied food back up the tube-like apparatus. This puncture site frequently leaves an avenue for the entry of pathogens through the wound. Resulting wounds and blemishes on the outer surface of fruits and vegetables render them unfit for sale. Stink Bugs go through several stages during a life cycle lasting approximately 70 days. Instars, stink bug nymphs, develop in five stages, remaining in each stage for only a few days. In early stages of development, instars look much different from adults. While they do not feed in these early stages, they are more susceptible to pesticides than when they reach maturity.



Adult Brown Stink Bug (*Euschistus servus*)

On crops, stink bugs can be controlled by using row covers, traps and inorganic pesticides including those containing permethrin, bifenthrin, or cyfluthrin as the active ingredient. Organic pesticides have not been found effective. Eliminating weeds and organic litter, which provide sanctuary to these insects, is also an effective control. Intense efforts are being made to develop biologic controls for use against these insects.



Third instar Southern Green Stink Bug (*Nezara viridula*)



Fourth instar Southern Green Stink Bug (*Nezara viridula*)



Egg clusters and instars Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Growing Native: *Symphotrichum georgianum*

by Karin Hicks

Undeniably, one of autumn's stand out plants are asters. My favorite member of the Asteraceae family is symphyotrichum georgianum or Georgia Aster. This Georgia Native Plant Society 2015 plant of the year was once widespread across southeastern meadows and prairies along the

edges of the upland oak-hickory-pine forests. As its natural habitat is quickly disappearing, this sun-loving, drought tolerant plant is rarely found in Georgia and is on the threatened plant species list, as well as, a candidate for federal legal status. The good news is the vibrant blooms of Georgia

Aster can still find a home in your garden for some late September to November color. Available through reputable native plant growers, this aster can spread happily in your garden via rhizomes or cross-pollination with another colony.



Photo by Karin Hicks

Our next continuing education program...

Jim Rodgers

Nearly Native Nursery

Wednesday, October 28th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Brenau (Room B & C)

\$10.00 registration fee will be applied to 2016 membership dues

To report a suspected EAB infestation

contact your local county extension agent, Georgia Forestry Commission or the University of Georgia. Contacts at the University are: Entomologists

Kamal Gandhi: kjgandhi@uga.edu

Keith Douce: kdouce@uga.edu is with SEEDN (Southeast Early Detection Network)

An app for your smart phone can be downloaded to report infestations at

<http://apps.bugwood.org/apps/seedn/>

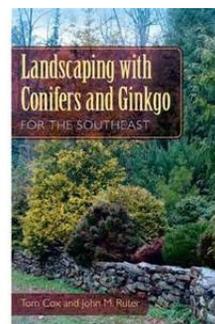
Join us for our October monthly meeting with guest speaker~

Tom Cox

Cox Arboretum

Tuesday, October 20th

6:30 p.m. @ Brenau



Books will be available for purchase and signing as well as fabulous conifers to give away

A Boring Subject: (continued pg. 1)

unsuccessful to stop its spread due to the density of infestation, difficulty of early detection, compliance with quarantine directives and the insect's adaptability.

Here in Georgia, the EAB has been found in Carroll, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Walton and Whitfield counties. These counties are quarantined from transporting any Ash nursery stock or wood product from firewood to lumber across county lines. This summer EAB was discovered in Cherokee county devouring ash trees along the river in the Coosa watershed. This tiny insect has been described by entomologists as the most destructive forest pest that has invaded us since the Chestnut blight of the early 20th century.

Ash trees are used for making ball bats, hockey sticks, oars, tool handles, chicken coops, dairy and beekeeper supplies. This industry means millions of dollars to the economies of the eastern United States. Now, the little bore is flying into other trees. Last fall, it was discovered in White Fringe trees in Ohio by Professor Don

Cipollini of Wright State University. Fringe trees have the same range as ash and are often planted as ornamentals in our communities. APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) has not quarantined fringe trees yet because EAB is not widespread in this species. Fringe trees are in the same olive family as ash and lilac.

Controlled laboratory experiments have been conducted to determine possible alternate host trees for Emerald Ash Borer. Black Walnut, American Elm, Shagbark Hickory, Hackberry and Privet were studied. Of these, larval galleries were highest in privet. The lifecycle of EAB could not be completed on the other species studied.

The EABs use vision and the mix of chemicals emitted by ash leaves, bark and wood to find their host trees and are particularly attracted to stressed or injured ash trees and to specific shades of purple and green. Once they find an ash tree, they nibble on the leaves for 15-20 days and mate. The females lay a few eggs at a time beneath bark flaps or in bark

crevices. The eggs hatch in 7-10 days and the larvae bore serpentine feeding galleries into the cambium disrupting the flow of nutrients to the tree and it starves.

The larvae pupate and emerge from the bark as adults leaving 1/8" in diameter "D" shaped exit holes and fly to another tree starting the cycle over again. Larvae can live in wood 2 years before emerging making it easy to spread by transporting firewood.



Scientists can't predict the outcome of this ecological disaster. Funding for research continues to be cut each year. More research is needed to identify genotypes resistant to EAB in order to propagate less susceptible ash species as well as find successful controls for the Emerald Ash Borer or we can kiss our ashes goodbye.