



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 11



News from the President of DCMGA

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

The Greenhouse has been moved! All the poles are at the location near the Woodie Fite Senior Center. We will be working on Thursdays at 9:00 .m. to begin on the foundation. We hope to have a Barn (Greenhouse) Raising on November 4th, we have quite a bit of work to do before that date.

Our speaker for November is a representative from McMahan's Nursery. You can see what plants they have available at their website www.mcmahansnursery.com. If you would like them bring any specific plants to the meeting for you to purchase, you can do so through the "Contact Us" at their website. They will also bring an assortment of some of their plants for sale at the meeting.

HOOOAAAH

Judy



Plant A Row for the Hungry

To date, the garden count is at 3,245 pounds, and there are some beautiful cauliflower, cabbage, and broccoli still to come.

Congratulations to Jim and his crew who have worked tirelessly on the garden this year!

Jan Thomas



Next Meeting:

November 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.

November 2, 2006



November To Do List



The teacher was telling the class about plants that have the word, “dog” in front of them: dogrose, dogwood, dog violet. She asked if anyone could name another plant with the prefix “dog”. Steven raised his hand and said, “Sure, Miss Jones, a ‘collie’ flower!”

The busy growing season has wound down but there are lots of things we can do in our gardens. Take time this month to go over your journal notes about what happened in the garden this past growing season. Write down anything that you would change next year. Did the tomatoes do as well as expected? Could the size of the lawn be reduced to save water and mowing time? Did the weed and insect control products used last summer do the job for you?

November is an ideal time to plant shrubs and trees as long as the ground isn’t too wet. The sooner they get in the ground the better so that they can get adjusted before really cold weather sets in. Remove the wrap or stakes attached to tree trunks soon after planting.

Add container-grown perennials to the garden before the ground freezes. Hellebores is a great idea for the garden. They love shade and you’ll love their late winter/early spring blooms. Hellebores are evergreen and look good all year. There is no need to fertilize perennials now but prune back dead stalks and leaves on them, leaving 3 to 4 inches on the plant. This will help keep track of where they are so you don’t accidentally dig them up while dormant. Look and see where you can use vines and ground covers in the garden. If you have a chain-link fence and want to cover it quickly, plant vines like Carolina Jessamine. This is an evergreen vine that likes part shade and is easy to train. Before it gets any colder, dig up Caladium, Elephant Ear, and Dahlia bulbs and store them in boxes of peat moss or Styrofoam popcorn. Don’t forget—November is the best time to plant spring-flowering bulbs!

Blackberries and raspberries can be planted now in the sunniest spot that you have in the garden. Since they should be grown on a wire trellis, spend sunny, winter days constructing one for next spring and look forward to tasty fruit next year.

Last, but not least, now is the time to start dropping hints to your friends and family about what you want for Christmas this year—more plants and gardening stuff!!

Your Sister in Soil--Elaine



Our Role as an Aid to Education

Many thanks to Randy Cooper, and Ron and Judy VanHook for helping with planting perennials and winter annuals in the Winston Elementary butterfly garden. We were silently watched by fritillary and swallowtail caterpillars the whole time. Winston students go through the garden on a daily basis and get pretty excited about what they see and they ask questions. Randy helped fill two large planters with soil which I then used to help teach a special needs class about planting. The special needs children filled the planters with winter annuals and spring bulbs. They were so excited and got to do something most had never done before. To me, their reactions to feeling the soil and the texture of the plants and bulbs were special. It marveled even the teachers when those they thought would never touch the soil, took handfuls and readily helped.

Randy will be helping a third grade class build bat houses as part of a combined science and math unit. That group of kids will get so much out of the hands on experience they will take part in.

I have been asked why we do all this volunteering. Why do I like to do this? As I have said in the

An Internet Gardening Joke

Yard Work YARD WORK - AS VIEWED FROM HEAVEN (overheard in a conversation between God and St. Francis)

God: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature; what in the world is going on down there in the U.S.? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles and the stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees, and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of color by now. All I see are patches of green .

St. Francis: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. They are called the Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

God: Grass? But it is so boring, it's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want grass growing there?

St. Francis: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it has grown a little, they cut it... sometimes two times a week.

God: They cut it? Do they bale it like hay?

St. Francis: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

God: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

St. Francis : No sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

God: Now let me get this straight...they fertilize it to make it grow and when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

St. Francis: Yes, sir.

God: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

St. Francis: You aren't going to believe this Lord, but when the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

God: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep the moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves become compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

St. Francis: You'd better sit down, Lord. As soon as the leaves fall, the Suburbanites rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

God: No way! What do they do to protect the shrubs and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

St. Francis: After throwing the leaves away, they go out and buy something called mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

God: And where do they get this mulch?

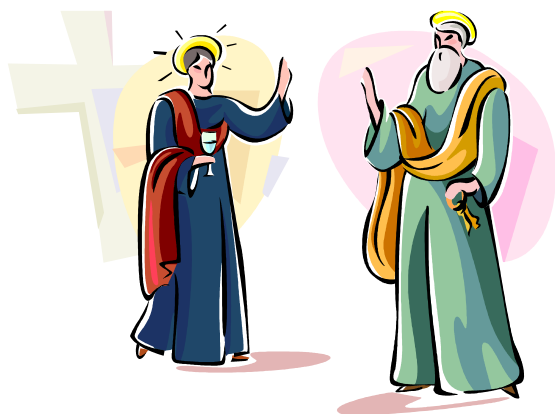
St. Francis: They cut down the trees and grind them up to make mulch.

God: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. Saint Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

St. Catherine: "Dumb and Dumber," Lord . It's a really stupid movie about....

God: Never mind--I think I just heard the whole story from Saint Francis!

***Don't forget the gardening events at Habersham Gardens, visit:
www.HabershamGardens.com for details.***



In the 'Limelight'

'Limelight' is an exciting new hardy hydrangea from Holland. It has unique white to bright green blooms in mid-summer that hold its bright and refreshing color right into autumn when the blooms change color to a rich deep pink. The fall display of green and pink blooms on the same plant make this plant worth having!

The colors make this a great addition to the garden and blends wonderfully with all other colors. Use 'Limelight' in bouquets either fresh or dried to make a special floral design. This is an easy to grow plant with reliable flowering and flower color regardless of soil pH or winter temperatures. A real plus is that limelight can take FULL SUN... even in Georgia!

The flower heads are large, ranging from 6 to 12 inches and are held upright on the shrub. The blooms are well distributed making a very nice display. I first spotted this hydrangea near a mailbox at the road, then in front of a huge stone wall at the entrance to a beautiful subdivision.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4-7

Bloom Time: Begins in late July - early August and remains showy thru autumn.

Size: 6 to 8 feet high and wide with age. Limelight can be easily maintained as a smaller plant or trained into a small tree

Exposure: Full sun to light shade. (Flowers are more green in shade, more white in sun)
(Flowers are more green in shade, more white in sun)

Soil: Limelight is adaptable to many soils, moderate moisture.

Available at better nurseries, garden centers and mail order. We all know that I have lots of favorite plants. . . . but this is my latest favorite plant! I even use it as housewarming gifts for friends because it is such a beautiful addition to any yard!

No yard should be without this!

Jan Thomas



A Big Thanks to Douglas County *Sentinel*



The ***Sentinel*** has published so many articles and photographic spreads on the Douglas County Master Gardener Association's projects this year! Thanks for all the good publicity and for promoting our programs and projects! We appreciate your coverage of our mission:

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

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

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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.

WELCOME



Did you know that the public is always welcome to attend our monthly meetings?

See the first page for times, program topic, and location.



Continuing Projects & Works Days

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 Wednesday & Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
Greenhouse Work ~ On Hold at the present

www.dcdirt.org