



**Master Gardener
Volunteers
of Cobb County
Smith-Gilbert
Rose Garden
Project**



Project Location: 2382 Pine Mountain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30152

Project Workday: Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Project Chair: Bruce Gillett, MD (770-425-3253)

The Rose Garden at the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum is a Master Gardener project intended to promote knowledge of and interest in rose gardening, to maintain the garden, and to complement the existing beauty of the arboretum. The goals of the project are to educate Master Gardeners, Friends of Master Gardeners and the public; to display roses, and to evaluate roses for the American Rose Society in a trial garden. The rose garden will be used to demonstrate landscape design, plant selection, site selection, site preparation and rose garden maintenance. The MGVOCC's involved in the project present public programs which include a pruning clinic, basic rose gardening clinics, pest and disease control, propagation and rose arranging.

In November of 2004, Dr. Bruce Gillett and Courtney Vanderbilt began the search for a new location for the rose garden; specifically one that would provide appropriate growing conditions and be accessible to the public. When Bruce visited what is now the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum in Kennesaw and saw that open, sunny field



Co-chair: Randy Threatte (770-565-3976)
Co-chair: Dörte Wohmann-Schmieta

he knew it was the perfect location. After a conversation with Dr. Robert Gilbert, the SGA Rose Garden was born, as was MGVOCC's involvement with the arboretum.

After the twelve rose beds were designed and marked, Cobb Master Gardeners and the City of Kennesaw dug the concentric arcing trenches in the field and filled them with organic planting soil amended with alfalfa meal to give the transplanted roses an early boost. John and Stella Hanson, Paul and Barbara Virostek, Tom and Carole Caras donated many of the roses at the SGA Rose Garden. More came from other MGVOCC while others were purchased with funds generated by an auction roses from the Woodruff Cottage.

That first year the volunteers had to drag hoses from the house to water the roses, a task no one enjoyed. A drip system using well water was installed in the second year. Doug Davis, the City of Kennesaw and the MGVOCC partnered to build the stone borders around the rose beds. Bruce says that they are beneficial in three ways; they're aesthetically pleasing, eliminate edging and keep the mulch in place.

Now the volunteers can focus on the plants. Credentialed by the American Rose Society, Bruce has developed a rose care calendar which is available at the Extension Office. Rose care programs for the public are presented twice a year. In March a pruning clinic is offered. In October it's "Autumn in the Rose Garden", a three hour workshop on basic rose gardening, propagating and arranging cut roses.

Bruce says, "The best part of the garden is the people having fun and learning together." Information about growing roses is given during the year to the Master Gardeners, Friends of Master Gardeners and to the public. And, when the mood strikes, the group gathers to share a tasty lunch and admire the roses, of course.

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