



When the red, red robin comes bob,
bobbín', bobbín' along.....

February 1, 2008

Dear Gardeners and Habitat Owners,

I've seen flocks of robins combing lawns in search of the proverbial worm – and now I know that spring really will be coming soon! We'll see what General Lee says tomorrow!

There's lots of important news to discuss with you:

Meeting place: UNKNOWN !! As of this moment, we have no place to meet. The library is willing to accept us for a nominal fee, but the only evening they have open is Monday nights – 7-9 PM. Lowe's corporate office says we can't meet there any more. Senior Connections is far too expensive. If you have any other suggestions, please let me or Tom Reilly know (Kay – 770-451-6079 or Tom - 770-457-4070). The library sounds like our best bet, but I don't know how many of you can change meeting night from Thursday to Monday. I will need to let them know a month in advance – so please let us hear from you if this will not work out.

February 7 meeting – Thursday night we will hold the meeting at my house (Kay Packard, 3773 Captain Drive) at our regular time of 7:30 PM. Sharon Bouchard , Master Gardener and one of our own certified habitats, will present our program on pruning. Now is the time, and even though we've had a program on this before, we may need refreshing on what to prune when, what tools to use, and the basic how-to's of pruning, It's always scary to approach our favorite shrub with a pair of clippers!

March will bring us one of our favorites, Eddie Rhodes. In April our own Leslie Robson will bring us our program, with the help of Michael Bowles. In May we will see Susan Meyers with all her exciting news and pictures about going to the monarchs' wintering home in Mexico. She is one of the founders of Monarchs Across Georgia.

New Commander-in Chief! We are delighted to welcome Tom Reilly of Remington Road as the new Habitat Coordinator. Tom will gradually take my place as his time and my health allow.

From Tom: I've lived here in the area between Oglethorpe University and Chamblee-Dunwoody Road since 1953. The region then was almost entirely woods and swamps. Beautiful creeks and waterfalls, trees of all ages, uncluttered sunrises and sunsets, solitary trails, tracks on a creek bank, the smoke of campfires, the crack of a hunter's gun, wildlife of all types were my regular companions during those years. From 1953 until 1963, from my eighth to my eighteenth year, I literally had more wild animals than people for neighbors!

The experience has stuck with me for a lifetime. I've camped all over the United States and Canada; learned to use a rifle, knife, bow and arrow with equal dexterity [enough to complete a tour with the infantry in Vietnam]. Recent years have found me founding three National Wildlife Federation Habitats while caring for a fourth, taking care of the trails in Murphey Candler Park, co-founding the Save the Mansion Group which saved the historic Fischer Mansion, serving on the Dunwoody Nature Center's Board of Directors, and joining the Ashford Alliance's Environmental Committee. I'm looking forward to a great relationship -"dodadagohuhsgi" [Cherokee for "until we meet again"]!!

Tom Reilly

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Garden Tour: Tom and I have discussed the date of April 26. Most of you who were scheduled to be on the tour have responded to the month. I will check with you all to confirm the date – again, this is all dependent upon the drought. **PLEASE – I need help with this!** Last year Shannon Mulligan agreed to do publicity (I hope you still will, Shannon.) Allison Metheny will help with maps, etc. I will do the blurbs on the gardens. I hope Rex Simms will do the signs again. I need someone to sort of oversee this and be sure everything is ready on time. I'm desperate!!!! Not being able to drive has curtailed my ability to do things much more than I had anticipated. There are 350 of you receiving this newsletter – all I need is ONE.

Do remember that this is the season to cut things back – with the rains we've had, it shouldn't be damaging to the plants. Watch for your daffodils – always an early spring joy! If you haven't cleaned out birdhouses, this is the time – be sure bluebirds aren't occupying it yet! It's also time to feed the birds – berries and seeds from last year's plants are going fast, and nesting time is coming up soon. It's hard to build a nest and have a family to care for without some help!

Several of you have told me you would become certified soon – this is the time. (You know who you are!) Also encourage friends and neighbors to join with us in confirming our promise to keep our native flora and fauna available for future generations. It's also a great family activity! Let the kids fill the feeders and birdbaths! Helping mulch plants is also a good kid's job.

Please feel free to call with any questions – again, that's 770-451-6079.

Much love, *Kay*

P.S. – Our treasurer keeps reminding me it's a new year and time for \$10 dues! Please make checks payable to Allison Metheny. If you wish to mail – it's 3911 Ensign Court, Chamblee, 30341. If you can't afford it, you are welcome any and all the time.