

*Winter - Dried grasses sway and wave their leaves, dancing to the rhythm of the winds. Gwen Frostic*

December 29, 2007

Dear Gardeners and Habitat Owners,

Happy New Year to you ALL – I hope 2008 is all you want it to be. With last night's rain and what is expected before Tuesday, it may not be the driest year in History! Maybe there is still hope.

I think a good way to open the New Year is to offer our thoughts and prayers to three members of the community who are very important in our habitat – each is struggling with cancer: Ruth Morgan, Bill Fulton and Bill Simpson. Keep their families close to your hearts also.

I chose the dried grasses as a header because they have been SO beautiful this fall and winter. When I watch them, I feel all warm inside – I hope they affect you the same way.

Our next program is Thursday night, January 3, 7:30 PM at Senior Connections. Lauren Greene of Dunwoody Nature Center is bringing us a program on native wild canines – her specialty! Lauren has helped bring the red wolves back to North Carolina. Important to us is the number of coyotes that have been moving into our neighborhoods. There have been sightings in Huntley Hills Park, Keswick Village, Remington Road and the Methodist Church area, Ashford Park and even across the street from me! These animals are protected and we have to learn to live with them. Lauren will be discussing how to do this – what dangers they present, and precautions we should all take. This has been a big topic around here – so be sure to join us for Lauren's presentation.

In February we will have a program on pruning – the last pruning workshop was a number of years ago and it's a topic that can breathe fear into the hearts of all gardeners. How much to cut, when to cut, what equipment we need. March will bring Eddie Rhoades back to us for another fun night of learning! April is still open, and in May, Susan Meyers of Monarchs Across Georgia will bring us an exciting program about her latest trips to Mexico - the wintering habitat of the butterflies. So – lots of excitement coming up – be sure to mark your calendars!

Lots of happenings are coming up at Atlanta Botanical Gardens. The one that excites me most is still a year away – a canopy walk through Storza Woods! I'm sure our own Michael Bowles will be involved in Saturdays from Jan, 26-March 29 at 1:30 PM in the Orchid Tours. February 29, Leap Day, 10 AM – 2 PM will celebrate the Year of the Frog. This is where I always spend the most time at ABG! A REALLY SUPER Alston Lecture is coming up on March 19 at 7:30 PM, with Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden. These two are nationally known consultants, designers and authors. Their topic will be *Plant-Driven Design*. The lecture is free. February 9 is the annual Perennial Plant Symposium – check their website for details. This is always a first class day at the Gardens.

Many thanks to Joy and Rex Simms for hosting a great Christmas party. Also I hope to have good news for the Habitat Program next month – stay tuned!

Until then – Love, Kay