



August 2008 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



# Douglas County Dirt



Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 8

## Remember to drive carefully: School is back in session in Douglas County.

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,

Summer is still hot and dry with only an occasional thunderstorm. I am amazed at how healthy the plants and gardens in general look as I drive around town. Maybe the public is getting the idea about storing water and using recycled water.

At our last meeting in June, it was decided to try to save the pond at the Nature Trail. Aaron Walker and Lewis Davis have spent many hours locating the old pump, finding a new pump, installing it, and putting in new wiring, only to find that a new sensor is also needed. Hopefully, by the August 7 meeting the installation will be complete. We are also looking into a way of keeping leaves out of the pond, and putting in some new plants. Depending on the acidity of the water, we may be able to entice some small wildlife to return. How exciting that would be for all of us to see. Aren't we all children at heart!?!

I will not be with you on August 7<sup>th</sup>, as I will be on a plane finally getting to go on my long anticipated cruise/tour of the Baltic Sea. Flo Frey and the rest of the board will answer questions and help you find answers.

See you in September,

Pat

### Next Meeting: August 7, 2008

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.**

**August 7, 2008**

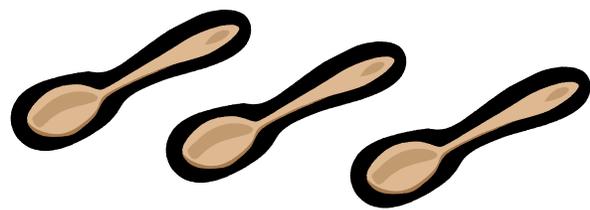


## GMGA Mission Statement:



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

# AUGUST MEETING TO FEATURE A MYSTERIOUS TASTY TOPIC



Listen up, all of you master gardeners/chefs - here's your chance to strut your culinary skills in a project that we may decide to pursue, depending upon the interest. BE SURE to attend the August meeting. Don't want to tell you any more right now - just show up and be entertained! Oh, by the way, cook up your BEST DISH to bring to the meeting to show off your flair for creating good food. See you August 7 with spoons in hand!

## BLUEBERRY CRISP RECIPE

3 cups blueberries (fresh or frozen)  
1 large can crushed pineapple,  
UNDRAINED  
1/2 cup sugar (or Splenda)  
1 box Pillsbury's "50% Less Sugar" White or  
Yellow Cake Mix  
1/2 cup (1 stick) margarine, melted  
1 cup pecans, chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Place blueberries & undrained pineapple in  
lightly greased 9X13-inch baking dish.  
Sprinkle with sugar or Splenda.  
In medium bowl, combine cake mix & mar-  
garine & sprinkle it over the fruit. Top with  
chopped pecans.  
Bake 50-60 minutes. Best served warm  
with either ice cream or whipped cream.  
YIELD: 8-10 servings.

## BLACK-EYED PEA SALAD SALAD

2 (15-oz) cans black-eyed peas, drained  
1/2 cup thinly sliced purple onion  
1/2 cup green pepper strips  
DRESSING:  
1/4 cup vinegar  
2 tablespoons salad oil  
1/4 cup sugar (or SPLENDA)  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

Combine vegetables in bowl. Prepare dressing by  
blending vinegar, oil, sugar, garlic & seasonings,  
mixing until sugar is  
dissolved. Pour dressing over vegetables. Chill,  
covered, for 12-24 hours.  
YIELD: 6 TO 8 Servings  
Flo Frey

## Hydrangea Festival

Douglasville's first annual **Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival** was held on June 7-8, 2008. All four DCMGA 2008 Officers set the standard by volunteering their time in various capacities, and about twenty members followed suit.

The Master Gardener's Butterfly Garden at the Cultural Arts Center was featured on the garden tour, and the effort of those involved in the butterfly garden's creation was evident.

The MG's serving as hosts or hostesses at garden sites were provided an excellent opportunity to perform our mission: **To stimulate the love for and increase the knowledge of gardening, and to voluntarily and enthusiastically share this knowledge with others.**

Entries in the flower show exhibit by Master Gardeners resulted in at least eleven 1<sup>st</sup> awards, six 2<sup>nd</sup> awards and several honorable mentions. (There may have been others of which I was not aware).

To quote Pat Flickinger, wearing her boy-am-I-tired grin, at the end of the take-down activities after the festival: "This was fun. I can't wait until next year!"

~ submitted by M. Boykin 7/08



# SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

8:30am - 11:30am

**PROGRAM** - "Attracting Butterflies to your Garden and Encouraging Them to Stay" will be presented by Cobb County Master Gardeners. Come and learn the lifecycle of the butterfly and the plants that not only attract them to you garden but invite them to stay. The program will be presented by lifetime Master Gardener Becky Blades who has been gardening for over 35 years and helps maintain butterfly gardens at schools and a hospital therapy garden.



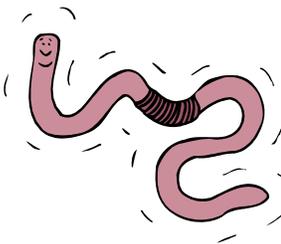
**PLACE:** McEachern Demonstration Garden at McEachern High School, 2400 New Mackland Road, Powder Springs, GA 30127. **FREE** to the public

**TIME:** Registration at 8:30 am; **PROGRAM:** begins at 9:00am

**FOR FURTHER INFO:** contact the Cobb Extension office at 770:528-4070; [www.cobbcounty.org](http://www.cobbcounty.org). [www.cobbmastergardeners.org](http://www.cobbmastergardeners.org)

## FAYETTE COUNTY FALL GARDEN TOUR

The Fayette Master Gardener Association will showcase five private gardens and their "Plant A Row For the Hungry Garden" Saturday, September 20, 2008, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine. Tour tickets are \$15.00. Each garden reflects the owner's horticultural skills and unique way in presenting plants in their landscape.



On-going half-hour sessions will be offered at the PAR Garden on plasticulture (an efficient method of vegetable gardening that produces amazing results), worm composting, composting, and rain barrel construction.

Tickets available beginning September 1 at the following locations: Andy's Nursery and Landscape in Fayetteville, and Wildbirds Unlimited, corner of Hwy 54 and Peachtree Parkway, Peachtree City. For additional information email: [FayetteMGGardenTour@gmail.com](mailto:FayetteMGGardenTour@gmail.com)

## Want a DCMG D.C.M.G. Embroidered Shirt? (Certified Master Gardeners only)

60/40 Blend Sweatshirt Adult sizes \$18.00

Lt. Blue Short Sleeved Denim \$20.00

Lt. Blue Long Sleeved Denim \$22.00

Short Sleeved 60/40 Golf Shirt \$20.00



Please respond to the email sent out in late July with detailed information regarding sizes, color options and cost to Jan Thomas at [titansjan@hotmail.com](mailto:titansjan@hotmail.com) **BEFORE: August 10, 2008.** The shirts will be delivered at the September meeting.

# *GMGA 2009 Winter Conference Announced*

## *Winter on the Flint*



### **The Quest for Sustainable Landscapes in a Changing World GMGA 2009 Winter Conference, Darton College , Albany , GA , February 7th, 2009**

The Georgia Master Gardener's Association 2009 Winter conference will be held at Darton College, Albany, GA, Saturday, February 7th, 2009. The Southwest Georgia Master Gardeners will host the conference. Chapter President Jim Spivey said, "We are pleased to announce that Wright Turf Farms of Albany GA will be a Gold Sponsor for the event. They have been extremely supportive and this is major help for the success of the meetings. We have also confirmed an outstanding speaker platform for the main conference, and details of the pre and post conference programs planned for Friday, February 6th and Sunday, February 8th, 2009. The forward planning by our Albany based team gives the opportunity for delegates to look forward to a full weekend of exciting and educational events."

The roster of speakers for the main conference on Saturday will be: Rick Darke, who will speak on "The Livable Landscape and Our Necessary Journeys" - a discussion of what is truly sustainable in an ever changing world. Darke heads a Landenberg, Pennsylvania based landscape design consulting firm. His projects include scenic byways, transportation corridors, corporate and collegiate campuses, botanic gardens and residential landscapes. He has addressed audiences all over the world, and is author of many books notably "The American Woodland Garden – capturing the Spirit of the Woodland Garden", and his latest work "The Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes."

Janisse Ray will speak on "What I Mean by Sustainable or Revolution in the Garden". Ms. Ray is an award winning writer, naturalist and activist.

Dr. Kay Kirman will speak on "Native Trees of the Southeast". She is Associate Scientist at the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Newton, Georgia; adjunct faculty member at the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology; University of Florida Dept. of Wildlife Conservation and Auburn University Dept. of Biology. She is co-author of "Native Trees of the Southeast."

Jason Powell will speak on "Antique Roses and Other Great Heirloom Plants for Southern Gardens." He is owner of **Petals from the Past Nursery** in Jemison, Alabama, renowned for its collection of antique roses, display gardens and educational facility. He holds a masters degree in horticulture from Texas A&M.

The theme of the conference is "sustainable landscapes" and the speakers will focus their remarks on this timely aspect of green gardening in today's landscape environment. Shirley Ray, Vice President, was responsible for speaker selection. The pre conference program will feature the informative and entertaining speaker Jim Fowler. A highlight of the evening will be a quail supper – a famous regional specialty of the Albany area. The Sunday program will be a field trip to tour **Massey Lane Gardens**, headquarters of the **American Camellia Society** in Fort Valley, GA. This trip will coincide with the height of the flowering season for the Society's extensive camellia collection.

Ron Wolfe, GMGA District Director stated, "We are extremely pleased to have Wright's Turf Farms as a Gold Sponsor, helping us to underwrite this event. They have been truly generous. We extend our thanks for their support. We are working hard to make this a memorable conference, especially with such an outstanding group of speakers. We look forward to delegate attendance not only from our Georgia members, but surrounding states as well." Further information: Jim Spivey, tel. 229 436 7216, e-mail, [uge4095@uga.edu](mailto:uge4095@uga.edu).

# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

**President:** Pat Flickinger 770-920-0988

**Vice President:** Flo 770-

**Recording Secretary:** Kathy Henry 770-947-0760

**Treasurer:** Elaine Davis

**Newsletter:** Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278

**Web site:** Fred Finch

**Archivist:**

**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?

## 2008 Master Gardener Volunteer Conference [SC]

October 5-8 at the beautiful Sea Trail Resort and Convention Center in Sunset Beach, NC.

The North Carolina Master Gardener Volunteer Association has extended an invitation to Georgia Master Gardeners to attend their 2008 Conference. For more information go to:

<http://ncmastergardeners.org/> and click on "Upcoming Events"

Full conference registration is \$145 before Sept 1, 2008. The full conference registration fee includes all educational sessions and materials, the reception, the banquet, lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday and all breaks. See registration form for tours and additional options.

Arrive early on Sunday, Oct. 5, and take advantage of our Dinner and Theater Tour in Myrtle Beach. Then tour the lovely coastal gardens in this area on Monday. Monday evening's reception at nearby Silver Coast Winery will include a tour of the winery; also there is an art collection and a gift shop on the grounds. And be sure to vote on the Madeline Collier Landscape Garden Design Competition while you are there. Transportation to and from the reception will be provided.

This conference itself will feature a variety of workshops on topics sure to appeal to every gardener and presented by interesting, knowledgeable speakers.



## Tips to Help Maintain a Water-Wise Garden

- Water in the morning so roots have time to take up moisture before it evaporates during the heat of the day.
- Install drip irrigation or soaker hoses to put water right at plants' roots and prevent runoff.
- Frequently check irrigation systems, sprinkler heads, etc for leaks.
- Water deeply but infrequently, causing roots to reach down into the soil for moisture and strengthen growth.
- Use an organic mulch to keep roots moist and cool.
- Reuse household water as much as possible (e.g. water from rinsing and cooking pasta and vegetables, cleaning aquariums, and emptying coolers, vases, etc).
- Put up a rain gauge to help manage your water needs.
- Clean decks, patios, sidewalks, etc with a broom instead of a hose.

FROM: Wayside Gardens Electronic

Newsletter Their corporate web site is <http://www.waysidegardens.com>