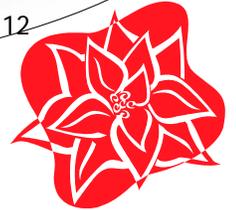




Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 12



News from the President of DCMGA

Happy Holiday Gardeners,

I can't believe it is almost Thanksgiving and soon to be Christmas. The year has rapidly past. I want to say a huge thank you for all placed their confidence this past year in me as well as the other board members, Jan, Rachel and Judy. I hope you will give your full support to those persons that will fill the board positions next year. It is quite a balancing act.

I hope everyone will plan to attend our December meeting. Sherry and Paul Beggs have graciously opened their home to us to have this meeting and party. Although a party it will also have the important role of electing new officers for 2008. They will assume their elected positions at the January general meeting.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. May you all find peace and happiness.

Stay well and pray for rain!

Let's all go play in the Dirt!

Sharon Morton

Next Meeting:

Thursday

December 6, 2006

Douglasville, GA

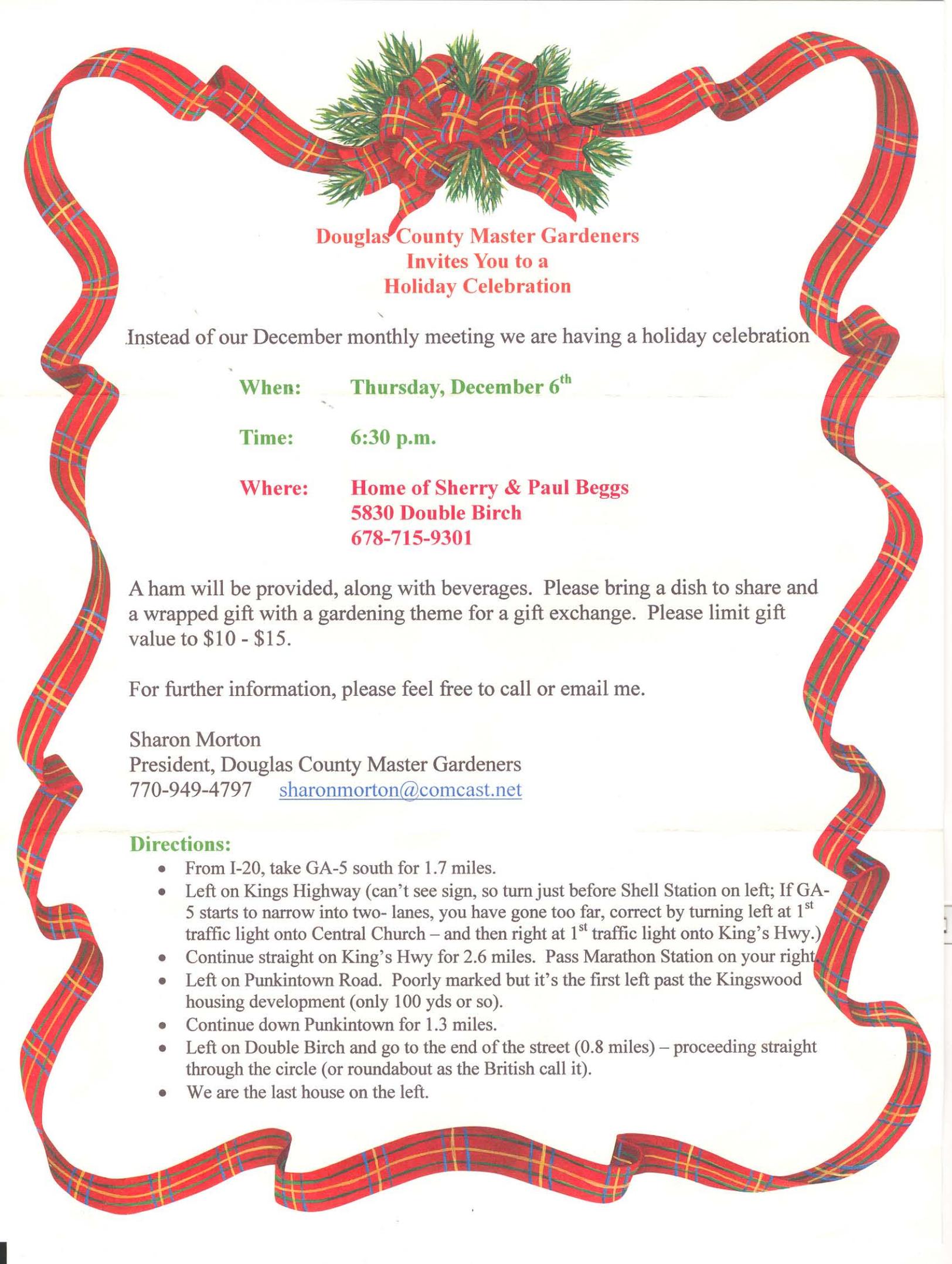


Our dinner will be at the home of Sherry & Paul Beggs at 5830 Double Birch, Douglasville, GA

678-715-9301

See page 2 of this newsletter for more details about the celebration.





**Douglas County Master Gardeners
Invites You to a
Holiday Celebration**

Instead of our December monthly meeting we are having a holiday celebration

When: Thursday, December 6th

Time: 6:30 p.m.

**Where: Home of Sherry & Paul Beggs
5830 Double Birch
678-715-9301**

A ham will be provided, along with beverages. Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift with a gardening theme for a gift exchange. Please limit gift value to \$10 - \$15.

For further information, please feel free to call or email me.

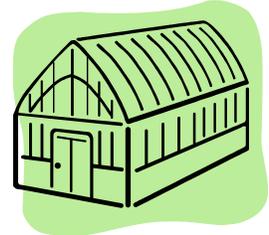
Sharon Morton
President, Douglas County Master Gardeners
770-949-4797 sharonmorton@comcast.net

Directions:

- From I-20, take GA-5 south for 1.7 miles.
- Left on Kings Highway (can't see sign, so turn just before Shell Station on left; If GA-5 starts to narrow into two- lanes, you have gone too far, correct by turning left at 1st traffic light onto Central Church – and then right at 1st traffic light onto King's Hwy.)
- Continue straight on King's Hwy for 2.6 miles. Pass Marathon Station on your right.
- Left on Punkintown Road. Poorly marked but it's the first left past the Kingswood housing development (only 100 yds or so).
- Continue down Punkintown for 1.3 miles.
- Left on Double Birch and go to the end of the street (0.8 miles) – proceeding straight through the circle (or roundabout as the British call it).
- We are the last house on the left.



Thanks to Carol Morrison for these photos that she took 11/8/07 at the greenhouse on the workday. As you can see the greenhouse is filling up with plants and cuttings that we have been doing. People are excited to see the progress made, and we are looking forward to a prosperous spring!



Side note to all you other photographers: photos are always welcome for the newsletter.



Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!



Plant a Row update for our vegetable garden as of 11/7/07 is 2165 pounds. DCMG have made a difference this year in our community in many ways.

Please be sure to get your hours turned in to Rachel ASAP so she can submit the totals to Kevin. Your deadline is no later than December 1st please. You will need to estimate your Dec. hours.

Bringing Out the Best In People

By Debbie Jones



As the ballots are being cast for the new leaders of the Douglas County Master Gardener Association, it is an appropriate time for us to think about how we can support our new officers and build an even stronger team. Recently, I read a book by Alan Loy McGinnis entitled: *Bringing Out the Best in People: How to enjoy helping others excel*. McGinnis presents 12 Rules that serve as very important lessons for us when we lead and when we follow. In this article, I will present six of these rules. Next month, I will write another article and I will elaborate on rules seven through twelve.

Rule 1. Expect the best from the people you lead: This means that we must create an environment where people's talents and skills can be fully utilized. It is an opportunity for more experienced members of our organization to train and develop others. Each of us has a desire to achieve, contribute, and succeed. Let's encourage others to help us become a great organization.

Rule 2. Make a thorough study of the other person's needs: This rule is based on the belief that if we can help people get what they want, that you can get what you want. It means that we have to spend some time getting to know people and identifying their needs. What is their vision for the organization? What contributions would they like to make? It cannot simply be about what the leader wants. Most successful leaders create a shared vision based on the needs of all.

Rule 3: Establish high standards of excellence: People get excited about doing things well. It requires a commitment and willingness to accept a challenge and to deliver on commitments in such a way that we all feel proud. As leaders we must be tenacious in setting standards and insisting that everyone steps up to the plate.

Rule 4: Create an environment where failure is not fatal: As we strive for success, we may not do things perfectly. There may be times when the end result of a project is not what we intended. Occasionally, we may have to admit that we have fallen short of our goals. We should have a sense of humor about our failures, learn from them and move on. The most important point is to learn from them so that we avoid repeating them.

Rule 5: If they are going anywhere near where you want to go, climb on other people's bandwagons: It is not always easy to let others lead and to trust that a different perspective or approach is possible. We must give people the freedom to fully participate in decision-making and planning for the future direction of the organization.

Rule 6: Employ models to encourage success: We can create the right level of hope, energy and enthusiasm by identifying the role models in our organization. Stories about others motivate us and encourage us to model the right values. Who are our role models and what can they teach us about excellence, commitment, and teamwork? A monthly feature story about our heroes can be a starting point for exposing us to successful members of our team.



The Mystery of Mistletoe

Released 7 December 2000

by B. Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist

Most folks think of mistletoe as an excuse for smooching around the holiday, and today, there probably aren't too many people who have actually seen anything but plastic mistletoe!

But, in fact, there is a real plant that is the true mistletoe. Well, actually, several types of mistletoe exist, including American Mistletoe and European Mistletoe. These two are different, but related, species of parasitic shrubs. Both have small, leathery leaves and translucent, white berries.

American Mistletoe, *Phoradendron sp.*, can be found hanging around trees from New Jersey to Florida and west to southern Illinois and Texas. Though you can sometimes purchase seed of the American Mistletoe, it is generally not successful in cultivation.

Though these plants do have chlorophyll, as parasites they meet their nutritional needs by tapping into the flow of water and minerals of other plants, particularly trees, such as apple, hawthorn, linden and oak. The seeds actually germinate on the host plant and tap in immediately.

Though it may be great fun to catch the object of your affection under the mistletoe, both the berries and foliage can cause severe digestive upset if eaten and in rare instances may be fatal. Now that could explain why plastic mistletoe has become so popular!

FROM: <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/mistletoe.html>



December Caution

Poisonous plants is a good topic because several Christmas plants are poisonous (holly fruit, mistletoe). Poinsettia is often reported to be poisonous but is not toxic as research has demonstrated.

From: <http://www.bio.net/bionet/mm/plant-education/1995-November/000233.html>



It is especially important to keep plants away from children and pets. Curious infants and pets will put anything in their mouths and chew it. Make a quick walk through of your home before having guests with small children arrive. Put all plants out of their reach. If you have pets in your home at all times, keep the plants out of their reach, too.

Getting a new puppy or kitten for Christmas sounds like a great idea, but the holidays are too stressful and difficult for new pets. They are already dealing with issues of separation and total change

to their environment. Wrap up a photograph of the pet-to-be and wait until after the excitement to move your new friend into your household!

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

President: Sharon Morton 770-949-4797

Vice President: Jan Thomas 770-489-9276

Treasurer: Judy Cole 770-489-0567

Newsletter: Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278

Web site: Fred Finch

Secretary & 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



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 ~ On Hold

Butterfly Garden at the DC Cultural Arts Center —Call Randy Cooper at 770-920-2193

Children's Garden at DC Library ~ On Hold

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

Vegetable Garden Work Days ~ Final crops are being harvested now

Greenhouse Work ~ On Hold at the present



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