

GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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Spotlight: Value of Landscaping

Rose Lawn is a Victorian mansion that was built in Cartersville, Georgia, in the early 1900s by Sam P. Jones, the "Billy Graham" of the late-nineteenth century. Jones' wife, Laura, developed the 4-acre estate into a beautiful garden area that featured 225 rose bushes, thus the name Rose Lawn. However, by the 1960s, the estate had fallen into disrepair. In an effort to save the home for historical purposes, it was purchased by Bartow County in the 1970s. Serious effort to restore the home and grounds started in the early 2000s. Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) in Bartow County provide assistance with restoration and maintenance of the grounds.

In 2003, the wife of a MGEV, Jane Drew, became Rose Lawn's director. Jane knew just who to ask for help in restoring the gardens of Rose Lawn to their original beauty. With help from Bartow MGEVs and direction from Dr. Bruce Gillette, chief consultant and Cobb County rosarian, Rose Lawn's former beauty was restored with the return of more than 200 rose bushes. The great majority of the roses are heirlooms that originate before 1926, the year Laura Jones passed away.

Each year, two popular art festivals are held on the grounds, one the first weekend in May, the other the third weekend in September. MGEVs staff an "Ask A Master Gardener" booth at these two festivals, and also sell a variety of plants to support their restorative and maintenance efforts at Rose Lawn. Participation in these festivals is cohesive with the MGEVs' mission to benefit the community, provide accurate gardening information to the public, and to spread the word about the joys of gardening.

Today, the Rose Lawn Mansion is a museum owned and operated by Bartow County. The newly-renovated carriage house is a desirable wedding and special events venue, and the property is landscaped with numerous rose gardens, as well as a variety of stately trees, bushes, perennials, and annuals. Because of the intensive work MGEVs do each year, the Rose Lawn Museum

Rose Lawn Museum Demonstration Garden
Cartersville, GA
Served by MGEVs from Bartow County



2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 372
Bartow MGEVs raised \$2,400 for a drip
irrigation system to keep the roses
healthy.

Special thanks to MGEVs working at Rose Lawn!

property is considered a historical demonstration garden providing community members with a perspective on the heritage of the roses and history of the site. Bartow MGEVs are proud of a long association with Rose Lawn and their efforts in assisting in the restoration of this site.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.