

ANNUAL REPORT  
2010



## Mission

Extend lifelong learning opportunities and advance the well-being of Gwinnett citizens through unbiased research based education in the areas of youth development, the environment, and family and consumer sciences.

## Vision

A community where adults and youth are empowered by educational opportunities to make informed decisions and develop lifelong skills which improve their quality of life.

## Values

We believe in honesty, integrity, and ethical conduct. We are customer-oriented and both accountable and responsive to our citizens. We believe in teamwork and collaboration with our community partners. We promote safety, cost efficiency, innovation, and service excellence.



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

# About Cooperative Extension Service

## Managing Staff

Division Director  
Administrative Supervisor

Robert **Brannen**  
Katherine L. **Shepard**

The Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service provides opportunities for lifelong learning through research-based educational programs in areas of public education, youth development, environment, and family and consumer sciences.

The County's Cooperative Extension Service operates as part of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and College of Family and Consumer Sciences. The Extension Service also functions as an educational division of the Gwinnett County Department of Community Services and receives support from the Gwinnett County Board of Education.

In 1914, Congress established the Cooperative Extension Service to deliver information from land-grant colleges and universities to the citizens of this country. The "College on Wheels" carried University of Georgia faculty and exhibits of interest across the state from 1908 through 1917.

Although society and technologies have changed dramatically during the past 90 years, the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service continues to fulfill its basic mission. County Extension Agents help citizens keep abreast of the latest information, research, and educational materials available. We deliver these resources through our many services to help Gwinnett citizens acquire the skills to improve their quality of life and keep Gwinnett a great place to work and live. A more informed population directly relates to attracting the kind of businesses and jobs for positive growth and economic development.

### Core services include:

- **Public Education** – Use local media and public forums to present educational programs for citizens of Gwinnett County through public outreach via newspaper articles, educational seminars, and TVgwinnett
- **Customer Service Problem-Solving** – Using the research-based information of the University of Georgia, provide personal customer service to assist citizens in solving individual problems related to the environment, family finance, nutrition and health, aging, and protection of Gwinnett's water quality and quantity
- **Youth Development** – Provide educational opportunities and activities for youth of varied socio-economic backgrounds to enhance the economic, social, and cultural well-being of our youth as they struggle through adolescence and prepare for higher education and productive employment



*Robert Brannen*  
*Division Director*

# Cooperative Extension Programs

- The Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service created a program called “Gardening in Gwinnett.” In 2010, an Extension agent published a total of 49 articles in *The Gwinnett Daily Post* and seven articles in *The Gwinnett Citizen*. The articles published were on topics including lawn care, water-conserving landscaping, tree care issues, and integrated pest management in the home landscape. The Cooperative Extension Service also hosted environment-related classes on a variety of topics and educational classes were presented on home improvement subjects including landscape design, low-maintenance landscaping, reducing water use, tree care, rainwater harvesting, and fall vegetable gardening. Landscaping and outdoor horticultural additions are the only home improvement projects that can increase a home’s value dollar for dollar, enhance the county tax base, and helps to enable homeowners to sell a home quickly and at the optimum price
- Gwinnett County’s rapid population growth over the last decade has stressed local environmental resources and increased the importance of protecting our water quality. Each time it rains, the resulting water runoff picks up pollutants such as plant fertilizers and pesticides as it flows across lawns, streets, and commercial landscapes. This compromised water collects in storm drains and drainage swales and is eventually deposited, untreated, into rivers, lakes, and streams. According to a recent research study by the Georgia Clean Water Campaign, the general public is concerned about water quality, but not really sure what they can do about it. This lack of knowledge about non-source point pollution and how to prevent it is seriously affecting the quality of Gwinnett’s water resources. In a collaborative effort with the Georgia Clean Water Campaign and the Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources, the Cooperative Extension Service presents educational programs to inform homeowners and landscape professionals of the University’s researched proven methods for improving the appearance of landscapes, while greatly helping to reduce the quantity of fertilizers and pesticides used
- Obesity and being overweight contribute to the development of many chronic diseases including diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, heart disease, arthritis, gall bladder disease, and poor mental health. The latest economic figures from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) show that in the state of Georgia medical expenditures for the total population attributed to overweight and obesity was \$2.1 billion annually. In Gwinnett County, the Cooperative Extension Service planned, conducted, and evaluated programs including Walk-a-Weigh, Cooking for Cancer classes, and general nutrition to help parents, educators, senior citizens, and other residents receive information on appropriate body weight, healthy life-styles, good nutrition, and ways to avoid chronic diseases. These programs are intended to change bad eating habits into good ones and to change sedentary lifestyles into more physically active ones
- According to Environmental Protection Agency surveys, Gwinnett County has the highest potential for elevated levels of radon (along with DeKalb, Cobb, and Fulton counties). Since approximately 22,000 lung cancer deaths have been attributed to the exposure of elevated levels of radon in the United States, the EPA recommends testing all homes regardless of structure type or geographical location. Homeowners are provided information about the health effects of radon through Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service’s Radon Education Program. Exhibits that include radon materials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are provided during health fairs. The Georgia Radon Education program and the Cooperative Extension Service instruct homeowners about the dangers of radon exposure and encourage them to test their homes. Radon tests kits are also provided to homeowners
- As part of the University of Georgia and Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service, it was our privilege at the 4-H office to offer a hands-on agricultural experience for youth during the county fair. During the fair, participants experienced a 4-H Farm Friends educational exhibit, and children ranging from preschool, kindergarteners, those is readiness programs, first graders, and special education students were invited to attend. In 2010, more than 16,000 youth visited the 4-H Farm Friends exhibit at the Gwinnett County Fair and the Cooperative Extension Service organized and presented 19 independent livestock adult and youth competitions with approximately 2,024 participants
- Gwinnett County Public Schools has continued their partnership with the Gwinnett 4-H Program. Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service provides seven learning experiences each year to elementary schools throughout Gwinnett County to assist teachers in meeting Georgia Performance Standards and Gwinnett AKS standards for elementary students

# 2010 at a Glance

<b>Adult programs offered</b>	489
Participants in adult programs	26,899
<b>Youth programs offered</b>	1,008
Participants in youth programs	45,322
Youth programs in schools	860
Youth participants in schools	22,564
<b>Certified trainings</b>	161
<b>Number of citizens assisted through:</b>	
E-mails	53,377
Walk-ins	2,741
Phone calls	18,127
Samples analyzed	1,520
<b>Brochures distributed</b>	87,454
<b>Newsletters distributed</b>	27,812
<b>Website hits</b>	127,155

## Volunteers

Gwinnett Master Gardener volunteers are one of the largest volunteer groups in Georgia and stay active in the community by facilitating in-class and outdoor classroom education for children, seniors, and all residents of Gwinnett County. Some of their efforts consist of school and park beautification projects, community garden organization and supervision, homeowner educational classes, and general advice on horticulture and protecting our environment. Gwinnett Cooperative Extension also relies on 4-H volunteers to help 4-H'ers to 'learn by doing,' develop leadership and life skills, make new friends and develop positive relationships, and to give back to the community through community service projects.

In 2010, volunteers from the Gwinnett Cooperative Extension Service logged 16,277 hours.



# Community Partnerships

- 4-H
- American Cancer Society
- Atlanta Community Food Bank Product Rescue Center
- Atlanta Gas Light
- Buford Health and Human Service Center
- Buford School System
- Centerville Health & Human Service Center
- Coastal Pond Supply
- Consumer Credit Council
- Department of Family and Children's Services
- Dillwood Organic Farms
- Dream Quest Therapeutic Riding Center
- Duluth History Museum
- Emory Eastside Medical Center
- Family First
- Family Tree Nursery, Snellville
- Gas South
- Georgia Arborist Association
- Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents
- Georgia Centers for Disease Control
- Georgia Department of Agriculture
- Georgia Department of Family and Children Services
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Green Industry Association
- Georgia Master Gardener Association
- Georgia Natural Gas
- Georgia Pest Control Association
- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Georgia Turfgrass Association
- Gwinnet Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- Gwinnett Animal Shelter
- Gwinnett Broadcasting Company
- Gwinnett Children Shelter
- Gwinnett Children's Shelter
- Gwinnett Citizen
- Gwinnett County AARP
- Gwinnett County Board of Education
- Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources
- Gwinnett County Facilities Management
- Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation
- Gwinnett County Senior Services
- Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department
- Gwinnett County Water Resources
- Gwinnett Daly Post
- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center
- Gwinnett Fair Board
- Gwinnett Gladiators
- Gwinnett Multicultural Advisory Committee
- Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- Gwinnett Public Library
- Gwinnett Soil and Water Conservation District
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Gwinnett Village
- Home Depot, Buford
- Home Depot, Dacula
- Home Depot, Hamilton Mill
- Home Depot, Lawrenceville
- Home Depot, Loganville
- Home Depot, Snellville
- John Deere Company
- Kiwanis International
- Lady Bug Garden Club
- Lanier Community Gardens
- Latin American Association
- Latin Association of Child Care Providers
- Lawrenceville Senior Center
- Lilburn Women's Club
- Lions Club International
- Lowe's
- Magdalene's Gate
- McDaniel Farm Park
- Metro Atlanta Landscape Turfgrass Association
- Metro Atlanta Master Gardeners
- Mexican Consulate
- MX Energy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Ninth District Opportunity, Inc.
- Norcross Health and Human Service Center
- Norcross Pre-Schools
- North Georgia Community Action
- North Metro Technical College
- Partnership Against Domestic Violence
- Partnership for Community Action
- Pike Nursery
- Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
- Scana Regulated Energy Division
- SEMCO Productions
- Senior Issues Team
- SPARK Community Program
- The Scotts Company
- Tucker Merchants Association
- United Way
- University of Georgia
- University of Georgia, Gwinnett Campus
- Upper Ocmulgee Resource and Conservation Division
- USDA National Resource Conservation Service
- Vines Park

# Citizen's Advisory Board

Our diverse group of grassroots community leaders meets three times each year to assess local continuing education needs, evaluate current teaching efforts, and guide programming methods and strategies.

Benita **Allen-Adejube**  
Debbie **Bush**  
John **Bush**  
Marcela **Castaneda**  
Cynthia **Cook**  
Jason **Duncan**  
Karol **Gaines**  
Sharon **Hansen**  
Cindy **Harris**  
Paul **Kelley**  
Nancy **Lovingood**  
Pat **Mawhinney**  
Melanie **Miller**

Todd **Moulder**  
Pamela **Moultrie**  
Adrienne **Noble**  
Glenn **Parsons**  
Susan **Penston**  
Aaron **Poulson**  
Pilar **Quintero**  
Almira **Ramirez**  
Billy **Ray**  
Ben **Satterfield**  
Aaron **Tulin**  
Terri **Weaver**  
Dan **Willis**





**Please consider the environment before printing this report.**

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