



August 2007 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 10

Total Watering Ban in Douglas County~ began 7/1/07

News from the President of DCMGA

Hello fellow gardeners,

First, I want to apologize for my absence at the September meeting. I was out of state on a trip that was planned months ago. The September meeting was a very important meeting and I knew it was in the very capable hands of Jan Thomas, Rachel Hendee and Judy Cole. Many concerns were voiced and addressed. I hope this meeting opened the way to deal with our growing pains and we are becoming a much larger group.

A new Greenhouse committee has formed with Lori mason and Randy Cooper as co-chairs. The first meeting addressed the immediate needs of the Greenhouse with a work day scheduled for Thursday, September 20th.

Another work day opportunity is Saturday, September 22nd at the Nature Trail. Master Gardeners and Girl Scouts plan to clean up the trails and learn more about the native plants.

There are many opportunities to get involved in Master Gardener projects. Please join in when a committee asks for volunteers. We need everyone's help. Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 4th and our speaker, Charlotte Lipheart, will be talking about Kudzu – a most interesting plant.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our October 4th meeting.

Let's all go play in the Dirt!

Sharon Morton

Next Meeting:

October 4, 2007

Douglasville, GA

6:30 for pot-luck

dinner

7:00 meeting

begins

**How to get to
the meeting
site:**

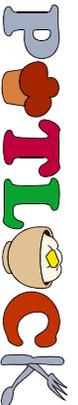
**St. Julian's
Episcopal
Church**

**5400 Stewart Mill
Rd**

**Take Chapel Hill Road
to Stewart Mill Road
(Intersection at Tar-
get and Shell gas sta-
tion)**

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

October 4, 2007





DC Master Gardeners Minutes of the September 2007 Meeting

6:30 Potluck Dinner

7:00 Meeting brought to order by VP Jan Thomas. President Sharon Morton was unavailable due to prior commitment out of state.

Treasurer's report: \$9,800.89 in account, purchases in the last month were \$60 for used greenhouse shade cloth and paying utility bill from greenhouse.

Lori Mason, though not present, was thanked for plants from SNA show.

2008 GMGA class information announced. Spring class applications are due by the end of October.

November speaker will be Charlotte Liphart talking about Kudzu.

Nature trail work day is Sept. 22 at 9:00. Randy Cooper suggested that someone needs to check trail prior to the 22nd to use chain saw as well as need to map out what needs to be done. Contact Randy, Earl Cosgrove or Kevin Livingston if interested. Michelle Kirk has a list of needs from previous walk through.

Rose Garden won a \$700 grant from GMGA. Please go to www.myhometownhelper.com to help the Rose Garden with another grant.

Vice President Jan Thomas read from a list of concerns with board's response discussed at August 17th Board Meeting. Rachel Hendee aided Jan in voicing board's responses. Members responded, 1.5 hour discussion of issues were informative and emotional. Minutes of August 17th board meeting were e-mailed to members on 9/10/07. Issues discussed at today's meeting are outlined in the board meeting minutes.

Kathy O'Reilly, Earl Cosgrove, and Michelle Kirk volunteered to be the board nominating committee. Nominations will be submitted to executive board prior to November meeting and will be voted on at the December meeting. No members of current board wish to be re-elected. New board will preside at January 2008 meeting. Nominations are sought, a sheet was passed around during meeting for nominations.

Flo Frey, in response for a concern to work with other garden clubs, agreed to contact garden clubs and invite them to future DCMG meetings.

Debra Milton will contact Chapel Hills News magazine about garden articles.

Kathy O'Reilly, Earl Cosgrove and Michelle Kirk volunteered to be nominating committee.

Lists passed around for class topic ideas for greenhouse as well as volunteers for greenhouse committee.

It was suggested by a member that the major underlying issue among the concerns and feedback appears to be growing pains in the DCMG organization.

The board stressed that they are available for talking about any concerns and asked that members with concerns come directly to the board instead of causing discontent in the association.

Several members said they would submit articles for "The Dirt".

Interns expressed concern that they were not aware of some of the DCMG projects or avenues used for PR. It was explained that for the past several years, the board provided a packet of information to interns during the time they were taking the class. This year, the board was told by Extension Agent that it was taken care of. The board was not aware that the interns had not been given the information.

Prizes handed out.

Meeting adjourned.

NEWS FROM THE ROSE GARDEN WORKGROUP



Georgia Master Gardeners Association, Inc. Awards Grant to the Woodie Fite Rose Garden

The Douglas County Master Gardener Rose Garden Workgroup wrote a grant for the Woodie Fite Rose Garden Project. This grant application was submitted to the Georgia Master Gardener Association. Each year the GMGA awards grants ranging from \$100 - \$700 to projects that “stimulate the interest in and increase the knowledge of gardening.” Projects from around the state are submitted and are reviewed by the Project Funding Committee of GMGA. Kathy Seals, Chair of

the Project Funding Committee notified Janet Deal, Rose Workgroup Chair this month that the rose garden project was funded for \$700. Kevin Livingston, Extension Agent; Rhonda Case, Director of Woodie Fite Senior Center and Janet Deal, Rose Garden Project Chair met with Jack Driskell, Northwest District Director GMGA on August 20, 2007 to receive the check. The money will be used to purchase soil amendments and plant material. A big thanks to GMGA for sponsoring this project.

Make Your Voice Heard to Support the Woodie Fite Senior Center Rose Garden

The Rose Garden Workgroup has written another grant for the Woodie Fite Senior Center Rose Garden. We need your help! Each year General Mills awards grants to community projects. Our Rose Garden Project is posted on their website and we need each of you to spread the word. All you do is log on and write a comment of support for this project. It only takes a few seconds. Go to

www.myhometownhelper.com and click on Projects. Search for Georgia. Go to the 2nd page of the Georgia Projects and you will see the Douglasville, GA Woodie Fite Senior Center Rose Garden. Type in your first name and a few comments of support. Share with your family and friends. We hope to get at least 100 people to send in comments to support of this project.



ARS Deep South District Convention & Rose Show

Hosted by the Greater Atlanta Rose Society

“A Golden Celebration”

October 19 - 21, 2007 Sheraton Buckhead Hotel

Late (postmarked after 9/21/07) \$60/person **Make checks payable to: DSD 2007 Conv. and Rose Show and mail to: Nan Frost, 1433 Woodland Hills, Atlanta, GA 30324**

For additional information contact:

Louise Stafford 770-985-6014, roseylou@earthlink.net

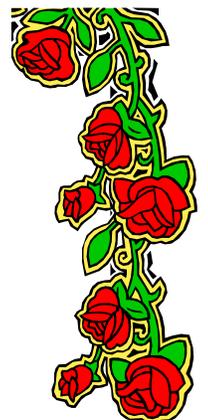
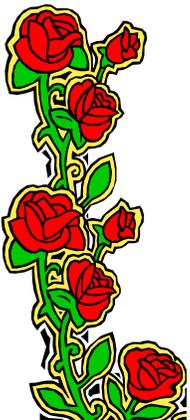
A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO.....

Earl Cosgroove, James Dickinson,

Randy Cooper, Sharon Morton, Jim Sims,

Sherry Beggs, Debbie Jones, Jennie Gordon

The greenhouse grounds look awesome!



Being Safe on Site

By Debbie Jones

Haah! There is nothing like working on a project site early in the morning with a group of Master Gardeners while the dew is still on the ground and the air is fresh and crisp. And as I look at the sky I am mesmerized and enchanted by the magnificent blue view. That is until I see hail falling from the sky. Oh no, wait a minute! It is not hail; it is gravel being shot from a lawn mover by my teammate, a lovable, hardworking, dedicated and determined Master Gardener. Our organization is truly privileged to have some of the most energetic and enthusiastic members among its ranks. This level of commitment should always be recognized and encouraged because where would we be without it. However, as we work to cultivate and beautify our community, I think that it is important for us to put safety first. Here are a few tips and suggestions that I believe can assist us in accomplishing our mission in a more wholesome way. I call them some simple guides to being safe on site:

1. **Be prepared for the mission-** We should make sure that we are protecting ourselves from the effects of the sun, skin irritations and insect bites. Consider the following:

- Apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15.
- Cover your head
- Have plenty of water on hand
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and some experts suggest that you wear clothes treated with permethrin
- Wear gloves to protect yourself from skin irritations

Handle power equipment with care- Did you know that the US Consumer Products Safety Commission reported that every year over 400,000 people end up in emergency rooms from injuries caused by lawn and garden tools? The lawnmower seems to be the primary culprit in the cause of most of these injuries. Here are a few things to keep in mind when using power equipment:

- Be knowledgeable about the equipment
- Make sure that you have some experience in using the equipment. If you have not used the equipment before do not volunteer to use it while working on a project site.
- Wear the proper clothing and safety gear- long pants, sturdy shoes and safety glasses, and ear protectors are recommended.
- Keep people away from the area that you are working.

Make sure the area that you are working in is clear of objects that can be thrown by the equipment. Did you know that a "rotary mower has a speed at the tip of the blade of 200 mph"? (**Make Safety Part, pg2**)

Promote project safety management at every worksite-As we continue to grow as an organization and we are asked to handle many more projects, we must become more proactive in helping to ensure that safety is addressed at every work site. Here are a few suggestions:

Most projects have a project lead. Assign the project leader the responsibility for ensuring that safety measures are followed.

The project leader should also ensure that individuals are performing appropriate tasks with the right skill set and experience.

Ensure that a First Aid kit is always available on a project site when work is being done.

D. Schedule safety awareness workshops and seminars annually, or

(Continued from page 4)

invite safety experts to speak at a monthly meeting to educate all members. We each should be 100 percent accountable for making safety a priority.

Master Gardeners are truly role models in this community, and I am proud to work side-by-side with such talented teammates. I also believe that we have a most important mission: to make Douglas County a great place to live and work. So the next time you are doing mission work be that planting seeds or pulling weeds, make sure that you take care of yourself and your teammates by being safe on site.

References: Safety in the Gardening: bbc.co.uk. Gardening *Health and Safety Guide for Gardeners*; CDC *Make safety part of your gardening plan*; *The Master Gardeners Life Essentials* by Zee; *Safety Garden Tips*

Fall is the Time to Plant Garlic



Fresh garlic is a staple in many kitchens, and good cooks know that a hint of garlic can enhance many dishes. The pungent bulbs are incredibly easy to grow and homegrown garlic will be far better and keep longer than what is sold in the supermarket.

Fall is the best time to plant garlic. Garlic cloves may be planted in well-drained soil from about the time of the first frost up until November. It is harvested in the summer after the bottom half of the leaves have begun to turn brown.

To plant garlic, break apart the bulbs into individual cloves. To grow larger garlic bulbs, plant only the largest cloves. Plant the cloves about two inches deep and four to six inches apart in rich soil. The roots will start to grow over winter, but you won't see any top growth until spring. Give your garlic a blanket of mulch to protect the bulbs from heaving out of the soil over winter and to help keep down weeds.

Young garlic can be mistaken for grass when it begins to sprout, but a quick pinch of the leaves will release their aroma and eliminate any mistakes when weeding the patch.

There are many varieties of garlic available to choose from, but two main types; soft neck and hard neck. The soft neck varieties have a soft stem that makes them easy to braid. Soft neck garlic bulbs have larger cloves on their outside layer with smaller cloves towards the center of the bulb. Soft neck garlic generally stores well, up to nine months.

Hard neck garlic has a stiff central stalk with fewer but larger cloves. It tends to be more winter hardy than soft neck varieties but doesn't store as well, typically only five to six months. Hard neck garlic is a bit easier to peel than the soft neck varieties.

If you enjoy garlic, try planting some this fall. You'll be glad you did!

Copied from Mike McCroaty's newsletter



Literally Giving Back to the Community ~ Gardening Style

Vegetable harvest donated to date is now 1,969.5 pounds.

September total as of 9/22 is 146.25.



Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

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. Thanks to our contributors for making this the best ever edition of the newsletter. Your articles are great! Did you know this newsletter is also posted at our web site in full color ?

GMGA Mission Statement:



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

Please call Randy with questions on the Cultural Arts Center 770-920-2193, Jan for the greenhouse 770-489-9276 and James for the veggie garden at 770-489-4680 or MaryJane at 770-944-2780 Thanks everyone! Jan

Master Gardeners-

Arlene O'Neill, president of the Georgia Master Gardener Association, has asked me to send you an announcement that GMGA has a new membership chairperson.

Pamela Bracken, 480 Hampton Ct., Athens, GA 30605-1516, 706-548-3861, pamb824@aol.com

**Also remember that GMGA does not send membership renewal statements at the end of the year, you just clip the renewal form out of any The Scoop newsletter and mail it with your dues, or you can pay at the January Conference.

**You should have received your Fall 07 Scoop Newsletter within the last 2 weeks. If you didn't, you may have let your membership lapse or moved without giving GMGA your correct address. They use bulk mail rate and the Post Office doesn't forward mail at that rate. You can use the renewal form to make address corrections with GMGA as well.

This new membership chair change occurred after The Scoop went to press so just please be sure to address corrections or renewals send to Pamela at the address listed above.

