

Apalachee Plantation

MAY 2010

ONLINE NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

WWW.APALACHEEPLANTATION.COM



Send your garden photos and Graduation photos to the [editor](#) for our next issue.

Spring (pollen) is in the air

There is nothing like that first whiff of pollen to make us start digging in the dirt.

Our neighborhood has, as a whole, done well in keeping up our homes, in spite of the difficult economic times we are dealing with. A well-maintained neighborhood helps to keep home values stable, reduces crime, and encourages others to buy and maintain homes in our neighborhood. While we can't stop foreclosures going on, we can minimize their impact. Our newsletter will have a number of tips to help us all maintain our homes, lawns, and neighborhood security.



May Gardening Tips

Treat for azalea lace bugs if you've had problems in the past. Insecticidal soap, horticultural oil and synthetic insecticide chemicals all work well, sprayed under the leaves.

- Look for tiny "toothpicks" on the trunk of your Japanese maple, Kwansan cherry and other small landscape trees. The Asian ambrosia beetle is spreading death-dealing fungus inside the trunk.
- Plant begonias, coleus, geraniums, petunias and vinca for summer-long color in your landscape.
- Fill the ruts and low spots in your lawn with a 1:1 mixture of sand and topsoil. Sweep with a broom afterwards to expose growing grass blades.

- Snip off sprouts from the base and lower trunk of crepe myrtles that are being trained to grow in an upright tree form.
- Remove leafless limbs from shade trees. If they don't have leaves by now, they won't be coming back.
- Dig, divide and transplant your crowded irises to a better location, if needed, after they bloom.
- Prune early-flowering azaleas now that they have finished blooming. Remove tall sprouts at their base, inside the shrub.
- Pinch out the growing tips of rhododendron limbs now that flowers are gone. You'll get many more flowers next year.
- Plant rosemary, basil, oregano, dill and

Share your garden or other photos. We'd love to include your photos in our newsletters. Send them to the editor, [Kathryn Dawal](#).

Current Board Members

[Click](#) here for a list of current HOA Board and to visit our website.

Useful Links

All about annuals on “Your Southern Garden” May 15



Annual beds, okra seed germination and smilax control headline “Your Southern Garden”

with Walter Reeves May 15 at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Learn how to properly install an annual flower bed, start to finish, see improved versions of traditional houseplants, and learn how to control the thorny vine, smilax, in your yard.

Cooperative Extension

For useful information and help-related links on a variety of topics. [Click here.](#)

Code Violations

To report a code violation, contact the Code Enforcement Unit at 770.338.4170 ext. 5765 or [click here](#) to complete a Code Violation Reporting form.

Call Before You Dig: 811

Now you can simply call “811” and request your property marked before digging in your lawn or garden. It’s the law, and it avoids needless risk, expense, and difficult. [Click](#) to visit their website.

No Outdoor Burning Allowed

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has issued a ban on open burning May 1st – September 30th of each year. Fifty-four counties in Georgia (including Gwinnett County) are affected. Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services is responsible for the enforcement of this state-issued burning ban within Gwinnett County.

From May 1st – September 30th, you may not burn leaves, tree limbs, or other yard waste, forest land, or use air curtain destructors for commercial burning.

Congratulations Grads



We are proud of our High School Graduates and would like to honor you individually in our June newsletter. Please email a photo with your name and a brief paragraph about yourself and your plans. Please get all information and photos to our [editor](#) by May 24.

Parking 101: not on lawns, not on blind curves

Common sense on parking. We live in a hilly neighborhood with curving streets. That means that we have a number of blind hills and curves. Why park your car where it can’t be seen until the last minute? You are also violating the neighborhood covenants, which state that home owners are to park their vehicles in the drive or garage, not on the street. Since these covenants are legally binding, the HOA could, should sufficient complaints be received, have your vehicle towed. But, self-interest alone should make you want to avoid putting your car at risk. Your vehicle would be contributing to an accident or even injury of a driver.

Using your car as a lawn ornament? The Gwinnett County Zoning Resolution restricts the parking of vehicles at a residence to a hard surfaced driveway, or in a carport or garage. Parking on the grass is prohibited. A hard-surfaced driveway means one that is either paved with asphalt or concrete or that contains adequate, hard-packed gravel that is bordered with landscape timbers, railroad ties, brick or a rock wall to sufficiently define and contain the parking area.

Spring (pollen) is in the air, continued from page 1

other herbs for savory summer meals.

- Place a newspaper mulch 10 sheets thick under tomato plants to prevent leaf diseases. Cover with pine straw.
- Drill a one eighth inch hole in the cap of a two liter soft drink bottle. Fill the bottle, cap it and upend it in the soil of your patio plants to slowly water them during the day.
- Control fire ants by lightly scattering a bait over your lawn. Forty-eight hours later, use an insecticide on any large mounds you can see. Repeat in September.
- Get in the habit of wearing a hat and

sunscreen whenever you work in the sun. Skin cancer cases are on the rise.

- Plants need an inch of water per week. What's an inch of water? If rainfall or irrigation fills an empty soup can to a depth of one inch, that's just what plants need.
- Don't put rocks in the bottom of houseplant pots. They actually decrease drainage and aeration for the plant roots.
- The best time to water is between 10:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. This allows the grass to dry before nightfall the next day and prevents disease.

[Courtesy: The Georgia Gardener](#)