



Atlanta Woman's Club Newsletter



Member, Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs

June 2009 Issue

1150 Peachtree Street N E, Atlanta, GA 30309 Telephone 404 870 8833 Website: www.atlwc.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President's Report, Presented at the General Meeting of the AWC, May 11, 2009

The responsibilities of the President of the Atlanta Woman's Club go well beyond the 12 designated duties currently outlined in our Bylaws. One of these prescribed duties is that the President "give a full account of the activities of the Club at the Annual Meeting in May." We would be here far too long if I did that. For a much more complete account of the activities of the Club than I can possibly give here, I'm going to refer you to the AWC Newsletters, published each month (with the exception of our summer edition which covers July and August). It is in the newsletters that the Department and Committee Chairmen and officers write articles and detail activities of the Club, announcements are made on up-coming events, and pictures portray members and guests in a variety of Club activities. Thus, between the monthly newsletters and, also, the minutes of our meetings, we have an up-to-date written history of the past year and a "full account of the activities of the Club," all available to members on our website.

For the President's Annual Report today, I've chosen to highlight the major events in the Atlanta Woman's Club from May 2008 through May 2009, the first year of my two-year term of office.

- Our philanthropic financial gifts this past year were far and beyond what we have been able to give in the past. Each of 5 Departments plus the Tallulah Falls School Committee presented a total of six \$10,000 checks, plus an additional

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CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

*By Ellen Milholland
Chairman*

It's June. Vacations and summer outdoor activities are on our minds and you may be wondering how to have a "green" summer.

Consider staying close to town and enjoying some of Atlanta's green spaces (and take MARTA to get there!). The Atlanta Botanical Garden, Stone Mountain and Centennial Olympic Park are favorites that immediately come to mind but don't forget your local parks closer to home.

If you do travel remember there may be a National Park nearby too. The National Park Service has an excellent web site at <http://www.nps.gov/>. On the Home page you can find a map of the US and point and click to a state to find links to National Parks in specific states. Be sure and check out the National Park closest to the Atlanta Metro-area - **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.**



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DEADLINE FOR SUMMER ISSUE: June 20, 2009

Newsletter Editor: Beth Jetha, 770 565 3410

Email: bjetha@bellsouth.net

Celebrate **National Garden Week** the first week in June. Take some time this summer to focus on your garden – be it a few containers of annuals or a large yard filled with dozens of trees and shrubs. If you are thinking of adding to your garden, check out the **Georgia Native Plant Society** (<http://www.gnps.org/>) to see what plants do best in our hot, humid summers. If you have the space, consider planting the **2009 Georgia Native Plant** – the majestic White Oak. Or check out the **Georgia Perennial Plant Association** which will be celebrating National Garden Week with a very special garden tour of members' gardens. Details are at

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President's Message...*continued from page 1*

\$15,000 from the Dept. of Education, plus another \$6,000 from each of the 6 departments, plus an additional \$26,000 from the Tallulah Falls School Committee to Tallulah Falls School. For this last gift to Tallulah Falls School, we were awarded, as a Club for the year 2009, the coveted membership in the President's Circle, which meant that AWC is one of three groups, to-date, to have the distinction of being founding members of the TFS President's Circle. The grand total for our financial donations from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009 was \$127,000, gifts all given by our Club in support of our mission and Federation work to help others. Some of the checks were presented at our General Meetings during the year, after which recipients would then speak to our membership about the work of their organizations and how AWC donations would help in their work.

- AWC hosted 2 festive social functions for members, guests, and friends of AWC. (1) On December 11, 2008, we held our first Holiday Party in recent memory which was featured in the *AJC's* "Social Butterfly" column with a brief blurb and picture of 4 AWC Presidents in attendance. There were approximately 100 people attending. (2) Our second social event was our Annual Spring Membership Tea on April 5, 2009. Both events were attended by prospective new members and, also, representatives of Tallulah Falls School, including the President and his wife, Larry and Dinah Peevy, and GaFWC President Brenda Martin. Attendees at the Spring Tea additionally included Chairman of the TFS Board of Trustees Gewene Womack and 5th District President Cheryl Miller. Approximately, 80 people were in attendance at the Tea.

- AWC members traveled by van to Tallulah Falls School in March to attend a centennial celebration event for the School and, further, enjoyed a tour of the campus and, also, lunch in the student dining room

- AWC hosted a booth at the downtown Atlanta Marriott in January 2009 during the "Perfect Wedding Bridal Show." Our booth showcased the Wimbish House to event coordinators and bridal consultants to help advertise the fact that the home of the AWC is a venue for weddings. AWC is actively engaged in "getting our name out there" so that members of the community will be aware that AWC serves Atlanta in providing a beautiful venue for weddings, as well as other special occasions.

- AWC continues to rent what used to be our auditorium to our tenant, Opera, voted the "Best Dance Club in Atlanta" last summer, 2008, by the *AJC*. Too, Opera rents out their facility for special events. AWC also rents out the Wimbish House for weddings, receptions, corporate meetings, and other special events. Importantly for our Club, we are able to give significant financial philanthropic gifts because of our good fortune in being able to own and rent our facility. I need to note here that our rentals have slowed down as a result of the downturn in the economy this year, but we continue to get new business and book future

events, though at a decidedly slower pace than at this time last year.

- The Club has begun a focused effort to collect memorabilia and to tape meetings and long-standing members' AWC recollections in order to create a DVD or a book on the history of the Atlanta Woman's Club. At our February meeting, we taped brief talks of 5 former AWC presidents and 1 former vice president, as well as the President of Tallulah Falls School for this special history project.

- In August of 2008, the Atlanta Woman's Club was selected for the 2008 Best of Atlanta Award in the Banquet Rooms category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA). This award program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country that enhance the positive image of small businesses through service to their customers and community. The 2008 award focused on quality rather than quantity.

- In the Spring of 2009, we had a "Banner Year" when it comes to awards.

1. Honoring the work of the Atlanta Woman's Club, in March of 2009 the 5th District (which includes 10 clubs in the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, including AWC) named the AWC as the "Best All Around Club in the 5th District," and further honored our Club with a total of 15 1st Place Awards, one of which was to our member who won for her Short Story. Further, the Club was awarded 5 silver awards (3 silver trays and 2 bowls). The Club Award Certificates are now proudly hanging upstairs in the room on the northeastern corner, referred to as "the History Room."

2. Honoring the work of the Atlanta Woman's Club at State Convention in April in Augusta, the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs (GaFWC) presented 7 more awards to the AWC and 8 awards to individual members for their involvement in ESO, the General Federation's reading program. The GaFWC's Awards join the 5th District Awards in the upstairs room.

- A restructuring of the Executive Board, composed of all officers, department and committee chairmen, and members of the Board of Trustees, occurred in February and March of 2009. The Executive Board consists now of 20 members, 9 of whom were newly installed at the May 2009 General Meeting, essentially a different Board by half from the Board which functioned May 2008 through February 2009.

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- For the first time, a Retreat for the Executive Board was held over a 2-day period in March to facilitate our working together as a cohesive team, especially important with the recent restructuring of the Board; (*continued p.3*)

President's Message...*continued from page 2*

to update us on Club and Federation protocols and responsibilities; to assess together our strengths, as well as areas for improvement; and to begin to create a vision for the future of the Atlanta Woman's Club. Two professional consultants and facilitators, Candace Kaspers, Ph.D., President of Gender Plus, and Ellen McCarty of McCarty & Co., led the Retreat, along with Georgia Federation of Women's Club leaders Martha McElhannon and Mary Ruth Kimsey who raised our awareness on Club and Federation work, as well as Parliamentary procedure and responsibilities of officers and department chairmen.

- The AWC ByLaws and Standing Rules have undergone two significant revisions this year. The first revision was done last fall and approved at our General Meeting in January 2009. The second revision occurred this spring and will be voted on at our General Meeting next month (June).

- Marketing, not only to advertise the Wimbish House as a special events venue, but also to help us increase our membership has become an important part of this year's focus. Thus, a new AWC Logo is being created, a project which began in the fall and now encompasses an up-dated website, brochures, stationery, a press kit, and various up-to-the-minute marketing tools to keep AWC abreast and current in the rapidly expanding field of professionally designed social media. To this end, Denise Elsbree, award-winning consultant and principal of TRIO Media Group met with the Executive Board at a special meeting on April 15 for ideas and suggestions as to how AWC can up-date ourselves for the 2010-and-beyond world.

Special projects of the President this past year have included the beginning of an organized process which will result in a history of the Atlanta Woman's Club, as mentioned above; the inception of the AWC Singers, a group to perform not only for our membership and at holidays, but also for community organizations; and now a focused effort to increase our membership from 56 (as of our May meeting) to at least 100 by the end of the year. Importantly, as we seek, also, to diversify our membership, we are looking for women who are clearly dedicated to our purpose of volunteer service and who pledge their active support of Federation and Club work. We want more of our members, in general, to be actively engaged in such work through the various Departments. In addition to these special projects, I want to add another for the coming year: Inner Harbour, a residential their arts program which successfully uses therapeutic drumming and dancing with the young people who come there for help. I must add, too, that I'd like for us to have more fun overall than we've had this past year--with streamlined meeting agendas, more levity in our meetings, a lighter touch in our work, and opportunities to experience more smiles and laughter as we, again, amass accomplishments to create another very successful year. We have some fun and creative ideas to help "make it happen" as early as our June meeting! Stay tuned...

In summary, the past year has been an extraordinarily full and an extremely busy year, replete with challenging situations, necessitating careful and thoughtful attention, at times, requiring action and significant changes. Our founders and even those members who wrote the most recent "Duties of the Officers" in our Club Bylaws couldn't have foreseen all of the technological advances in communications of the past few years, with the myriad of internet capabilities, the websites, cell phones, I-Phones, Blackberries, and Palms, blogs, texting, Twittering, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.--communications which not only facilitate our work greatly, but also increase the complexity and time-consuming activities in the accelerated pace and, at times, stressful nature of modern life as we know it in 2009. The task for us all—and this certainly includes AWC's President—of simply keeping up with the tools of communication available is daunting: writing, reading, and responding to hundreds of emails, not to mention listening to messages on answering machines or reading cell phone texts, learning to twitter, making and returning of numerous phone calls and messages. Of course, additionally, there is always the need to schedule and attend meetings. Such is life today and a necessary part of AWC leaders' responsibilities, as we conscientiously work in pursuit of our mission of humanitarian service to better the lives of those in our community and in our world, and to support and maintain our beloved Tallulah Falls School which AWC's early members helped to start in 1909, a School whose 100th birthday we happily celebrate this year. I believe it is always our desire and intention to do the best job we can in meeting our responsibilities as officers, department and committee chairmen, trustees, and members of the Atlanta Woman's Club. As President, I have begun meeting individually with all other 19 members on the Executive Board, and I'd like to have the opportunity to meet with all of our members, at the very least, in small groups so that I can see what you most want to accomplish and hear your ideas as to how best we can meet our goals and aspirations. As I said in the first President's Message in the June 2008 Newsletter and I repeat here, my door is always open.

Finally, I want you to know that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your President this past year. I don't think I've ever worked harder, even in my career as a university English professor and administrator, for which I was well paid. But being paid is not at all what we're about, as our purpose in being an AWC member is one of volunteer, humanitarian service. I look forward to this next year, May 2009 - April 2010, and to great accomplishments as a Club. We have been given so much, we have much to give, much to do, a strong Executive Board with a great deal of expertise, and a Club membership with skills, talents, and abilities which I look forward, with you, to putting to good use. Again and remarkably, we of the Atlanta Woman's Club are extraordinarily blessed with this beautiful place and splendid legacy of selfless service. This very full past year becomes the most recent year in our nearly 114-year history, all of which serve as a foundation for the future of the Atlanta Woman's Club, certainly, a "Light on Peachtree," and clearly one of Atlanta's treasures, as well as a jewel in the Federation of Women's Clubs throughout the world.



Karen M. Thomson, Ph.D.
President, Atlanta Woman's Club, 2008-2010

(All photographs in this issue, courtesy of Ellen Milholland)

CLUB NEWS

May 11, 2209 Meeting at Opera

(Left) Installation of New Officers and Board of Trustees Members by the President: (l to r) Karen Bacheller, Lisa Banes, Beth Jetha, Sandra McNeil, Myra Carmon, Karen Clydesdale, Judine Heard, Bonnie Kent, Bobbi Kraus, Karen Thomson



Below: Jill Muir (Arts Dept. Chair) with Grady High School Art Student at May 11 meeting



URBAN COUTURE AT GRADY HIGH SCHOOL

By *Jill Peterson Muir*
Chairman,
Arts Department

May was a fun month for the Arts Department because we were able to attend the Grady High School Urban Couture Fashion Show. It is in its 7th year and is headed up by Mr. Vincent Martinez. The event was attended by Jill Muir and Lisa Banes from the Atlanta Woman's Club and it was amazing to see the talent coming out of these High School students. The fashions were original and very inspirational. The event was covered by the local media and also mentioned on the CBS Morning Show.

Grady High School's Art Department is developing a commendable reputation within the fashion industry for its talent, leadership, and rising star mentality among its students. I predict that they will be a fashion force to be reckoned with in the years to come. Without a doubt, the students who are graduating from Grady who have chosen to specialize in fashion design will soon be making national headlines.

Because of that and because of our desire at the Atlanta Woman's Club to promote Arts in our local schools, we are presenting 3 scholarships valued at \$500 to each of 3 deserving seniors who plan to continue their education in the Arts after graduation. At graduation on May 26th, the scholarships will be awarded for the following areas: Arts/Theatre/Debate, Music, and Fashion. The principal and staff voted on the most deserving students and will recognize them at graduation. The Atlanta Woman's Club will be recognized for its efforts in promoting the Arts and enabling deserving students to continue their education after High School.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By *Lisa Banes*
Chairman

June Meeting: Georgia Innocence Project

No one ever wants an innocent person to be convicted and to spend a majority of his or her life in prison. That sort of injustice erodes the very foundation of our criminal justice system. But with advances in new scientific testing methods, particularly forensic DNA testing, many cases are being reevaluated, and innocent people are being discovered in prisons in every state.

Georgia is no exception.

That's why it's so important to hear our speaker for the June meeting: Lisa George, Communications Director of the **Georgia Innocence Project**, a nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to exonerate and free the wrongly convicted. Relying primarily on volunteer attorneys and law students to process cases, GIP takes post-conviction cases in Georgia and Alabama where DNA evidence was collected at the crime scene and where the identity of the perpetrator could be in question. Be sure to be there for Ms. George's presentation on this important work.

CARE

CARE, the Atlanta-based organization dedicated to global poverty eradication has asked for our help in its letter-writing campaigns to persuade elected officials to support policies that help women in poor communities. To participate, go to <http://www.care.org> and click on Get Involved in the menu on the left. It's a simple action that will make a significant difference in the lives of poor women around the world.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

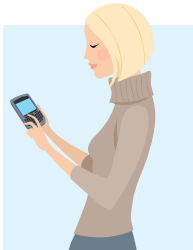
By Ruth Yurchuck
Chairman
Hope News

Dr. Cassandra Ashley, principal of the John Hope Elementary School, met with Betty Daniels, Ellen Milholland, and Ruth Yurchuck on May 12 to introduce her to the work of the Atlanta Woman's Club and to ask her to advise us of ways in which we can support the school, as we supported C.W. Hill in the past. Dr. Ashley supports continuing distribution of KIND News, a conservation newspaper for elementary school students, and our Club will provide subscriptions to five classrooms. She requested that members come to Hope and lead a discussion of one of the articles each month. There may be other opportunities for our members to engage with the students by reaching to a class on other topics. We will meet with Dr. Ashley again in September to further details plans for collaboration. We hope she will be able to attend a meeting of the Club this fall.

Summer and ESO

Everyone should take advantage of the summer months when we have no scheduled activities to read at least one book a month. Copies of the ESO report form for recording book titles and authors by category will be available at every table. I will also place a copy of the report form in the Members section of our Club website in the near future.

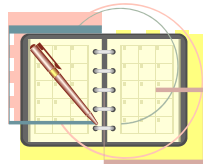
MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs Institute is in Macon this year on August 22 & 23. It will be

held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 108 First Street, Macon, GA; telephone 478 746 1461

- Save Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009 for our Holiday Party



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

By Pat Walsh & Bobbi Kraus,
Co-Chairmen

The International Committee will be selling **SMILE** cookies to benefit **OPERATION SMILE**. **Please be prepared to buy your 'smiles'!** We appreciate all of the support that you have given our committee!

Conservation News...continued from page 1

<http://www.georgiaperennial.org/> along with the "Top Perennials for Georgia". We would love to see your gardens. Please email photos of your garden to Milholland@mindspring.com

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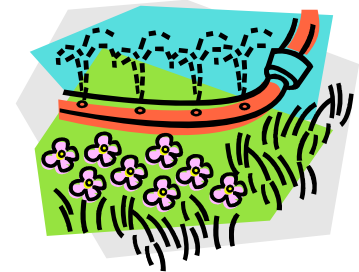
The Green Tip: A Sustainability Feature

The drought taught us that we can have beautiful gardens without watering but for new plantings and vegetable gardens some watering is essential during dry periods. The good news is that we can achieve a green garden with a minimum amount of watering and watering restrictions have eased in many areas (Before you water always check with your local Water Authority or look on your water billing for contact details!). Remember saving **water** saves **green** dollars!

The most efficient method of watering is with drip irrigation. **Conserve Water Georgia** has issued guidance on watering and using drip irrigation at

http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net/documents/drip_irrigation.html

Remember you can water, but not too much and try using the best practices and suggestions that follow:



Drip Irrigation and Soaker Hoses

Under a March 3, 2009 order issued by the Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPF), outdoor watering using drip irrigation and soaker hoses will be allowed in the 55 county area currently under drought response Level IV outdoor restrictions. This includes Fulton County. The Level IV area can be found at

http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/droughtmap_20080512.pdf

For a copy of the March 3 order and Press Release, go to http://www.conservewatergeorgia.net/documents/drip_irrigation2.html

Drip irrigation is a highly efficient watering irrigation system that slowly waters the soil directly around the base of individual plants through small flexible pipes and emitters. This minimizes evaporative losses, pooling, runoff and wetting of plant foliage. Drip irrigation may be part of a larger automated irrigation system or may operate as a stand alone system connected to a typical outdoor faucet.

According to the Alliance for Water Efficiency, drip irrigation is arguably the most efficient method of watering. While the efficiency of traditional spray head or sprinkler irrigation system is typically only about 50 percent and rarely exceeds 70 percent, the efficiency of a well-designed and operated drip irrigation system can reach nearly 100 percent! Soaker hoses are a less expensive alternative to drip irrigation that are also much more efficient than traditional spray head or sprinkler irrigation systems. Soaker hoses are connected to a typical outdoor faucet and also deliver water slowly and directly to the soil around the base of individual plants.

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Conservation Update – Drip Irrigation...from page 5

The [Saving Water Partnership](#) reports that, when used correctly, soaker hose can help maintain your landscape without wasting water. Remember these tips when considering where and when to use a soaker hose:

Find the right site – soaker hoses are best in garden beds.

Start at the faucet – always connect a backflow preventer and timer to the faucet.

Too long is wrong – don't use more than 100 feet of soaker hose.

Keep it level – for uniform water delivery, place soaker on level ground

Use correct spacing – don't put lines too close together or too close to the base of the plant.

Slow the flow – turn on faucet so hose seeps, but does not spray.

Resources to Help You With Drip Irrigation and Soaker Hoses

Best Management Practices for Landscape Irrigation System Water Conservation - [Georgia Extension Service](#) at

<http://apps.caes.uga.edu/urbanag/BookBMPS/Chapter4IrrigationSys.pdf>

Introduction to Drip Irrigation - [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) -

http://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/Drip_and_Micro-Spray_Irrigation_Introduction.aspx

Benefits and Tips on Soaker Hoses - [Savingwater.org](#) -

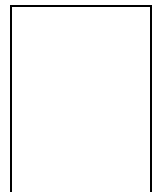
<http://www.savingwater.org>
Instructions on Installing Drip and Soaker Irrigation Systems:

<http://www.savingwater.org/docs/Dripfactsheet.pdf>

<http://www.irrigationtutorials.com/dripguide.htm>

SEE YOU AT THE GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 8TH AT 11 A.M. THERE ARE NO GENERAL MEETINGS JULY AND AUGUST. NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER. HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER !

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED