

FEDERATED FACTS

October, 2013

Monthly newsletter of

The Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.



“Encourage Conservation, Educate Youth, and Enjoy Garden Club”

Diane's Diggings

Fall is in the air! The Coosa Valley Fair is over. RFGC was well represented. Rita Smith, Linda Sipp, and Maxine Fincher formed a committee to prepare an exhibit which won second place in the community exhibits. Second place and a two hundred dollar check are exciting for a first-time entry.

The Laurel District Meeting held at the Coosa Country Club was a success. RFGC was named Council/Federation of the Year and Three Rivers was recognized as Club of the Year. My personal thanks go out to each member and club for their help and support for the hosting of the Laurel District Meeting.

We have upcoming events. Remember to relax and enjoy garden club.

Diane



Greg Cain, Rita's husband, worked hard at the RFGC booth.



Contents

Diane's Diggings	1
Fair Booths	1
Upcoming Events	1
Laurel District Meeting	2
RAHM and Cancer Center	3
Downey Bio	3
Council of the Year	3
Dates	4
Youth Garden Club	4
Batty for Bats	5
National Award	6
Thank You, Barbara	6
Youth Fair Entries	6

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
- ◆ RFGC November Meeting
- ◆ Belk's Charity Sale



Laurel District Meeting



Laurel District Meeting Photos:

Above: Jackie Fulmer enjoys breakfast and a quick break on the veranda.

Top Right: Mary Rolan introduces a member to Suzanne Wheeler, GCG State President

Center 1st: Dollie Harper, former GCG President visits with RFGC members.

Center Right 1: Members of the FCCCA Youth Garden Club, sponsored by Townview assisted with displays and prizes.

Center 2nd: "Cruising Down the River: Centerpiece;

Center Right 2: Activity in the display room;

Center 3rd: Diane Harbin's posters featured information on Garden Therapy changes, The membership pin being given to new 2013 members, and the 3Es of Litter.

Center Right 3: Mayor Evie McNiece gave the welcome.

Center 4th: Olivia Myers worked with the marketplace.

Center Right 4th: Art D'Ambroiso demonstrated and made arranges which were included in the door prizes.

The Laurel District Meeting was an opportunity for the RFGC to host and see all clubs in the Federation working as a team to produce a wonderful meeting. The meeting was October 16 at the Coosa County Club. There was a great turnout with 150 enthusiastic gardeners present. Special thanks to youth club members from the Floyd County College and Career Academy for their assistance.



RAHM Decorations and Wreaths for Cancer Center



Another way RFGC is involved in the Rome and Floyd County communities.



Decorations for the Rome Area History Museum should be in place by November 20 -23. Remember that the decorations are to be based on our theme:

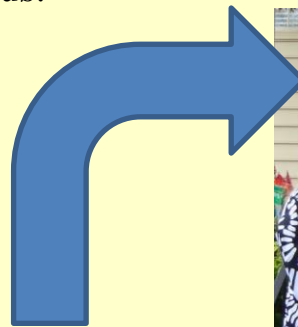
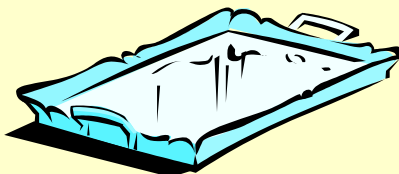
“Encourage Conservation, Educate Youth, and Enjoy Garden Club.”

Wreaths are to be decorated and placed at the Tony. Warren Cancer Center November 1

Meet D’Ann Downey, RFGC Third Vice President

D’Ann Downey was born and raised in Dermott, Arkansas in the southeast corner of the state. Her father was a funeral director and he died when D’Ann was 6 years old. She was raised by her mother. After high school she graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She then lived in Little Rock for 9 years. While in Little Rock she obtained a MSW from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She worked at Youth Home, Inc. and moved to Shreveport, LA in 1981. She was in private practice in Shreveport as a social worker and soon married. She began working on her Ph.D. in clinical psychology, divorced in 1996, and moved to Atlanta to do her internship at Clayton County Mental

Health Center. Her doctoral dissertation was on Middle Aged Women and their Relationship with their Companion Animal. After moving to Rome in 1999 and marrying Dr. Randy Warley she founded the organization, Compassionate Paws, Inc. She is in private practice in Rome and her husband is a clinical psychologist at Harbin Clinic. In her spare time she likes to be with her 4 Miniature Schnauzers, volunteer as a Pet Partner, garden, read, cook and knit. She hopes to someday have more time to devote to Garden Club.



Rita Smith, RFGC First Vice President, received the silver tray at the district meeting that announced RFGC Council/federation of the Year. Three Rivers Garden Club was announced Club of the Year.

Dates of Importance

October 26: Applebee's Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Remember this hopefully will be our only fundraiser. If all tickets are sold and turned in we should make enough to support the RFGC efforts for the 2013-2014 year.

November 1: Wreaths decorated and delivered to Tony E. Warren Cancer Center

November 4: RFGC meeting, Garden Center, Coffee-9:30-meet at 10.

November 4 – 5: Environmental Studies School, Valdosta, Georgia

November 9: Belk's Charity Sale. You were given tickets. We will have representatives there to qualify for additional funds.

November 20 – 23: Decorate for the Festival of Trees, Rome History Museum

December 14: "A Time to Enjoy Garden Club", Christmas Open House, Diane Harbin's home

Garden Center Schedule:

October, 2013 Mountain View Cleaning Supplies: Dish Detergent, Liquid counter cleaner

November 4, 2013 Chattooga Refreshments

December, 2013 Seven Hills Trash Bags: Kitchen and Bath

Library Schedule:

October 21 – November 3	Seven Hills
November 4 – November 17	Spade & Trowel
November 18 – December 1	Thistle
December 2 – December 15	Three Rivers
December 16 – December 29	Townview



Our Garden Center

Federated Facts is prepared by Kathy Donahue, a member of the RFGC Executive Board.



FCCCA Youth Garden Club sponsored by Townview

Mr. Troy Fitzpatrick, Horticulture Instructor at Floyd County College and Career Academy, has agreed for 22 of his students to work with members of the Townview Garden Club to establish a Youth Garden Club. The yearbook has been prepared and is ready for distribution and competition. The Townview members met at FCCCA for their October meeting. Youth Club members served as tour guides for the membership. On October 16, members worked to help participants in the Laurel District Meeting with display and sale materials. Five programs have been planned for the year. October 22 members toured Marshall Forest with Caroline Alford serving as the guide. Members were excited about their fair entries. Ribbons and money were an attention getter for these members. The Townview Youth Committee is made up of Sharon Norman, Lulie Chin, and Melissa Phillips.



We're on the Web! Check out the FALL Garden! We feature Mabel Milner's beautiful yard.
www.romefederatedgardenclub.com

Batty for Bats

Bats have long been associated with Halloween, witches, vampires and other scary creatures of the night. Perhaps because they are the only order of flying mammals or perhaps because they seem to magically guide themselves through the night sky, they have been a source of fear to many. The scary truth is that bats are the most endangered land mammals in the United States. Some 53 species are currently listed as endangered and at least that many more species of bats are considered at risk in the U.S.

Many fear bats because they believe them to carry rabies. Like all mammals, bats can, indeed, carry rabies, but the virus is found in less than half of one-percent of the bat population. In fact, you are much more likely to contract rabies from a neighborhood dog or cat than from a bat. If you see a bat that is active in the daytime or unable to fly, don't go near it. In the extremely unlikely event that a bat bites you, then seek immediate medical attention, as you would with any wild animal bite.

Sixteen species of bats call Georgia home, including two endangered species: the Indiana bat and the Gray bat. Bats belong to the order Chiroptera, which means "hand wing." If you look closely at a bat's wing, the bones closely resemble the human hand with a thin membrane of black skin stretching over them. Despite their reputation as friends of the underworld, bats very much work to benefit humans. In fact, bats eat such a large quantity of insects, mosquitoes in particular, that they help to prevent diseases such as West Nile Virus and Malaria. The common Little Brown Bat can eat 1,000 mosquitoes an hour and a nursing mother can eat up to 4,500 insects in a night—more than her own body weight! Bats also eat moths and beetles that attack our agricultural crops, such as June Beetles, stink bugs, leafhoppers and corn worm moths.

Bat decline is primarily due to loss of habitat, pesticide use and poor water quality. To make matters worse, bat populations recently have been devastated by White-Nose Syndrome, a fungal infection that invariably results in death for the animal. Originally discovered in a single cave in New York State in 2006, White-Nose Syndrome has since spread to 23 states in the eastern U.S. as well as five Canadian provinces. Last winter, White-Nose Syndrome made it to Georgia, and has been confirmed in several caves along the Tennessee border. According to Bat Conservation International, White-Nose Syndrome is responsible for one of the worst wildlife declines in the last century.

By providing the appropriate habitat, you can help attract these fascinating insect-eating machines. Many people install bat boxes, which give them a place to roost and hibernate. Bats also need a water source, such as a pond or creek. Finally, if you visit any caves, please be sure to follow appropriate decontamination protocols so as not to spread White-Nose Syndrome.

By Judy Keenan, Redbud District





Congratulations to **Barbara Ivy for 55** years of devotion to the Garden Clubs in Georgia. Your wisdom, talent, enthusiasm and zest for The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Rome Federated Garden Clubs and Thistle Garden club are appreciated. To show the love and appreciation for Barbara, Thistle Garden Club hosted a reception in her honor.

The opportunity to have fair entries excited the FCCCA students and the grandson on a Townview YaYa. The pumpkin that we watched being planted and then run a vine of 31 feet (because YaYa did not know to pinch it back) bore three pumpkins. This one won a blue ribbon. The honeycomb entered by a FCCCA youth member won first place.

