



FEDERATED FACTS



MARCH, 2014

ENCOURAGE CONSERVATION, EDUCATE YOUTH, AND ENJOY GARDEN CLUB

Visit: www.johntheplanman.com for more photos and information.

What Does a Hummingbird Nest Look Like? Ask Mabel

February 16, 2014 by John Schulz



Blairsville Garden Club Landscape Seminar

“Wings over Blairsville”

March 27, 9 – 3
\$22.00(See pg. 4)

Program:

Native Plants for Pollinators

Butterfly Ballet

Hummingbirds: “Glittering Fragments of the Rainbow”,

Bluebirds “The Birds that Wear the Sky on Their Backs”

Bees-their Role in Our Society

Highlights

Officer Profile	2
District Board	2
Seven Hills	3
Diane’s Diggings	3
Wheeler in Rome	3
Arbor Day	3
Reminder	4

I always enjoy a visit with Mabel Milner. She is a captivating conversationalist and she knows so many interesting things about nature, about plants and flowers, and about gardening. I always know I will learn about something when I visit, I just don’t know what. This time I learned about hummingbird nests. One of the reasons for my latest visit was to deliver a questionnaire that would determine “hummingbird habitat certification” for her yard. We exchanged pleasantries for a few moments—Mabel always sits by her window that looks down and out over her beautiful yard—and she pointed to an oak tree.

“A few years ago, I looked out this window and noticed

what looked like a giant dragonfly hovering around a branch of that oak tree. It was about twenty feet above the ground.” I leaned over and saw that she was pointing to a tree just to the right rear of where my truck was parked. “After a few days, we realized that we were watching a male ruby-throated hummingbird. It was quite a treat. He was ‘casing the joint,’ looking for a site in which to build a new home. He finally decided that he liked this location and showed it to his partner. I watched the two of them looking around. She approved.

“The male watches as the female studies the site and then she builds the nest with little or no help from him. It only takes her a day or two before the nest is ready and

well-disguised. A few days later she has laid two pea sized eggs and sits on them to keep them warm. About two to three weeks later I could see the baby hummingbirds with their beaks open, looking for food.” “And guess what...” Mabel said with a grin, “The daddy is done, he says, ‘no child support from me—I’m out of here,’ and he flies off to other venues leaving the mother to raise the babies alone. They are voracious eaters and momma stays exhausted. “The young stay in the territory after fledging and the momma begins to introduce them to surrounding flowers and to the feeder by the back porch. The family remains for the rest of the season.”

National and State Officers



**National Garden Clubs, Inc., President
Linda Nelson**

"Making a World of Difference - Choices Matter"



**Deep South Region, Director
Gloria Blake**

"Share the Beauty of Gardening"



**The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., President
Suzanne Wheeler**

"Scatter Joy as We Bloom and Grow"



**Laurel District, Director
Jackie Fulmer**

"Reaching for Our Destiny as We Learn and Grow"



**Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. President
Diane Harbin**

"Encourage Conservation, Educate Youth, and Enjoy Garden Club"



Question: Who or what is Blossom the Bee? What is Blossom's purpose?



Anticipating spring

Continued from page 1

Mabel continued, "A year later we had the same scenario. It seems that the hummingbirds often feel that it is easier to spruce up the old place than to build a new one. We watched the birds as they used the home for three years before abandoning the nest."

"We couldn't resist," she said, "after we figured out that the hummers were finished with the nest for good, we used ladders and pole pruners to carefully remove the nest from the tree and turned it into a bit of a shrine under glass. It has been taken to quite a number of 'show-

and-tells' for the grandchildren."

I loved seeing the preserved hummingbird nest and I truly enjoyed the story. Thank you very much, Mabel Milner of Rome, Georgia.

John

Meet Ann Bradfield, RFGC Third VP

Ann was born and raised in Shawmut (now Valley), Alabama, which is near Auburn. After high school, she attended nursing school at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Graduating in September, 1958, she married Claborn two weeks later, moving immediately to Rome. She passed the board exams for Registered Nurses

in Georgia, and worked for a short time at Floyd Medical Center then with Coosa Valley Technical College (now Georgia Northwestern Technical College). Soon there were two daughters and a son, so nursing was placed on hold for several years. In the early 1960's, she joined the Lavender View Garden Club and has served in every office in that club over the years. In 1972, she started working at Redmond Regional Medical Center as an adjunct clinical instructor for nursing

students from Floyd College (now Georgia Highlands College). She worked in that capacity for four years then became an operating room nurse at Redmond. Retiring after 28 years, she is happy spending time with Claborn, her children, grandchildren, her dog, and her granddogs! She likes to read, crochet, cook, and travel. This is also her second term as president of Lavender View Garden Club.



LAUREL DISTRICT MEETING HELD

The district meeting postponed due to weather was held February 18 at the Gilmer County Art Center in Ellijay. Committee reports were given. Watch for the Laurel Letters spring edition (deadline March 15).



Presidents and Membership Workshop

The stage was set for fantastic meetings which were held on February 3 and 4 at the Garden Center. RFGC was excited to welcome the GCG State President, Suzanne Wheeler to Rome to present information on the Presidents' Report and the PowerPoint presentation "What is This Thing Called Garden Club". 90% of the RFGC member clubs have submitted the president's report. As this goes out, the RFGC Council report is being completed. Much was learned from the PowerPoint workshop about membership and opportunities for garden club members.



L – R: Donna Barnes, Lavender View President; Diane Harbin, RFGC President; Suzanne Wheeler, GCG State President; Jackie Fulmer, Laurel District Director

Federated Facts Editor, Kathy Donahue

SEVEN HILLS HAS TO POSTPONE PLANS.

The winds of winter recently brought Rome an unexpected surprise. Along with rain and sleet we awoke one morning to carpets of white covering yards and streets and tufts of fluffy cotton snow clinging to our bushes and dripping from tree branches. Our Garden Club meeting at the home of Joyce Blackwood had to be cancelled and we postponed our tablescapes program by Kimberly Prusakowski to a later date.



ARBOR



DAY 2014

Diane's Diggings

Suzanne Wheeler's visit to Rome was a great success. The workshops were informative and well attended. Hopefully the snow is over and spring just around the corner. I have just returned from the statewide Arbor Day celebration at the Eco-center which had a great turnout from many parts of the state. The educational program was excellent and multiple awards were handed out. By tree planting time the sun was out and the temperature was 70°. It just felt good to walk along the river and be outside without a coat.

Diane

RFGC BOARD MEETING

**February 24, 2014,
Monday**



GCG State President

Registration Deadline for Wings Over Blairsville, March 20, Send check to Lou Ann Bleakley, Box 965, Blairsville 30514, Make check payable to Blairsville Garden Club, include your name address, phone, e-mail or contact Lou Ann at dablalab@windstream.net

MARCH FEDERATED MEETING, ETC.

Meetings are held at the Garden Center with coffee at 9:30 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 10:00 a.m. All members of clubs involved with the federation are welcome to attend. Clubs providing refreshments for the federated meetings are listed and should plan for approximately 20 guests with items being ready by 9:15. Please contact dianejharbin@comcast.net if you want to be on the agenda.

March 3, 2014, Monday—Thistle

March 27, South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium, Tifton, Georgia

LIBRARY ARRANGEMENTS

February 25 – March 10	Mountain View
March 11- March 24	Seven Hills
March 25 – April 7	Spade & Trowel
April 8 – April 21	Thistle
April 22 – May 5	Three Rivers

Master Gardener Training application is available on the website:
www.romefederatedgardenclubs.com
Deadline April 16



The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc. Projects



REMEMBER TO PARTICIPATE

As of 2.18.14 Laurel District has collected 400 lbs.

Collection of Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

RECYCLE YOUR PHONES, TABLETS, TONER AND INK

“Cultivating Young Minds”





A LITTLE MORE SNOW FROM MT. VIEW'S DONNA BARNES





TOWNVIEW SHARES A LITTLE SNOW:

TOP: JUDY HOWERTON'S BEAUTIFUL SITTING AREA.

CENTER: RUTH EDGAR WAS WATCHING AND HELPING THE BIRDS;

BOTTOM: A VIEW FROM KATHY DONAHUE'S FRONT DOOR.

