

GPPA NEWSLETTER

March 2006

Come Help GPPA Install a New Garden at the History Center Saturday, April 8

For a delightful gardening experience, GPPA members mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, April 8, 2006 from 9-12:00. On that date we will help the gardens staff at the Atlanta History Center plant an area along the path from the Tullie Smith House to the bridge over the newly renovated streambed. This will be a small way for us to show the History Center how much we appreciate their generosity in allowing us the use of McElreath Hall for our monthly meetings. It should also be a great opportunity to enjoy a terrific gardening experience with a group of most knowledgeable gardeners.



Sue Vrooman has designed the planting and provided a wish list of the plants needed to fill in the section of the gardens. It would be wonderful if GPPA members could supply many of these, perhaps as divisions from our own gardens. If you have plants to donate for this effort, please contact Travis Spilker, the Manager of the History Center Gardens and discuss with him what you have to contribute (404.814.4072). Linda Copeland will be coordinating the effort. Please contact her at 404-351-3344 or lcopeland@mindspring.com if you have any questions.

DUES REMINDER

All 2006 dues are due and members who do not renew by April 1, 2006 will be dropped from the roster. Please be certain to get your dues in so that you don't miss anything. Dues are \$30 and a check can be mailed to GPPA, PO Box 13425, Atlanta, GA 30324 or brought to the March 21 meeting.

Plants Needed for Tullie Bridge Garden

- 30 Creeping fig [*Ficus pumila*]
- 12 Japanese tassel fern [*Polystichum polyblepharum*]
- 8 Autumn fern [*Dryopteris erythrosora*]
- 27 Lenten rose [*Helleborus orientalis*]
- 14 Rhododendron 'English roseum' 3 gal size
- 6 Native double hydrangea [*Hydrangea arborescens* 'Hayes Starburst']
- 36 Variegated Solomon's seal [*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum']
- 20 Yellow woods poppies [*Stylophorum diphyllum*]
- 24 Cardinal flower [*Lobelia cardinalis*]
- 72 Golden variegated sweet flag [*Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon']
- 72 Lily-of-the-valley [*Convallaria majalis*]
- 60 *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Green Sheen'

“Hellebores: Jewels of the Winter Garden” Wins Silver at 2006 Southeastern Flower Show

The GPPA entry focused on the many strains of *H. x hybridus* and showcased several new forms and colors. The bright, clear yellows were especially popular as were the double flowers and variegated foliage. Everyone was amazed at the variety available and surprised to learn that most were seed strains. The only asexually propagated cultivars exhibited were those from Don Jacobs of Eco Gardens.

John Wolfinger, our Chairman, did an excellent job collecting representatives of a number of different strains and displaying them in an attractive and informative manner. His efforts were supported by Karin Guzy’s handout and the efforts of the many volunteers lined up by Conne Ward-Cameron. Congratulations and thanks to all! John has requested comments and suggestions for next year. Please contact him at (404) 876-5023 or jjonww2@earthlink.net if you have anything to share.



A special *Thank You!* also goes out to the nurseries who provided plants:

Ashe-Simpson Nursery, Atlanta, GA 770-458-3224

Eco Gardens, Decatur, GA 404-294-6468

Piccadilly Farm, Bishop, GA 706-769-6516

Pine Knot Farms, Clarksville, VA www.pineknotfarms.com

Thanks to the efforts of Ginny Wolf, GPPA also had a large presence at the Plant Society area where we were able to talk with many visitors, answer their gardening questions and introduce them to GPPA.



Welcome to the New GPPA Monthly Newsletter.

Welcome! We hope that this newsletter will enable us to do a better job of staying in touch with our members and allow us to share news in a timely manner. Our quarterly journal, *Perennial Notes*, will continue just as always with great articles and reviews, however we felt that a more frequent method of communication was needed. Since this newsletter will only be sent electronically, we will be able to include color pictures and information about short term activities that printing costs and time would have prevented in the past. It will also be available on the GPPA web site. You are welcome to print it to share with interested non-members or forward it directly to them. Please remember to keep us aware of changes to your email address so that you don’t miss an issue, but rest assured that your email address will not be shared in any way. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please drop us a note and you will be removed from the mailing list immediately.

Tailgate Market Resumes March 21

With the return of daylight our monthly Tailgate Market will resume in the parking lot before each meeting. Members who have extra plants are encouraged to bring them to share with each other. Even the most common plant can be exciting to someone and we all love a bargain. So, whether you have divisions of proven plants, extra seedlings or wonderful nursery stock, please come around 6:30 and share what you have. In the past we have had hand made birdhouses, custom stepping stones and outgrown gardening books so non-plant items are included, but please restrict these to hand-made or personally owned, garden related items.

Help Needed for Door Prize Committee

The door prizes and plant drawings are a fun part of our meetings but volunteers are needed to help collect them. For some time Jeff Potter has supplied the door prizes but it is time to pass the job on to others. We greatly appreciate all that he has done and realize that this may be more than one person wants to take on. We are hoping to put together a team of volunteers to help with this and to collect the drawing items from nurseries and other sources. If you would be willing to assist us, please contact Sara Henderson at gardenmakers@att.net.

Thank You! to the donors for our February plant drawings.....

Intown Hardware
Atlanta, GA
404-874-5619

McMahan's Nursery
Clermont, GA
www.mcmahannursery.com

Piccadilly Farm
Bishop, GA
706-769-6516

Wilkerson Mill Gardens
Plametto, GA
www.hydrangea.com

Please be sure to take a moment and thank these merchants for their support whenever you visit their nursery. We want them to know how much we appreciate them and need your help telling them.

MARCH MEETING: David Mellard "Trilliums for GA Gardens" March 21, 7:00



David will share with us the many trilliums that are native to Georgia and show us the ones that he cultivates in his own garden. He will also extend a rare, private invitation to visit his garden. Trilliums will also be offered in the plant drawing.

Private Tour of *Plants In Print* Exhibit Offered before the April 18 Meeting

Plants in Print: The Age of Botanical Discovery, is a traveling exhibit from the collections of the Chicago Botanic Garden in collaboration with the United States Botanic Garden, features 34 rare, exquisitely illustrated books dating from 1483 to 1888.

Join us for a private tour of this wonderful exhibit of botanical art. The History Center staff will be giving us a special tour at 6:30 PM before our April meeting. For more details about the exhibit, be sure to visit <http://www.plantsinprint.org>.



Piccadilly Farm Picnic Planned—Sunday, April 30, 3:00 PM

Sam and Carleen Jones of Piccadilly Farms have invited us for a pot-luck picnic at their nursery on Sunday, April 30, starting at 3:00. The nursery is located in Bishop, GA, just outside of Athens and is well known for hellebores, but also specializes in conifers, hosta and has many other wonderful plants. We will have the opportunity to tour the extensive and beautiful gardens on the property and spend an enjoyable afternoon with friends. The nursery will be closed to the public this day but Sam assures me that we will be able to shop if we see things we must have.

Reservations are not needed but please plan to bring a covered dish to share and your preferred beverage. Paper goods and ice will be provided. There is a large, covered pavilion with tables and chairs for us to use and plenty of parking. The nursery's address is 1971 Whippoorwill Rd., Bishop, GA 30621 and directions can be obtained from www.mapquest.com or by calling 706-769-6516.

Smith-Gilbert Arboretum Spring Visit Set for June 14

Members who participated in our fall visit to the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum in Cobb County were so enthralled that they urged us to plan a return visit. Dr. Gilbert has graciously agreed and we are invited to return June 14 from 6 to 8 PM. The summer border will be at its peak and the hydrangeas should be in full bloom. Michelle Brown will be coordinating the visit and there will be more information in the April newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Michelle at 678-797-1020 or mbrowne@mindspring.com.

GPPA Tour June 3 & 4

Our 2006 tour will continue the theme "Gardening with a Southern Accent". Contact Robert Meaders if you would like to help. (remeaders@cmmi-redlines.com)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 21—GPPA meeting, "Trilliums for GA Gardens" with David Mellard 7:30

March 21—Hellebore order pick-up 5:30 to 7:00

April 8—Workday at the History Center 9:00 to 12:00

April 18—GPPA meeting, - Tour of *Plants In Print* at 6:30 and "Hardy Palms" with Joe La Vert at 7:30

April 30—Potluck picnic at Piccadilly Farms starting at 3:00

May 16—GPPA meeting, "Containing the Unusual" with Rita Randolph 7:30

June 3 & 4 - GPPA Garden Tour "Gardening with Southern Accent"

June ??—Spring visit to Smith-Gilbert Arboretum 10:00

June 20—GPPA meeting "A World of Ferns" with Judith Jones 7:30

New Volunteers for Hospitality

Welcome to Carole Teja and John Ragland, who have volunteered to fill the void left when Linda Medlock retired. Linda has spoiled us for a long time and we appreciate all that she has done. While it is hard to give up Linda's wonderful treats, we are delighted that Carole and John have offered to take over. They will certainly take good care of us. If you would like to help them, contact Carole at caroleteja@comcast.net or 404-643-2354.

Stay In Touch....

All members are encouraged to use the GPPA discussion boards to ask questions, post announcements and stay in touch. Be sure to visit the "Members Only" area of the web site. You never know what you may find. The password is 'daisy'.