



**Master Gardener
Volunteers
of Cobb County
Chattahoochee
Nature Center
Project**



Project Location: Chattahoochee Nature Center, 9135 Willeo Road, Roswell, GA 30075

Project Workday: Monday, 9:00—11:00 a.m. (Time may vary during winter months.)

Project Chair: Bill Goldstrohm (770-993-7283) **Co-Chair:** Cheryle Kerr (770-977-2176)

The Chattahoochee Nature Center is a private, nonprofit organization that provides educational programs for approximately 50,000 school children annually. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors access the Nature Center's forest trails, river boardwalk and many gardens.

In 2000 the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County chose the Nature Center as one of their projects because of its proximity to East Cobb. The volunteers at the CNC are a congenial group who welcome others with an interest in native plants. Their work is much appreciated by the staff and visitors alike. They maintain virtually all of the gardens, which include an extensive butterfly garden, seven aviaries, the front entrances and the patio area.

From early spring to late fall the MGVOCC are busy enhancing and maintaining the Butterfly Garden, the Memorial Garden, the courtyard area and the entrance gardens.



The huge Butterfly Garden that spills down a hillside is an important feature of the CNC. Each July the Butterfly Festival is held there, and so the volunteers work hard to establish plant materials that attract and host butterflies such as the Monarch, Tiger Swallowtail, Gulf Fritillary and others.

In the winter the volunteers work in the greenhouse planting seeds, dividing plants and propagating rooting cuttings. These are planted on the grounds in the spring, with enough left over to stock fundraising native plant sales.

Bill Goldstrohm states that an added bonus of volunteering at the Nature Center is having the opportunity to participate in some of its unique horticultural activities involving a few of Georgia's native plants. The CNC is active in maintaining a number of the State's rare and endangered plant populations.

The MGVOCC work closely with CNC horticulturist Henning von Schmeling, who teaches them how to successfully maintain native plants both at the CNC and in their own gardens.

Bill and Henning, working with Tom Hodges from the Nature Conservancy and botanist Tom Patrick from the Department of Natural Resources, have planted 50 specimens of native *Clematis socialis* (Alabama leather flower) back into the wild, specifically a wetland prairie area west of Rome, Georgia.

Bill is proud of the unique service the MG volunteers are providing to keep the native plants of Georgia flourishing for generations to come.

The mission of the MGVOCC is to advance the horticultural education and practices of its members and to promote the knowledge of and interest in gardening to the members and to the public.

For more information contact Carolyn Gentry, Master Gardener Coordinator at the Cobb Extension. Phone: 770-528-4070