

*The person who has planted a garden feels  
that he has done something for the good of the world.*

*Charles Dudley Warner*



April 1, 2008

Dear Gardeners and Habitat Owners,

Our world is blossoming all around us – the cherry trees are outstanding this year! Perennials are already on the way up and we have been blessed with wonderful rains.

Learn how to be sure your soil is ready by coming to our meeting next Monday night, April 7, at 7:30 PM at Leslie Robson's home at 3747 Longview Drive. Eddie Rhoades, one of our favorite speakers, will be talking to us about our soil (don't dare call it dirt!). He always brings smiles to our faces – so plan to attend.

We are still trying to get D'Youville clubhouse for our May 1 meeting, and it looks like this will happen, thanks to Pat and Ed Mercer who have recently moved in. I'm still waiting for phone calls to be returned. Not only is D'Youville certified as a condominium complex, but we have several individuals in the area who are certified. As you may remember, Susan Meyers will have our May program on the Monarch migration in Mexico, where she leads field trips each year.

Earth Day is coming up this month – so many things are going on – check at their website. Since it falls in the middle of the week, we are planning to go see the new movie, Nim's Island, on Saturday, April 26. Dinner afterward at a favorite restaurant is part of the plan. PLEASE let me know if you will be attending – 770-451-6079. During Earth Week, NWF suggests taking walks and watching for the migration of the monarchs.

MAY 31<sup>st</sup> – our big day! Garden Tour is coming along just fine – 8-9 homes to visit at \$10.00 a head, beginning at Leslie's. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at Ashe-Simpson Nursery. Please plan to sell some tickets yourself, and PLEASE support the tour by attending! We will need some helpers to sell tickets at Leslie's and to help relieve owners at the homes on the tour. Please let me know by e-mail or phone if you can do this. Remember – the money from the tickets is what funds our speakers for the next year's meetings, plus helping with some projects. Also, Chamblee Arts Alliance will have some of their members setting up exhibits at some of the homes on tour. The Taste of Chamblee follows our tour, with goodies from a number of restaurants for sale up near City Hall. This is a part of the Chamblee Centennial celebration.

Speaking of projects, Leslie, Michael, Dave and Jean Otness and Tom Reilly have been busy digging plants at Keswick. These rescued natives will be used to help with a linear garden along the PATH project. Also, LEED (which requires builders of 20,000+ square feet to have a GREEN building) was passed! Thank you, City Council, for approving this new ordinance.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT. We have all heard of IPM, and with the planting season upon us, each of us must use the methods that best protect our environment. After a number of years with natives and a diverse habitat, I don't need to use chemicals except for an occasional squirt of weed-killer. Pesticides are most harmful as they kill all the good insects along with the bad (97% of all our insects are helpful!). If an infestation of a particularly bad insect occurs, spray ONLY the plant(s) affected, and use insecticidal soap as much as possible. The same with herbicides – why spray the whole yard for just a few weeds? It's wasting your money as well as our rivers and streams. Fertilizers are also dangerous to our environment. The use of a mulching mower provides all the fertilizer your grass needs. Use Osmocote or another long term fertilizer – these last for 6 months- for your plants.

See you next week at Leslie's – Love, *Kay*