



# Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 2

## Let's Talk Dirty Observations from The President of DCMGA

Hello Friends,

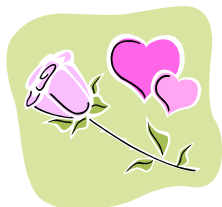
Thank You to all who showed up for our Annual Business meeting in January and those who volunteered to be members of committees. Jim Sims volunteered to be our Vegetable Garden Director and would like to invite everyone to our first garden workday on January 28, at 10:00 a.m. Pat Flickinger volunteered to be our meeting hostess. Beverly Smith will be assisting Melanie Cardell with our newsletter. We had a group of individuals, Randy Cooper, Leon Ballentine, Genie Gordon, Pat Kirkland, Kathy O'Reilly, and Judy VanHook to be our Plant Sale Committee.

Speakers as well as topics were suggested. Our February Speaker will be Linda Schuppener who will speak to us on Roses. I met Linda at a workshop at Lowe's last year. I still have one of her hand-outs on Rose Pruning. She will have a slide presentation and hand-outs available. I think you will find her both informative and interesting.

We have six new interns who will begin their class January 24th. I would like to welcome them all to attend our meetings. We will be recognizing our Master Gardener Of the Year 2005 at our February meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Judy Cole



Remember: your membership application and check for this year's dues are now being accepted. **Application is on page 3.**

### Next Meeting:

**February 2, 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.**

**February 2, 2006**



# February To Do List



I know that it's winter but, when the weather is tolerable, we still want to get out and garden. February is well known for its unpredictable weather, but it's a great month to get your soil tested, shake up the compost pile, or to prune or weed. How are the pansies looking? Could it be that they need a "boost?" Remember to fertilize pansies regularly with a high nitrate nitrogen product such as "*Pansy Booster*". Because the soil is still cold, the pansies will absorb this type of fertilizer easier. Here's a list of things I found that gardeners can do this month:



Pruning while there are no leaves is so easy because you can better see the dead wood and can prune to the form that you like the best. Remove dead wood to rejuvenate the trees and shrubs or to keep them from getting too big for their space. Prune summer-blooming shrubs, such as, Beautyberry, Abelia, Althea, Hydrangea, Gardenia, Nandina, Crepe Myrtle, Rose of Sharon, Butterfly Bush, and deciduous trees.

February is a great time to look for chickweed, henbit, and other weeds and remove them from the garden. You can also reapply a granular weed preventer in perennial beds to prevent future crops from taking over.

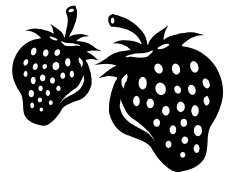
Start seeds for broccoli, lettuce, forget-me-nots and other cool-season plants for transplanting later in mid-March. And you can continue to plant shrubs and trees as long as the ground is not frozen. Keep plants well mulched because, as we all know, winter in Georgia can still have lots of surprises for gardeners!



If you have flower bulbs that you didn't get into the ground last fall and the bulbs are still firm, plant them in February. They may not bloom this spring, but if not planted now, they may not be any good by fall. They'll catch up with other bulbs in a year or two.

Think vegetables--consider having an asparagus bed like I've been wanting to do for years now and haven't gotten "around to it". It's easy to grow in a raised bed if you prepare the soil properly at the beginning. Raised beds, dug deeply, and amended with lots of organic matter will give you asparagus for years.

Think fruit--plant blueberries or strawberries in late February (if you didn't last fall). They should be showing up in plant nurseries this month. Spray fruit trees (peach, pears, apples, plums) with dormant oils to reduce insect problems later in the year.



A great shrub to plant for winter color is Winter Daphne because you get fragrant, winter blooms and it's an evergreen with great foliage. They should be at the plant stores now. I have one by my back steps and I can't tell you how much I enjoy the perfume from the flowers in late winter. Note: Slightly moist, well-drained soil is extremely important for Winter Daphne to do well but the extra effort is so worth it.

Most of all, remember the plant sale coming up in May and take a look around your garden to see if there is anything that can be dug up and divided to help with the plant sale. I look forward to



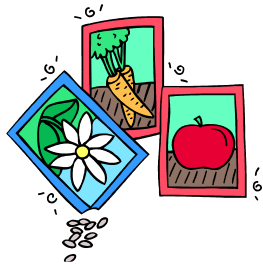
# MG Continuing Education & Learning Opportunities



## Subject: Organic Curriculum Workshop

For those of you who might be interested in Organic Gardening-

We are planning a workshop on Friday, Feb 10 from 9-12 to introduce the Organic Curriculum we have been working on. This will be part of the Georgia Organics conference being held at the Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center in Mansfield, GA Feb 10-11. There will be farm tours in the afternoon, an organic banquet Friday night and a day of break out sessions on Saturday. Participants may attend just the Curriculum workshop or the whole conference. There are some scholarships available for the Curriculum workshop from the grant. I am hoping we can attract a good audience of teachers, Master Gardeners, and extension agents. Lynn Pugh Georgia Organics 770-889-3793



**DC MG Plant Sale is  
May**



## Douglas County Master Gardener Association Membership Application

*January 1, 2006- December 31, 2006*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ GA Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



Type of Membership (Check one):	Certified Master Gardener: Year Training completed:	Fee: \$10
	Friends of DCMG:	Fee: \$ 15
	Couples get a price break	Minimum Donation \$15

### Make Checks Payable to: DCMG

Mail to: Mellie Boykin  
4443 Maroney Mill Road  
Douglasville, GA 30134-3952

# 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  
**Web site:** Lori Mason 770-948-9294  
**Archivist:** Rachel Hendee 770-577-3493  
**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



## GMGA Mission Statement:

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

## You are cordially invited to: Master Gardener's Day

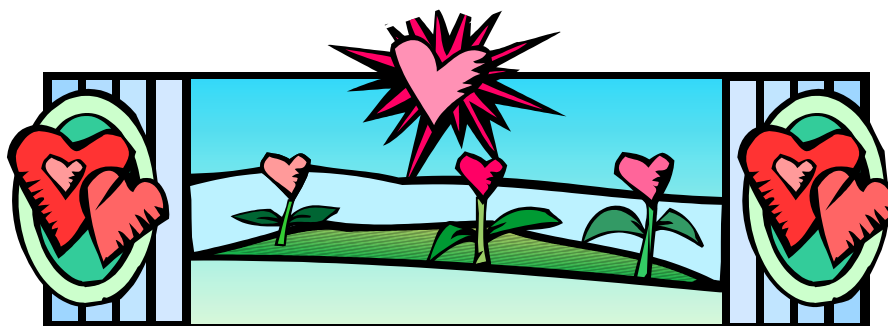
**12th Annual Atlanta Garden & Patio Show Honoring the  
State Botanical Garden of Georgia  
Cobb Galleria Centre  
Thursday, February 2, 2006**

Continental Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m.

Please RSVP by January 20, 2006!!! 770.998.9800 ext. 240

Tickets to the show are \$5.00 with Master Gardener's ID

(Bring a poster of your project to be displayed at the breakfast)



## Continuing Projects & Works Days

**Greenhouse Work** ~ All on hold at the present

**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** ~ January 28, at 10:00 a.m.

[www.dcdirt.org](http://www.dcdirt.org)

Putting Knowledge to Work