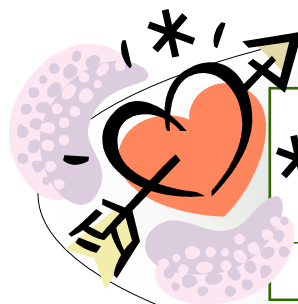




Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2



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

Greetings from your 2008 Master Gardener Board,

Foy, Elaine, Kathy and I are looking forward to the Douglas County Master Gardener Association having a GREAT and productive year. Many projects are in various stages of development. So there are lots of opportunities to get in your hours. You will find reports from some of the projects from last year included in this issue of the Dirt. Included also is a copy of the minutes from last month's meeting.

Remember to send your dues to Elaine Davis as soon as possible. The dues form is on the last page. Please print carefully because that information is used to print the roster.

For now, the greenhouse is on hold due to the freezing weather. As the weather gets warmer in February, and we get itchy to dig in the dirt, look to see what your yard has to contribute for the plant sale. I am sure there is plenty to share.

The two rounds of snow we have had in the last week have provided much needed moisture and a blanket for some of the bulbs coming up. January is our winter, but I am ready for spring!

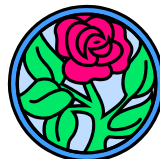
See you February 7th for our next meeting. Pat

Rose Pruning Class

Instructor: Linda Suppener, Rosarian Monday, February 25, 2008 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Location: Greenhouse Description:

This class will give instruction on rose pruning. Instruction will include handouts on a variety of rose topics such as planting, bed preparation, pruning, types or roses, etc. The class will also include a demonstration on rose pruning. The two beds of roses adjacent to the green house will be pruned. Come and learn first hand how to prune to get the best from your roses.



Next Meeting:

February 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 1/2 miles on the right.

February 7, 2008



Douglas County Master Gardener Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held January 3, 2008

The meeting was opened by Sharon Morton, out-going president for 2007, with a greeting and welcome to all in attendance. A request was made to check the list at each table to confirm e-mail addresses and contact information for accuracy.

Dickenson named DCMG for 2007:

The presentation of a plaque was made to James Dickenson, our Master Gardener of the Year for 2007, in recognition of all of his many hours of volunteering and hard work for the betterment of Master Gardener Projects in Douglas County. The 2007 Board presented him with a small gift for "All the doo-doo you do!" - a T-shirt and coffee mug proclaiming him a member of the Manure Movers of America.



**DCMG of the Year for 2007:
James Dickenson**

Outgoing Board Recognition:

Sharon presented her fellow board members Jan Thomas, Rachel Hendee and Judy Cole with gifts of appreciation for their support and hard work throughout the past year. They in turn presented Sharon a plaque of appreciation in recognition of her hard work.



President Flickinger

2008 Officers introduced:

Sharon introduced the incoming officers elected at the December meeting. Pat Flickinger, President; Flo Frey, Vice President; Elaine Davis, Treasurer and appointed Recording Secretary, Kathy Henry. Genie Gordan was introduced as the Publicity Chairman for 2007.

Treasurer's Report:

Judy Cole gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported as of meeting time we had \$4,741.26. Approval of minutes from previous month: Pat Flickinger read the minutes of the December Meeting which were approved by acclamation.



Projects:

Pat welcomed one and all to the beginning of a new year in Master Gardening and introduced the Year End Reports given by the chairman of our projects.

Mickey Dowd gave us the history of the Children's Garden at the Douglas County Public Library on Selman Drive as it has evolved since 1997.

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held January 3, 2008

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Projects (continued):



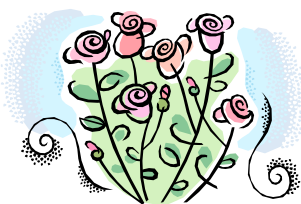
Karen Hubenet reported on the history of the Butterfly/Bird Garden at Deerlick Park started in 1997.

Randy Cooper reported on the Butterfly Garden at the Douglasville Cultural Arts Center funded by the Ama Kanasta Garden Club and installed by Master Gardeners in 2006/2007.

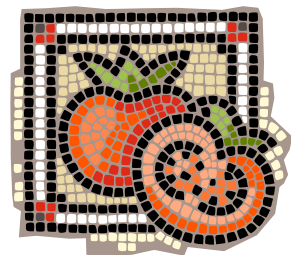
Genie Gordon reported on the outside of the Greenhouse Project from mid-September to the present. Parking areas have been cleared and raised beds planted and mulched.

Pat Flickinger announced the successful completion of the electrical work inside the greenhouse.

James Dickenson reported on the Vegetable Garden and the bumper crop that was harvested this year in the organic/deep dug beds. Despite the drought, 2,371 pounds of produce was raised, giving us 2nd place in the state.



Janet Deal gave a report on the Rose Garden at the Woodie Fite Senior Center. This was established by the 2007 class of Master Gardener Interns upon receiving a grant from the Jackson Perkins Rose Company with additional funds from Georgia Master Gardener Association.



Pat Flickinger read Jim Kirkwood's report on the Great Tomato Contest sponsored by Turner Feed & Seed; the Vegetable Contest sponsored by the Georgia Farm Bureau ; and the Yard of the Month contest with judges Earl Cosgrove, Julie Murray and Jim Kirkwood.

Earl Cosgrove gave a report on the building of the tool shed at the vegetable garden organized by Jim Sims and noted the recent pictures and article that appeared in the Douglas County Sentinel Newspaper.



Rachel Hendee reported on the Butterfly Garden and Outdoor Classroom and Trail she established at Winston Elementary School and gave details on the educational value it has had for the children and teachers at the school.

Michele Kirk described the Nature Trail adjoining the Douglas County Courthouse and the successful workday and lunch that was held this fall in conjunction with the Douglas County Extension Agent, Kevin Livingston.

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held January 3, 2008

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New Business:

We are to turn our volunteer hours into the Extension Office this year and not to the Club Secretary as we have done in the past.

The University of Georgia has not finalized regulations for the by-laws of Master Gardener Organizations in the state. The Board has recommended to use our existing up-dated by-laws as a draft until the time we can compare them to the University's final guidelines. It was moved by Jimmy Haddle that this be done and seconded by Melanie Cardell. After discussion the motion was approved.

A new Chairman is needed for the Greenhouse as Carol Morrison has fallen and will not be able to continue as Chairman but will remain involved as a consultant. Lori Mason has returned to work and will not be able to Co-Chair the committee either. Sharon Morton and Pat Flickinger have monitored the existing plants but would welcome a volunteer to assume the chairmanship of this important project.



Everyone is encouraged to continue raising plants in our own gardens for the spring plant sale until a chairman or co-chairmen can be found.

Jan Thomas requested volunteers for the Woodie Fite Senior Center monthly educational classes. Jan will teach a class on camellias for the January lesson. Janet Deal volunteered to teach a class on the new Rose Garden and pruning techniques in February and Flo Frey volunteered to teach a lesson in March. Additional volunteers are welcome.

Twenty three interns will take this year's Master Gardening course in Carroll County with eight interns from Douglas County. The Board has approved sponsoring a picnic at Triple Creek Nursery on April 17th for the new Master Gardening Interns at their final field trip for the course. Our Master Gardener treasury will provide the meat and Master Gardeners from participating counties with Interns taking the course will bring side dishes.

Flo Frey encouraged Master Gardener Associates in attendance to enroll in the course since there are still openings.

Melanie Cardell encouraged all to send in articles for the newsletter. They may be e-mailed to her. Her address is: MJ_Cardell@yahoo.com.

Randy Cooper has volunteered to teach a class on pruning techniques. Interested members please get in touch with him at 770-920-2193.

Flo Frey encouraged everyone to consider giving a program for one of our monthly meetings and welcomed suggestions of other speakers to schedule.

The meeting was adjourned and door prizes were distributed.

Master Gardener Advanced Training

Fayette County Extension is hosting a Master Gardener Advanced Training course entitled Landscape Problem Management-SGL. The course will be held on Friday, March 28, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Fayette County Public Library, 1821 Heritage Park Way, Fayetteville, GA 30214.

This training will provide Master Gardeners with information to share with homeowners about basic landscape installation and maintenance principles. Topics will include basic design techniques, soil and bed preparation, soil nutrients, drainage and watering, planting techniques and basic weed, disease and insect identification and control. Speakers will include, Mark Banta, General Manager of Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta and George Long, Fayette County Master Gardener. Extension Office at: 770.460.5730, ext. 5412.

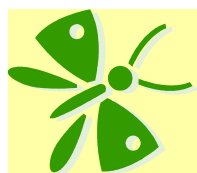
The Gardener's Guide to Conifers

The Master Gardeners in Georgia. Athens is a great day trip for any gardener, with several public Gardens and specialty nurseries in the area. I would be happy to advise on hotels, restaurants and places to visit and shop. If some of your members would like to visit the State Botanical Garden the afternoon before (February 14), I'd be happy to arrange a special tour of our Gardens. Café Trumps at the Garden will be open for lunch if your group is interested in starting their visit there.

The Gardener's Guide to Conifers: Garden Design Seminar and Workshop is an all-day conifer symposia offered at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens on Friday, February 15, 2008. This symposium is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and includes presentations by several gardening experts, plus lunch. The afternoon sessions will be hands-on learning opportunities for designing container plantings with conifers. Lessons learned at this scale can be used for containers as well as in the home landscape. Conifer plants will be for sale. Cost is \$45. For more information, including speakers, log on to <http://www.uga.edu/botgarden> or call 706-542-6156.

Connie Cottingham, Public Relations Coordinator, The State Botanical Garden of Georgia, 2450 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605, phone: 706-542-6014

GMGA Mission Statement:



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

Outgoing president Sharon Morton contemplates all her spare time now that she will not be heading up the DCMG! A special and hearty thanks to Sharon for her expert, kind, and responsive leadership in 2007! We appreciate the time and energy you gave to our club!

More new plants from the Southern Nursery Association trade show in August 2007:

In addition to some new variegated plants showcased at the SNA Forum, there were some new (at least new to most of us) dwarf or more compact varieties of existing landscape plants.

Loropetalum chinense 'Snowmound' (copyrighted name Snow Muffin), is a compact, dwarf, white flowered green foliated *Loropetalum*. As a specimen plant, it will grow to approximately 16" tall and 30" wide in 5 years. Snow muffin has a slow to moderate growth rate and blooms best with morning shade or all day light shade. Once established the plant is moderately drought tolerant. If left unpruned, the plant may reach 3 feet tall and 6 feet wide in 20 years. Snow muffin is free of lacebug and other insect damage. The plant also exhibits resistance to deer browsing. This *Loropetalum* is hardy in USDA zones 7-9

Loropetalum chinense 'Shang-lo' (copyrighted name Purple Pixie), is a dwarf, spreading purple foliated plant, growing to an average size of 1-2 feet tall by 4-5 feet wide. Purple Pixie's new growth starts upward and then cascades downward creating a purple carpet effect. The plant has vibrant pink flowers in spring with occasional summer and fall bloom.

Hardy in USDA zones 7-9.

Magnolia grandiflora 'TMGH' (copyrighted name Alta) is a southern magnolia with a more upright branching habit than other magnolia cultivars, and has a dense growth habit. This tree was found in a group of magnolia seedlings at Future Trees Inc. , in Statesboro, Ga. After 11 years the parent plant was 21 feet tall and 9 feet wide. It is estimated the ultimate size would be about 40 to 50 feet tall 20 to 30 feet wide. The leaves are dark green with rusty brown pubescence beneath. The flowers are creamy white. Hardy in USDA zones 6b-10.

Although not a dwarf or compact plant, another plant that attracted a good bit of attention was *Ophiopogon jaburan* 'HO�F' (copyrighted name Crystal Falls). This mondo grass has dark green leaves 24-30 inches long and 1/2 to 3/4 inches wide. The flowers emerge in July and last until Sept., are on 6-8' racemes, are star-shaped, white, about 1/2' in diameter. However, words are very lacking in describing the effect of these white starry flowers cascading amongst the deep green foliage. The flowers are followed by very large berries that turn bright blue by Nov. Crystal Falls is best grown in shade, either as a specimen or as a mass planting. The plant is hardy in USDA zones 6b-9.

These notes are from Randy Cooper. Let's hope that the drought situation improves enough in 2008 to start planting new plants and to maintain the ones we have and love.

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

President: Pat Flickinger 770-920-0988
Vice President: Flo Frey 770-949-0258
Secretary: Elaine Davis 770-949-5963
Treasurer: Kathy Henry 770-947-0760
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?

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Membership Application

January 1, 2008 — December 31, 2008

Date _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ GA Zip+4 _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____



Type of Membership (Check one):	Certified Master Gardener: Year Training completed:	Fee: \$10
	Friends of DCMG:	Fee: \$ 15
	Couples get a price break	Minimum Donation \$15

Make Checks Payable to: DCMG

Mail to: Judith A. Cole
8099 Banks Mill Road
Douglasville, GA 30135-5033