



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 4

News from the President of DCMGA

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

The pollen is coming. The pollen is coming. Yes, folks, all our cars will soon be tinted yellow. Our first signs of Spring. That and my allergy medicine. It is all worth it though because I love seeing the hydrangeas sprouting leaves on their dead wood, and the azaleas are getting ready to bloom.

Well, back to reality. Our annual plant sale is set for May 6th. So, lets all make our first priority in our gardens this year to find some perennials that need to be divided and get them dug up before they get more than a few inches tall. Transplanting them before the leaves unfurl is much easier, and you get healthier, and prettier plants when they leaves do put out. Bring them on any Wednesday to the greenhouse, or Saturday to the vegetable garden. I think I read that somewhere before, Jan?

Our speaker for April 6th is Betty Benson on wildflowers. See you at the meeting.

HOOAAHH!! Judy

Georgia Master Gardener Program 2005 Annual

Report is online

<http://extension.caes.uga.edu/mastergardener/events.html>

Highlights include:

463 Number of New Master Gardeners (completed training this year)

1,889 Number of Veteran Master Gardeners returning.

Total # of volunteer hours this year 171,329 (17.19* per hour) = \$2,945,159

Total # of in person contacts 265,575

Total # of telephone contacts 54,866

Total # of miles traveled 889,945.77 x (.32 per mile) = \$284,782

Total Value of Service and Travel Combined \$3,229,942

Counties Reporting 68

Next Meeting:

April 6, 2006

Douglasville, GA

6:30 for pot-luck

dinner

7:00 meeting

begins

How to get to the meeting site:

St. Julian's Episcopal Church

5400 Stewart Mill Rd

Take Chapel Hill Road to Stewart Mill Road (Intersection at Target and Shell gas station)

From I-20 turn right on Stewart Mill Road. Church is about 1 ½ miles on the right.

April 6, 2006



April To Do List



In late April, most warm season grasses can receive their first dose of fertilizer, but fescue will get its last dose. Bermuda, Zoysia, and St. Augustine should be 50% greened up before fertilizing.

Dutch iris bulbs, cannas, dahlia, or gladiolus can be planted now.

Plant something to hide daffodil foliage once they finish blooming--hostas or hellebores would work.

Now is the time to plant ground covers and vines.

Select a clematis to plant with roses so that it either blooms with the roses or after the rose is finished.

Fertilize vines only if they need it—a fresh layer of composted manure around the base should be adequate.

Plant disease-resistant dogwoods such as “Aurora”, “Galaxy”, or “Constellation.”

Look over your garden journal to study what grew well last year or to see what changes you need to make this season.



Photograph your garden as it begins to bloom and add the picture to your journal.

Prune flowering shrubs like forsythia, quince, and azaleas as soon as they have finished blooming to rejuvenate them.



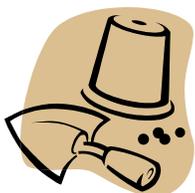
Look for aphids at the tips of fast-growing branches on roses and blast them off with a water hose.

The garden centers around town are beginning to get a good supply of perennials from which to choose. When you plant perennials, be sure to allow enough room for growth and you may need to water every few days. Look for signs of slugs on plants like hostas--the leaves may be chewed or you may see a silver trail on the leaves or ground.

Plant warm-season garden crops such as tomatoes, eggplant, pepper, and squash around April 15 when the soil is quite warm. If you want to gamble and plant earlier, you run the risk of a late frost. Even if the frost doesn't happen, the plants just sit there until the soil is warm.

Start saving newspapers for mulching your vegetables.

Mulch around tomato plants as soon as you plant them because this helps to prevent fungus disease on the leaves. This works much better than trying to control fungus that almost always occurs.



Your Sister in Soil—Elaine

Humor: How to Dig a Tomato Garden

An old Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden, but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His oldest son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

"Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad"

A few days later he received a letter from his son:

"Dear Dad,

Not for nothing, but don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 AM the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son:

"Dear Dad,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love, Vinnie"

Photos from Recent Programs of DCMGA



James Kirkwood, shown here flanked by Judy Cole (left) and Jan Thomas (right) was honored with a Life Membership in the Master Gardener Association. Thanks, James, for all the hours of volunteering as well as your dedication to the mission of DCMG! James is one of the original founding members of DCMG.



Upcoming Gardening Events: Mark your calendars!

The Forsyth County Master Gardeners present the 2006 Master Gardener Garden Tour. Eight of our most beautiful private gardens will be open to the public for this one-day only event. The tour will be on Saturday, June 17th from 9 am until 5 pm. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the County Extension Office in downtown Cumming after April 1st. All proceeds will support our community gardens and programs. For more information, you may contact CindyEnglish@yahoo.com.

Fayette County Master Gardeners Garden Tour Saturday, May 13, 2006 - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - rain or shine. Tickets are \$15.00. More information can be obtained at Fayette County Cooperative Extension 770-460-5730, Ext. 5412.

On April 22, 2006, The Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc. and The Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are sponsoring a Georgia Historic House and Garden Pilgrimage, featuring homes and gardens of Dalton, Georgia. The tours will last from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they feature some of the following: 10 private residences and gardens, the West Hill Cemetery Chapel, the Hamilton House, and Historic Downtown Dalton. The cost is \$25 each or \$20 each for groups of 12 or more. For more information, individuals can call 1-800-331-3258 or write www.georgiagardentour.com. This should be a fun trip for Master Gardeners. Mary Ellen Roos, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Upcoming Events at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Please call the garden at 706-542-6156 (unless otherwise noted) or e-mail garden@arches.uga.edu for information about classes and registration. Online - <http://www.uga.edu/botgarden>

Ivory-billed Woodpeckers Conserving Bottomland Hardwoods

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 pm Robert Cooper, Professor Wildlife and Biometrics, Warnell School of Forest Resources Callaway Building Free, please pre-register

Invasive Plant Control Workshop Wednesday, April 26, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Members \$32; non-members \$36 Box lunch included Callaway Building
Pre-registration required

Flower Arranging Unit 5: Creative Miniature Design

Tuesday, May 16, 9:00 am-3:00 pm Celia McQuaid Brown, Accredited Judge, Garden Club of Georgia

Twilight Toasts: Palms for Piedmont Georgia?

Thursday, April 20, 6:30-8:00 pm
Members \$10; non-members \$15



Garden Rambles

Rambles are informal walks through the Garden and along the trails that focus on items of seasonal interest. Please note the meeting place for each ramble. Please wear walking shoes, use insect repellent and sunscreen, and dress appropriately for the weather. Some rambles may be strenuous or tiring for young children. Rambles are free and open to the public.

Spring Bird Ramble

Saturday, March 25 and Saturday, April 15, 8:00 am
Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, upper parking lot

Invasive Plants Ramble

Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am Heather Alley, Conservation Lab Coordinator, SBG Lower parking lot shelter

Insect Ramble: It's Time to Pursue Those Wonderful Insects

Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am Murray Blum, Professor Emeritus of Entomology Shade Garden Arbor

Insect Ramble: Say Hello to Our Social Cousins the Ants

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am Murray Blum, Professor Emeritus of Entomology Shade Garden Arbor

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

President: Judy Cole 770-489-0567
Vice President: Jan Thomas 770-489-9276
Treasurer: Jim Simms 770-942-4556
Newsletter: Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278
Secretary: Sharon Morton 770-949-4797
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Yard of the Month: James Kirkwood 770-942-1663
Douglas County Extension Office: 770-920-7224
Douglas County Court House

Your input is needed.

For newsletter articles, tips, hints, anecdotes, recipes, book reviews, website reviews, gardening and/or shops or online sources, and ideas: Email: MJ_Cardell@yahoo.com
Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.

Did you know this newsletter is also posted at our web site in full color, so you can get your dirt online?

GMGA Mission Statement:

To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening, and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others.



Hotline Volunteers for Atlanta Botanical Garden

The Atlanta Botanical Garden needs Master Gardeners to man its hotline desk on Tuesdays or Thursdays for about 3 or 4 hours a week. This person should be able to use email to answer plant questions that have been submitted on-line as well as to research and respond to visitors' questions by phone. The hotline desk is located in our Sheffield Library off the main lobby in Garden House. If this sounds like something you would like to do, call Mary Woehrel at 404-591-1548, or email: mwoehrel@atlantabotanicalgarden.org.



Our annual plant sale is May 6th.

Continuing Projects & Works Days

Greenhouse Work ~ Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. details, call Jan at 770-489-9276

Butterfly Garden at Deerlick Park ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Children's Garden at DC Library ~ Generally Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Nature Trail Work Day ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Vegetable Garden Work Days ~ Every Saturday at 9:00 a.m., details Jim Simms 770-942-4556

www.dcdirt.org