

Apalachee Plantation

Homeowners' Association Newsletter

HOA Meeting Held

THANK you home owners who supported our annual meeting. We discussed a number of concerns in the neighborhood and efforts to preserve our home values and improve the appearance of our neighborhood. Plans are underway for a neighborhood block party. Watch our website for more information.

Mailing address: PO Box 923; Dacula, GA 30019

Email: apalacheeplantation@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.apalacheeplantation.com>

Current officers are:

President: David Gloyd

Vice President: Ren Burnette

Treasurer: Madeline Andrade

Secretary: Donette Hatcher

Member-At-Large: Salvador Fuentes

Premier Pressure Washing and
Concrete Cleaning: Special Pricing for
Apalachee Plantation Home Owners
678-376-4932 Mark Cobb
Ranch \$125
Two-story \$150
cement drives and patios extra

Contents

Community Contact Information	2
Recycling Bank Opens	2
A Special Word of Thanks	2
Monthly Garden Advice	3
We're Online	3
HOA Dues	3
Water Restrictions Update	4
Cleaning Vinyl Siding	4
Thank You: Outgoing HOA President	4
Posting Signs	4

Lawn Care

IN THE battle of grass vs. weeds, weeds seem to have the upper hand. Doesn't it seem that thick, lush, healthy Bermuda grass grows only in garden beds, not in the yard where we want it? The idiosyncrasies of Bermuda aside, weeds rob nutrients from the soil, harbor insects, and are just plain ugly. They also can make your neighbors really mad at you.

The first and most important step in weed control is to keep them mowed, pulled, or hoed. If you let weeds go to seed, you will have an even worse battle next year and beyond. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for up to twelve years. There are also effective weed killers on the market. Some are for spot-spraying, others are applied using a hose-end sprayer. These can have a yellowing affect on Bermuda, so should be used sparingly.

Mulch and compost can carry weed seeds. Paying a bit more for sterile mulch, or high-quality compost (instead of manure) can save you money and time in the long run.

Mow your lawn at the correct height for Bermuda (1-2 inches). If it is too short, it allows weeds to get the light they need to grow and thrive.

Fertilize your lawn regularly from now through September. Do not fertilize in August. Apply according to package directions. Some fertilizers can be applied as often as every other week. Others are once or twice a season.

For more information see the Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture, <http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/index.cfm>

Burn Ban

Gwinnett County is under a total outdoor burn ban from May 1 to September 30. All types of outdoor/open burning are prohibited during this time period.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) imposes a ban on outdoor burning to comply with Federal Clean Air Regulations. During the summer months in Georgia, the ozone in the air we breathe can reach unhealthy levels.

The Georgia EPD has identified outdoor/open burning as a significant contributor of the pollutants that form ozone.

Consequently, open burning in metro Atlanta is restricted during the warm weather season. The safe use of barbeque grills for outdoor cooking is still allowed.

The following types of outdoor/open burning are banned:

- * Burning of trees, limbs, or any other yard waste
- * Burning over of forest or land by the owners of the land
- * Burning of vegetative waste from land clearing (includes a ban on the use of air curtain destructors)

The following types of outdoor/open burning are still allowed, provided the proper permits are obtained:

- * Fires for agricultural practices (must be zoned RA-200/residential agricultural) or a forestry prescribed burn.
- * Fires for recreational purposes or for cooking food to include barbeques and campfires (in a designated campground).
- * Fires for the purpose of training firefighting personnel

For additional information about open burning, visit the Fire Marshal's website at www.gwinnettfiremarshal.com or call the Office of the Fire Marshal at 678.518.6100.

Community Contact Information

- *Police non-emergency number: 770-513-5100.* The citizens of Gwinnett County may call the Non-emergency number 770-513-5100 to report non-urgent incidents that require a police response such as loud music, lost wallets, cell phones, and passports, non-violent animal complaints, etc. Be patient. 911 calls will be answered first then the non-emergency phone.
- *Police: 770-513-5000* for information of towed vehicles, obtaining copies of reports, traffic ticket information, follow-up on reports or to speak with a specific officer or detective.
- *Sheriff: 770-619-6500* For information on information on prisoners, warrants, and the civil process.
- *Fire/EMS: Contact Gwinnett County Fire Department at 678-518-4800* when requesting information on burning permits, inspections and billing questions, and educational presentations.
- *Call before you dig: 770.623.4344* Before you dig on your property you are required by State Law to notify the Utilities Protection Center. They will contact all utilities for you.
- *Quality of Life Violations: www.gwinnettcountry.com.* For the 24 Hour Code Violation Reporting Hotline, call 770.417.3434 extension 52. For the 24 Hour Erosion Control Violation Reporting Hotline, call 678.518.6099. Violations can be reported online at www.gwinnettcountry.com. NOTE: Georgia's Open Records Act requires disclosure upon request of any information about a complaint.
- *Animal Control:* To report an animal bite: Call 911 for medical attention first. The 911 operator will call Animal Control about the animal. To report cruelty cases or an injured, sick, or vicious animal call 770.513.5100. To file a complaint (barking dogs, etc.) call 770.339.3200
- *Home-buying education, counseling, and mortgage assistance www.theimpactgroup.org.* Gwinnett County contributes to The Impact Group, a non-profit, community development corporation that arranges emergency and transitional shelter for homeless people, helps revitalize low-income neighborhoods, and offers home-buying education, counseling, and mortgage assistance.

Recycling Bank Opens

THE RECYCLING BANK OF GWINNETT, 4300 Satellite Boulevard in Duluth, opens to the public on Saturday, April 18. The 29,000 square foot recycling center replaces the previous facility that was destroyed by fire last year. The recycling center features two separate areas for drop off - one for residents and another for commercial haulers.

The center is open to the public for donations 24/7, while commercial haulers are served from 6:30am until 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Recycling Bank of Gwinnett accepts 35 types of recyclables. There is no cost to drop off these items. See box for specific items.

A Special Word of Thanks

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD has a number of abandoned or foreclosed homes that drag down the appearance of our sub-division, and encourage criminal behavior. The owner of Green Gecko landscaping lives in our neighborhood and has made sure that the grass has been kept mowed on these homes. Thank you very much.

Another special thank you to Mr. Paul Lee, also of our neighborhood, who spent several hours working on the entrance lights to get them working after and prevent further water damage.

Recycling Bank of Gwinnett accepts:

- Aluminum Baking Tins
- Aluminum Beverage Containers
- Aluminum Food Containers
- Calendars
- Carbonless Paper Forms
- Cardboard Boxes
- Cereal Boxes
- Clean Metallic Lids
- Computer Paper
- Discarded Mail
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Envelopes
- Glass Bottles and Jars
- Greeting Cards
- Kraft Paper
- Magazines
- Milk Jugs
- Newspapers and Inserts
- Old Phone Directories
- Paper Grocery Bags
- Paper Shopping/Lunch Bags
- Paper Towel Cores
- Paperback Books
- Paperboard
- Pizza Boxes
- Plastic Bottles #3 - 7
- Plastic Detergent Bottles
- Plastic Soda and Water Bottles
- School Papers
- Shoe Boxes
- Shopping Catalogues
- Soda and Beer Cartons
- Steel Food Containers and Lids
- Tissue Boxes
- Tissue Paper Cores

For more information: http://www.gwinnettcb.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=16&Itemid=58

Monthly Gardening Advice from the Gwinnett County Extension Service

June

- Prune azaleas and camellias after they have finished blooming.
- Spray gardenias to control white flies and sooty mold. Crape myrtles should also be sprayed to control aphids and sooty mold.
- Keep a close eye on insect problems in the lawn area. Spittle bugs and white grubs can create serious problems in lawn areas during June.
- Warm season lawn grasses can still be established during June. Keep a close eye to make sure adequate water is available.
- Fertilize St. Augustine, Zoysia and Bermuda lawn areas. Fertilizer should not be applied to Centipede lawns at this time.
- Marigolds, salvia, annual vinca and begonias can be planted. Pinch terminals of flowers to promote branching.
- Don't forget to fertilize annuals and roses monthly throughout the growing season.
- Harvest vegetables at peak quality. Plant beans, sweet corn, squash, okra, and cucumbers for a second crop.
- Watch for disease problems in the vegetable garden. Tomatoes can be sprayed with calcium chloride to help prevent blossom end rot.

July

- Watch shrubs carefully for water stress. Apply adequate water but don't overwater. Water shrubs under trees more often.
- Check ornamental plants for insects and control as necessary.
- Watch for Powdery Mildew on crape myrtle and apply fungicides where damage is severe.
- Remove old flowers from annuals and perennials to encourage more blooming.
- Don't forget to fertilize annuals and roses monthly throughout the growing season.
- Fertilize Centipede lawns following your soil sample recommendation. This should be your second and final application to Centipede lawns for the year.
- In the vegetable garden, plant beans during the first half of the month. Now is also the time to prepare your fall garden plan.

August

- Do not prune azaleas now. This will reduce flowering in the coming spring. Old crape

myrtle flowers should be removed as soon as their color fades.

- Continue to remove old flowers from annuals and perennials to encourage more blooming. Because summer can be hard on many perennial flowers they can also benefit from trimming back leggy growth.
- Fertilize lawn except for Centipede grass. Lawn areas may need water during drought. Continue to watch for insect and disease problems in turf areas.
- Don't forget to fertilize annuals and roses monthly throughout the growing season.
- Plant cabbage, collards, beets, bush snap beans, lettuce, turnips, kale, and mustard. Carrots should be planted later in the month.

We're Online

OUR ASSOCIATION newsletter is now available online only. We will no longer be printing and mailing a hard copy to each home owner in our association. Since most homes have access to the internet, or can access it via work or the public library, the HOA Board decided to discontinue printing.

Most links will be active for quick checking of information.

We will post a notice at the subdivision entrance each time a new newsletter is posted online. For past newsletters go to: <http://www.apalacheeplantation.com/newsletters.html>

Ads can be placed for \$15 per year for homeowners and \$25 per year for non-homeowners.

Contact the HOA

HOA Dues

THANK you homeowners for paying your 2009 HOA dues. They will stay at \$150 for the coming year. With each homeowner doing their part in maintaining our neighborhood, both by paying their dues and caring for their own home, we can help protect our property values and keep down crime and vandalism. Please remember that your dues are mandatory. Monthly late fees will be added after April. If you would like to make arrangements to pay in installments, please contact the HOA via email.

We will continue to place liens on non-compliant homes. This has worked well and ensures that all carry their load.

Let's keep ours' a neighborhood to be proud of. Keep up the good work!



ASBERRY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Apalachee Plantation subdivision

Pamela Asberry, Instructor

Master of Music degree, Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy

Asberry School of Music offers piano students:

- A nurturing learning environment
- Opportunities to grow in creativity and self-esteem
- Lessons tailored to the needs of the individual
- Tools necessary to develop keyboard skills and overall musicianship

Call 678-714-7251 or visit <www.asberryschoolofmusic.com>.

Water Restrictions Lifted

FOR the first time since June 2006, Georgia's water restrictions have been lifted. Governor Perdue stated: "Georgians have seen the most severe drought on record, and have proven their ability to conserve and manage our state's most precious resource," said Governor Perdue "We have become more educated about water conservation, and have taken significant steps towards ensuring a long term solution. I believe Georgians will continue to use our water resources wisely under this new outdoor watering schedule."

Under a non-drought schedule, outdoor water use is allowed three days a week on assigned days using odd and even-numbered addresses. Odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Even-numbered and unnumbered addresses are allowed to water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Water use may occur at any time of the day on the assigned days, however landscape watering is discouraged between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m because of its limited effectiveness.

For more information: www.gaepd.org

Posting Signs

IT IS illegal to place signs and banners within ten feet of a public roadway in Gwinnett County. They are also illegal in a median, on utility poles, traffic signals and trees, on public property, on private property without permission, or within the right-of-way. The right-of-way is typically the unpaved area between the edge of the roadway and utility poles and can be over fifty feet wide.

The Sign Ordinance allows up to four (4) garage sale signs with each sign limited to 4 square feet in area per lot or one (1) single sign limited to 16 square feet in area per lot (Section 86-111). A Sign Permit is not required for these signs provided they are not banners (Section 86-109). Signs may not be made of paper or cardboard (Section 86-109 Paragraph 20).

Graduation banners placed on residentially zoned property may be no more than 24 square feet in size and must be maintained in good condition and individually attached to a pole, mast, arm, or other structure. A graduation banner may not be displayed on any lot for more than 60 consecutive days. For more information, please contact the Code Compliance Section at 678.518.6050.

Many Thanks to Outgoing President Lee Adkins

THE Apalachee Plantation Board and subdivision home owners wish to thank Lee Adkins for his many years of service to our neighborhood. Lee stepped down from the board after having served since 2003. The first two years he was a board member, the next year he was Vice President and then the last years he served as HOA president.

Lee led the board in making significant improvements in our neighborhood. Here is a list of some of the work accomplished during the past few years.

- 4 way stop at Fort Daniels Drive and Fort River
- Fort Daniels Drive repaved
- Detention ponds fenced out
- Recovery of delinquent dues initiated
- Front entrance improved with new bulbs for added blooms
- Erosion controlled and detention pond repaired on Fort River Way
- Unmaintained homes cleaned up
- Front sprinkler system repaired
- Front entrance sign repaired
- Got county to repair water main on Mountain Fort way

We wish Lee well in the future and thank you for the many hours you worked in our behalf.

Cleaning Vinyl Siding

WHAT a difference the rain makes. Our lawns and gardens are almost singing they are so happy. Our homes, are another matter. Slowly (or should I say quickly) our homes are turning into the same color: a dingy green. The easiest and fastest way to clean our siding is to hire a firm to pressure wash it. With the current state of economic insecurity, do-it-yourself options may be a better choice for many of us.

The nice thing about cleaning vinyl siding is that it does not require the skills many of other home maintenance projects require. All you need is water, a hose, bucket, dish washing liquid and a long-handled, soft-bristled brush (like the ones used to clean RVs), For taller homes you will need a ladder. If using a ladder, please work with a second person to hold the ladder steady. And as in all other activities, please follow standard safety precautions. Clean siding is not worth dying for.

1. Rinse the siding using a regular garden hose and a nozzle. Use a medium spray. Higher pressure can force water under the siding and can damage the interior. Always rinse from top to bottom to avoid streaking.
2. Mix soapy water in a bucket. Dip the long-handled, soft-bristled brush in the soapy water and rub the siding from side to side. You can also use a hand pump to spray the soapy water on the siding. Work from bottom to top. Rinse soapy water off before it dries.
3. To remove mildew and hard to remove stains use a 30% solution of vinegar and water, or try a stronger household cleaner such as Murphy Oil Soap, Fantastic, Windex, or Lestoil.
4. To remove paint, pencil, oil, or tar try a mild abrasive cleaner. These could damage the surface or change the color, so use carefully and sparingly.
5. Do not use Chlorine bleach, organic solvents, or other powerful cleansers as they can damage siding. Oxygen bleach is OK.
6. Or, contact Premier Pressure Washing and Cleaning. See the special price for Apalachee Plantation on page 1.