



*Rains - or drought - determine the size and loveliness of flowers..... Gwen Frostic*

July 3, 2008

This poor daisy looks and feels just like mine do! (I included a shower at the end so just maybe....) Actually, I've gotten tired of what I call the Chamblee effect. So many storms last weekend – great rains a few miles north, south, east and west of us here. Poor us! Even drought tolerant plants are looking droopy - the only thing that seems to love the heat is the weeds – and it's so dry I can't even pull them!

I want to welcome our newest habitats – Sarah Anne Goodwin, Chip and Alice Janvier, and Betsy Ward. We hope to see you at some of the meetings in the fall. Betsy has already replied that she is a student but hopes to find some time for us. Believe me, as more and more land is scraped clean, our wildlife thanks you also! I think I forgot to welcome Melissa and John Carel, Maureen Lovett and Art and Bonnie Gibert. All the others I've forgotten, – I love you too!

I want to see about getting business cards and letterheads made up for the Chamblee Community Wildlife Habitat with our own logo. The Chamblee Arts Alliance has some great ones! Any of you graphic designers out there, please let me know and submit some entries. Tom and I will try to choose - and if it's too close, we'll have a runoff. Also – any program ideas and/or speakers you would like us to have, please let me know.

Tom and I are also looking for some more and different ways to have our 30341 neighbors become interested in being certified. The garden tour is great, and produced several new habitats, but we need to work on replacing those we've lost by their moving away. Please invite your neighbors to become a habitat – and let them know the joys of watching all the critters in their yards. My bullfrog is in top voice. A chipmunk visits my feeder on the deck each morning, but scurries away when I open the door.

Let's look at some of the best plants for us right now. Purple coneflowers and black-eyed susans seem to tolerate the drought. My oakleaf hydrangea looks just fine, as do the beautyberries and serviceberry. The salvia and monarda is starting to droop a little, as is the mountain mint. I can't say enough about the mint. If you can, stop by and just look at the numbers and varieties of pollinators that are eating their little hearts out right now beside the driveway. I will remove a bunch, but definitely not till the fall. Ruellia is looking okay. Sedum is too. Ferns and mosses along with toad lilies, hostas and hellebores need some help. I have a rain barrel, but I could use many more! It covers such a small part of the garden. Catch your dehumidifier water, along with the water you use while trying to get the hot water up to your sink or tub. A big pot or bucket is great. This is good help for potted plants and small gardens.

When people ask me what about drilling offshore for gas, my response is to use the billions to find alternative fuel sources. We are raising an amazing generation of young folks who want to help protect the environment. Let's encourage and support their efforts. Until next time – keep cool. Love, *Kay*

