



May 2006 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 4

News from the President of DCMGA

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

Spring has sprung. The dogwoods and azaleas have all bloomed. Spring/Summer bulbs are starting to bloom/sprout. The birds have returned. I love to watch the hummingbirds at my kitchen window. The yellow finches at the thistle feeder. I also have on huge woodpecker at my bird feeder who I suspect is pregnant or very portly.

Deputy Gammill's memorial was very nice. See the photograph below for the group that turned out to dedicate the plaque. The plaque was presented along with a bench. A rose bush was planted for his fiancé' by Judy and Ron Van-Hook. If you have not seen the garden area for his memorial, please take the opportunity to see it. It is in front of the Jail Annex on Bankhead Highway. Many thanks to Jan and the effort she contributed to this project. (See article on page 4.)

Congratulations to all our 2006 Master Gardener students.
HOOAAHH!!!! Judy

Next Meeting:

May 4, 2006

Douglasville, GA

6:30 for pot-luck

dinner

7:00 meeting

begins

How to get to the meeting site:

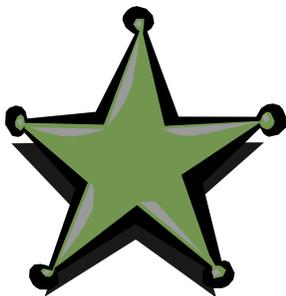
St. Julian's Episcopal Church

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.

May 4, 2006



May To Do List



Mary, Mary, quite contrary--How does your garden grow? With hard work and the May To Do list, of course! It's not too late to plant begonias, coleus, geraniums, petunias, and other annuals for summer color. Begin moving houseplants outdoors and place them in filtered shade. Divide over-wintered baskets of Boston Fern into four sections and use two sections of fern in each new basket. Continue planting perennials throughout the month of May and spray cannas as they emerge from the soil to prevent leaf roller insects. Snipping off sprouts from the base and lower trunks of crepe myrtles will help them to grow upright. Be sure to fertilize and prune spring bloomers like Azalea and Forsythia once they have finished blooming. Treat for Azalea lace bugs if you've had trouble with them before.

It's now safe to plant warm-season vegetables, like tomatoes, peppers, corn, and herbs. Be sure to fertilize regularly and remember--plants need one inch of water per week. Mary uses an empty tuna can to measure rain or when watering. When the can is full, she knows she has one inch! Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* to cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower to help prevent cabbage looper damage.

May is a great month to aerate your lawn and to fertilize Bermuda and Centipede when it is 50% greened up. Control over fire ants can be accomplished by scattering a bait over the lawn. Two days later, use an insecticide on large mounds. Get ready for summer by sharpening or replacing lawn mower blades. Remove guy-wires from fall planted trees so they can develop stronger roots.

Last, but not least, Mary always remembers to wear a hat and sunscreen. She hopes you do, too!



Your Sister in Soil--Elaine

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.



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>

Hornet's Curious Habit

The European Hornet, now found in most of the eastern U.S., has the rather curious habit of stripping bark off twigs and young branches, girdling and killing the branch. This huge insect (the queens are almost 1-1/2 inches long, and workers are 2/3 this size) can do considerable damage when they come together from several colonies and concentrate on certain plants. They seem to prefer lilac, ash, and birch, but will strip bark off many other plants as well.



The hornets love the sugary sap under the bark. It is not clear yet whether the sap gives the hornets something close to a "sugar high", or if it ferments into alcohol, but their attraction to the sap is similar to an addiction. Instead of returning to their nest before it gets dark, as would any normal hornet or wasp, a test showed that some hornets arrive back to the colony after 1:00 a.m., and more than a quarter of the workers are staying away from the nest all night, feeding on the sap. Mostly they remain motionless in the cold night as in a trance, clinging to the stripped branches. In the morning they slowly make their way back to the nest.

Submitted by Nelson Cruz, MG

“Always Our Hero” Deputy Blake Gammill

It was a beautiful spring morning, the kind of day that makes you grateful for all the good things in life. A small, but grateful crowd gathered at the front of the administrative offices of the sheriff's department for the dedication of the plaque, plants and trees planted by D.C. Master Gardeners in honor of Deputy Blake Gammill who died in the line of duty a little over one year ago. Past President Jan Thomas spoke about Deputy Gammill and the words on the plaque, “Always Our Hero”. She talked about each item planted and the reason each was chosen. The beautiful red bud tree is in honor of Blake because of its beauty and the fact that it fades each year only to be reborn even more beautiful each spring. The little gem magnolia trees are in honor of Blake's little girls, Jewel and Haven, who were the gems of his life. The rare black tulips are in honor of his father and the dianthus in honor of his mother. The lovely rose is in honor of Dawn, his fiancée.

Jan introduced Wayne Rogers, chaplain of the sheriff's department, who spoke about Deputy Gammill and all law enforcement and their key role in society going back to biblical times. “Blessed are the peace makers,” he quoted from the Bible.

Douglas County Master Gardeners are thankful for all our peacemakers and particularly for the ultimate sacrifice made by Blake Gammill. The dedication was made in memory of Blake Gammill, but in honor of all of our law enforcement agents.

Left to Right: Major M.O. Harper, Wayne Rogers, Blake's mother (Stella), Jan Thomas, Judy Cole, and Blake's father (Del) in front.



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

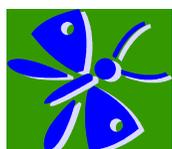
Douglas County Extension Office: 770-920-7224

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 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.



**Our annual
plant sale is
set for May 6th.**



Continuing Projects & Works Days

Greenhouse Work ~ Every Wednesday

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

www.dcdirt.org