



**Master Gardener
Volunteers
of Cobb County**

**McFarlane
Nature Park
Project**



Project Location: 280 Farm Road SE, Marietta, GA 30067

Project Workday: Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Project Chair: Mary McGaughy (770-992-8924)

Co-chair: Sheri George (770-612-0676)

Co-chair: Marcia Dworetzky (770-971-0379)

McFarlane Nature Park is an 11.5-acre passive green space in East Cobb County only 0.5 miles from the intersection of Johnson Ferry Road and Paper Mill Road. When Florence McFarlane died in 1990, she willed her land to the community with the intent that it would be maintained as a nature park for the community. McFarlane Nature Park is supported by private donations, as no funds were included with the property. While other groups volunteer at McFarlane, the MGVOCC are the devoted horticultural workers.

The MGVOCC started on the project in 1995 with a small native plant garden around the old pump house. Not content to stay in one area, the MGVOCC next established a shade garden under a huge oak tree with more plants, especially spring ephemerals, rescued by MGVOCC/GNPS members on Georgia Native Plant Society sponsored rescues.

Project Co-Chair Sheri George says, "We practice what we preach. Despite the availability of composted manure in the old stables, the soil is not amended. Nor are the plants watered, except when establishing the new ones." The Shade Garden has been extended twice and remains a work in progress.

In the spring of 1997 a native shrub garden along with a path and picnic table was installed in a wonderfully rich piece of ground under the walnut trees that was the former pigsty. The old bathtub that was used for water was relocated near the Pump House Garden and turned into a bog garden.

The challenging garden area at McFarlane is the 280-foot long, full sun perennial border. Originally planted with a grant from Georgia Perennial Plant Association, the border was established along the pasture side of the long white fence that runs the length of the entry drive. The original design incorporated only native Piedmont plants. In the spring of 2004, the MGVOCC took over the development and care of the border. Through lots of hard work it is now a showplace where the MGVOCC project sign is proudly displayed. Birds and butterflies appreciate this expanse of nectar, as do the resident honeybees.

The MGVOCC are continually adding to the native plant inventory so the park is a great resource for learning about native plants. All the plants are labeled. GNPS uses McFarlane to educate people to recognize natives in the wild before plant rescues. Divided into different areas, linked by trails and dotted with benches, it is a magical area.



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