



July 2006 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



# Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Volume 9, Issue 7

## News from the President of DCMGA

**Hello Fellow Gardeners,**

Summer is here along with heat and humidity. I have also started to see some Japanese Beetles. I tried to give my neighbors some traps, but they said did not need them because they noticed the beetles were only in my yard..... Oh well, I tried.

Our new County Extension Agent, Kevin Livingston [see below article], came to our June Meeting. He is presently assisting us with our Greenhouse. We have a field trip/visit to the West Georgia Campus Greenhouse with James Hembree. The visit will be on July 11 at 9:00. We will probably meet at Prays Mill Baptist Church at 8:30 to drive to Carrollton. Anyone can attend. Along with the Greenhouse we are hoping to get a tour of the grounds.

Our July speaker will be Wendall Hoomes on Native Plant Rescue.

**HOOAAHH                      Judy**

### Meet Kevin Livingston

Kevin has a B.S. in Agriculture from Ohio State University. He has worked as a Sales Representative for Lesco Inc., selling to commercial landscape, golf and pest control companies in Douglas and surrounding counties. He has also worked as a fertilizer applicator and a landscape install supervisor. He is active in the community as a children's director at his church, committee chair for Boy Scouts and a Girl Scout leader. He serves as President of West Georgia Green Association. He lives in Lithia Springs with his wife, Debra, and four children.



### Next Meeting:

**July 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**

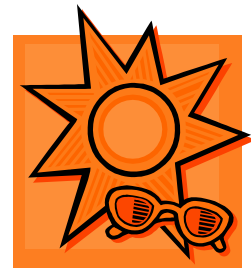
**Take Chapel Hill Road to Stewart Mill Road (Intersection at Target and Shell gas station)**

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

**July 6, 2006**



# July To Do List



July is HOT, HOT, HOT and our plants are screaming for water!! With planning we can conserve water *and* take care of our plants' needs. The following are a few tips that I read about recently.

\*\*\*\*\* Know how much water each plant needs. Established lawns and gardens require at least one inch per week during summer. Trees should be watered generously once or twice weekly, allowing the water to penetrate the soil to about one foot deep (about 30-45 minutes per tree). Trees also should be watered at the drip line instead of at the base of the trunk.

\*\*\*\*\* Water for long but infrequent periods, avoiding daily waterings. It takes about 90 minutes for a sprinkler to deliver one inch of water to one area of lawn.

\*\*\*\*\* Water early in the morning (try for 4 a.m. to 8 a.m.). This is the time that soil is coolest and most absorbent. Also, with early morning watering, the foliage has time to dry and won't be as likely to attract insects and diseases.

\*\*\*\*\* Water the roots and avoid foliage as much as possible. Soaker hoses and handheld wands are great while sprinklers are inefficient, losing up to 40% of the moisture before it makes it to the ground. I use empty milk jugs with a small hole in the bottom that I place at the base of the plant.

\*\*\*\*\* Water your biggest investments first. If you have to, let the annuals and the lawn go and focus on the more costly plants. Established Bermuda can endure up to 8 weeks without supplemental water but trees and shrubs probably cannot. A dead tree is expensive to replace *and* to remove from the yard.



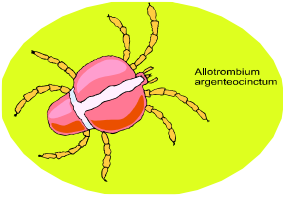
\*\*\*\*\* Don't fertilize now---plants are already under stress and do not need to be encouraged to put on new growth.

\*\*\*\*\* Plants that are showing signs of drought stress can be cut back 1/3 to 1/2 off the top to help reduce the leaves' demand for water.

**\*\*\*\*\* Lastly, pray for rain and keep your fingers crossed!**

Your Sister in Soil--Elaine





## Tick information good enough to share from a School Nurse

I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great, because it works in those places where it's sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc. Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it (and in Kentucky, that was frequently), and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me. Unless someone is allergic to soap, I cannot see that this would be damaging in any way. I even had my doctor's wife call me for advice because she had one stuck on her back and she could not reach it with tweezers. She used this method and immediately called me back to say, "It worked!"



Several people at the June M.G. meeting expressed an interest in a source for good suet. The following recipe was given to Walter Reeves by Patricia Collins, a Horticulture Educator at Callaway Gardens. He also has posted on his web site ([www.walterreeves.com](http://www.walterreeves.com)) directions for making suet cages.

### **Peanut Butter Suet**

Melt 1 cup shortening (or lard) in a saucepan on very low heat. Add 1 cup peanut butter and stir until melted. To this add 1 cup plain flour and 3 cups plain cornmeal. Mix thoroughly. Add seeds, raisins, berries &/or bread crumbs. The final consistency will be putty-like. Pour into a disposable 8 inch by 8 inch aluminum pan and allow to cool. (I use my 8X8 glass pan and spray with Pam) Slice into quarters; each one should fit nicely into suet cage. Store remaining squares in the refrigerator. Be sure to watch for signs of spoiling but it usually disappears quickly. I have made this recipe often and the birds - esp. woodpeckers- seem to love it.  
MG Intern Kathy Henry

# D.C.M.G. Embroidered Shirt Order Form

(Licensed Gardeners only)

Short Sleeved Adult sizes \$13.00

Sand Sm. \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_

Lime Sm. \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_

Lt. Blue Sm. \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_

Long Sleeved Adult sizes \$15.00

Sand

Sm. \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_

Lt. Blue

Sm. \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Lg \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Shirts are in adult sizes, 100% cotton.**



Your orders may be sent to Jan Thomas or you may bring the form and check to the next DCMG meeting.

**Vegetable Garden Bounty is now up to a total of 296 pounds of veggies!** They have been donated to several different charitable organizations.



## Flowers Seen on a Recent Weekend Trip

These lovely pots and window planters were seen in front of an antique shop in Black Mountain, North Carolina.

This photograph was taken by Melanie Cardell.

Send in your flower finds for the newsletter. You may have seen lovely flowers on your travels in or out of state, in or out of the country, or in your own backyard.



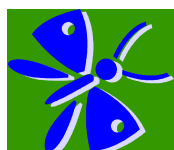
# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

**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  
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**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:

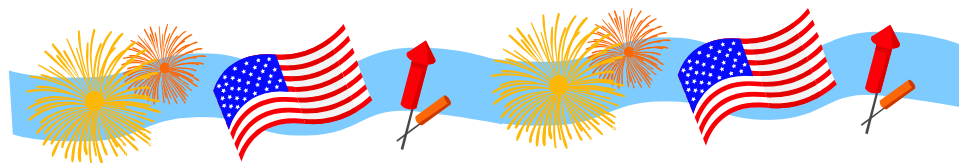
To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening, and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others.

# WELCOME



## New Members in the June class in Carrollton

Deborah B. Jones  
Betty Jo Ridgeway  
Susan Thomas  
Randy Cooper  
Phillip E. Lawrence



## 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.

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