



April 2009 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 4

Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival June 5, 6, & 7, 2009: 3 Days!

Welcome to spring, Master Gardeners!

Now that your plants are coming to life from their winter sleep, please share them with the rest of Douglas County and beyond. Jan Thomas has been emailing you the ones that are needed so be looking to see what you can donate. We really need your participation to make this plant sale a success! We also need workers at the greenhouse on Thursdays from 10:00 – 12:00. Bring your plants early in the day, as the workers are ready for lunch by 12:00!

In addition to the plant sale May 2, here are other participation opportunities:

Saturday, March 28th --- Nature trail workday

Thursday, April 16th --- Intern picnic at Triple Creek Nursery

June 5,6,7th --- Hydrangea Festival. We will need people to host the Master Gardener booth on Saturday that we share with the County Extension Office. Please let me know if you can help because I will not be at the booth this year due to being involved with the flower show. Hope to see you at the April 2nd meeting.

Pat

APRIL 2 SPEAKER

On Thursday evening, April 2, the Douglas County Master Gardeners will host Ken Gohring, who will be speaking about 'Georgia Native Azaleas'. Ken has been a member of the Georgia Native Plant Society for 10 years serving several offices and writing numerous articles for the GNPS newsletter.



He has also served as past president of the Azalea Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Next Meeting:

April 2, 2009

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.**

April 2, 2008



Georgia MG Events

** GMGA Dues- If you wish to retain membership with the Georgia Master Gardener Association, Inc. your 2009 membership is up for renewal. Paid membership in any Master Gardener organization is not mandatory in order for you to volunteer as a Master Gardener.

** Speaking of *The Scoop*, the GMGA quarterly newsletter: You can send articles and photos to Fred Dyer, GMGA's newsletter editor at fred.dyer@usg.edu

** Upcoming GMGA Conferences: October 17, 2009 Gwinnett Technical College, hosted by metro Atlanta-area Master Gardeners. January 2010 in Gainesville, hosted by Hall County Master Gardeners Oct 2010 in LaGrange, hosted by Troup County Master Gardeners.

Letter to Master Gardeners of Georgia

Dear Master Gardeners,

I wanted take a moment to wish you a happy Master Gardener Day and to thank you for your service to Cooperative Extension. We appreciate your enthusiasm for learning about everything related to gardening and sharing that knowledge so generously with others. It really is a pleasure to work with such dedicated volunteers who doing so much for the citizens of your communities.

You are working with community and demonstration gardens, and growing food for the needy. You are there in the Extension offices helping clients with their lawngrass weeds, bugs, snakes, soil samples and handing out publications. You are teaching classes and helping adults and children understand how they can preserve the future through natural resource conservation. You are educating through a variety of media, both old and new, answering questions on telephone hotlines, by e-mail and on the world-wide web. You are writing to inform others and to share your insights in newsletters, and newspaper and magazine articles.

You are truly what makes the Master Gardener program such a special program.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Master Gardener Program in Georgia with you this fall.

Enjoy the day!

Marco T. Fonseca

Extension Horticulturist and State Master Gardener Program Coordinator
1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223-1797 Email: mfonseca@uga.edu
Phone: 770-228-7243 Fax: 770-412-4764

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

Minutes of the Meeting held March 5, 2008

The meeting was opened by President, Pat Flickinger by welcoming all Master Gardeners and Friends. A reminder was made that dues are due and gardening gloves are for sale at the entrance table.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Elaine Davis reported the Budget for 2009 is being finalized and will be available soon.

Ending Balance as of Jan.31,2009--\$3,258.96	Deposits--\$180.00 (Dues)
Account Maintenance Fee Refund--\$1.80	\$3,232.00

Project Reports:

Nature Trail- The March 28 Work Day was announced. Janet Deal reported volunteers are needed to assist with the lunch and for the chores taking place during the Work Day. The Master Naturalists will be joining us.

Cookbook – Paul Beggs announced the Cookbook funding has been provided by Friends and Members and is on track to be published in October without the use of Master Gardener treasury. Two hundred recipes have been received but more are needed. Please send recipes to the Cookbook Committee (Betsy Simms, Flo Frey, Sherry Beggs, Mellie Boykin, Genie Gordon, and Pat Wilkinson). Sherry Beggs' beautiful painting that will be used in the artwork of the cookbook was on display.

Vegetable Garden – Late winter crops such as garlic, sugar snap peas, collards, etc. are doing well. Volunteers are welcome on any Wednesday or Saturday mornings at 10:00.

Deerlick Park Butterfly Garden – Karen Hubenet reported the Herb and Butterfly Garden is celebrating its tenth year with 4-5 loyal active and retired Master Gardener volunteers. The garden also has bluebird boxes and an informational bulletin board that is well received by the community. New volunteers are always welcomed on Tuesday mornings at 10:00.

Greenhouse – Jan Thomas announced the greenhouse is in full swing in preparation for our May 2 plant sale. Any and all volunteers are welcome on Thursday mornings at 10:00. The sooner we get the plants the better they will look for the sale. Call Jan to contribute plants. Plants are **needed now!**

Woodie Fite Center – Janet Deal announced there are still a few volunteers needed to help with the Master Gardener Intern Mid-Term on Wednesday, March 11 at 2:00. Volunteers to work on the rose garden are welcome on Tuesdays. The Master Gardener sponsored Garden Club at the Woodie Fite Center had 27 attend the fieldtrip to Calloway Gardens. Pat commended Janet on a well organized and fun trip.

CAC Butterfly Garden – Kathy Henry announced the maintenance schedule has been resumed. The first & third Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm and the second & fourth Friday of the month at 10:00am is the schedule. All volunteers are welcome. The Board of Directors of the CAC is holding a workday on Saturday, March 14, at 10:00 and all are invited to help out. Come see the bulbs in bloom.

Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival – If you haven't already, mark June 5-7 on your calendar for the 2nd annual Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival and Standard Flower Show. We are co-sponsoring the flower show with the four local garden clubs. The Horticultural placement committee is in need of volunteers before the show – see Judy Van Hook if you can help. Be sure and plan to enter horticultural entries from your garden! See Pat Flickinger for your entry cards.

Old Business:

Plant Sale- Pat stressed the importance of the Plant Sale to be held on Saturday, May 2nd, at the Greenhouse.

New Business:

Earl Cosgrove announced an article and picture were published on Douglas County Master Gardeners on the front page of the Paulding County newspaper.

Program:

“Reptile Wrangler” Ken Panse gave a very exciting and informative program. Ken is a Douglasville native and has been performing for well over 10 years showcasing a variety of animals. Members and visitors alike enjoyed his program on snakes, iguanas, alligators and other wildlife in our area. The program was very well attended by the community.

Door prizes were distributed. The meeting was adjourned by Pat.

Submitted by Kathy Henry

Reptiles at the March DCMG Meeting

The Master Gardeners were thoroughly entertained Thursday evening by 'Atlanta's Reptile Wrangler' & Douglasville native, Ken Panse. Ken has been performing for well over 10 years showcasing a variety of animals such as snakes, turtles, an alligator, and giant bugs such as scorpions and millipedes. His show is both interesting and educational as some of the animals he highlights are found in nature around here. One of the focuses of his show is to dispel myths about some of the most feared reptiles. For example, Ken stated that "the Eastern King Snake will eat about 50 mice each summer which would multiply into 2000 mice just in time for Thanksgiving when they will want to move into your house with the onset of winter. They actually keep our playgrounds safe by patrolling for rodents at night which can carry fleas, ticks, and lice".

Ken is not permitted by the Department of Natural Resources to remove animals from the wild for his show. One was purchased as a pet and later released by the owners because they could not or did not want to care for it. Ken recently rescued a starving Boa Constrictor from Sweetwater Creek State Park and nursed it back to health. A released pet does not know how to sufficiently hunt for its food.

Ken's show is both informational as well as very 'hands-on', as witnessed by children and adults touching some of the reptiles. You can visit his website at www.reptilewrangler.net or see his many show pictures on Facebook under Reptile Wrangler.



NO: There was no snake hunting in the DCMG Garden.

Randy Cooper at the vegetable garden explaining 'composting soil' to garden visitors, Ken & Stephanie Panse. Ken is known as the "Reptile Wrangler."



Photos of DCMG Greenhouse Work

Photos at the greenhouse of members preparing plants for the sale May 2nd. Jan Thomas & Rachel Hendy dividing a Hosta [below right corner], Julie Murray at the greenhouse potting 'Scilla' [lower left corner], and Sharon Morton, Jan Thomas, & Rachel Hendy potting plants at the greenhouse [on the right]



Genie Gordon [right] and Judy Cole & Betsy Simon [below] at the Southeastern Flower Garden



Photos of Recent DCMG Events

Mary Jane Huie planting collards [below left corner] and Sherry & Paul Beggs and James Dickinson [lower right corner], Vet Hunt weeding a planting bed [on the left below], Sherry Beggs mulching between the rows [on the right below]



Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

President: Pat Flickinger 770-920-0988
Vice President: Mellie Boykin 770-942-6871
Recording Secretary: Kathy Henry 770-947-0760
Treasurer: Elaine Davis 770 949-5963
Newsletter: Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278
Web site: Fred Finch
Web Site liaison: Mellie Boykin 770 942-6871
Archivist: Sharon Morton 770 949-4797
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?

The DCMGA meeting will be April 2, 2009.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 10, 11 Hall County MG 2009 Spring Garden Expo Friday and Saturday, Chicopee Woods Ag Center near Gainesville. www.hcmgs.com



March 28 Nature Trail Work Day at DC Courthouse

April 16 Intern Picnic at Triple Creek Farm

April 18 Annual Spring Plant Sale Research & Education Garden UGA Griffin Campus

Apr 22, 2009 Earth Day

May 2 DCMG Plant Sale at the Greenhouse



GMGA Mission Statement:



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