



November 2009 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



# Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 11

Greetings from your Prez!

Summer has ended, but WHAT happened to Fall? My thermometer read 39 this morning. I am sure that we will get back to a pleasant fall some time soon. (Winter and I are not compatible!)

I hope that you survived the 100-year flood with minimal damage. I know that some of you had water in your basements and that the roads were an inconvenience for many that will persist for months to come.

The nominating committee, Mellie Boykin, Sherry Beggs, and Elaine Davis, may be calling on you to be an officer for next year. We have many wonderful, creative and talented people in DCMG that do fantastic work already but we still need officers. Please step up and say, "Yes," if you are asked.

We will be discussing the December get-together at the November meeting. If you would like to volunteer your house let us know.

As soon as the rain waters dry up, I have a few garden chores that are calling me. (Volunteers to help will be rewarded with a hardy lunch!!)

Not digging in the dirt yet,  
Pat

## Next Meeting:

**November 5,  
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.**





Yvette Hunt showing off the 'edible gourds'

Yvette Hunt  
and  
Mary Jane Huie  
picking the  
beans



Sgt. Thompson with part of his work crew spreading the wood chips



Paul Beggs--Garden Coordinator

## **DCMG Garden Overcomes KUDZU with Help!**

The Douglas County Master Gardeners are much relieved since Sgt. Denver Thompson and his Douglas County work crew have 'rescued' the garden from being overtaken by kudzu. They brought a tractor to the garden and cleared the kudzu back from the fence creating a buffer area of at least 20 feet. And, to our delight, they did not stop there. They came back to help clear weeds from the paths between the garden rows and then put down a thick layer of wood chips which will help prevent the weeds from returning. The Master Gardeners are very proud of the garden and are happy to report that more than 3,000 pounds of produce have been harvested and donated to local charitable organizations so far this year. Thanks to the excellent work of Sgt. Thompson and his men, the Master Gardeners can concentrate on what they love most, growing and harvesting vegetables, without fear of their garden being overrun by kudzu and other invasive plants.



## Douglas County Master Gardener Association Minutes of the Meeting held October 1, 2009

Door prizes were distributed prior to the beginning of the meeting by Earl Cosgrove.

The meeting was opened by President Pat Flickinger thanking all for attending. Minutes of the September meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of September 1<sup>st</sup> was \$6590.20. Deposits of \$72.00 and expenses of \$270.71 for the month left a balance as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of \$6391.49.

### **Project Updates:**

**Vegetable Garden** – The harvest is about over. However, sweet potatoes are yet to be harvested, as well as more okra to be cut which will add more to the already 3,000 lbs of produce harvested. Genie Gordon was thanked for arranging for county prisoners to clean up the kudzu and wood chips to be delivered. Lots of work is yet to be done to prepare for winter. New volunteers are always welcome on Wednesday mornings. Saturday workdays will be switched to a new weekday by the volunteers due to other fall activities. Contact Paul and Sherry for time update.



**Nature Trail** – Pat announced at least 50 volunteers are scheduled for the October 10 workday for general clean up and tree planting. Kevin Livingston has arranged for the workday to coincide with National Neighbor/Woods Month which is sponsored by a generous grant from the Home Depot Foundation. Pat asked for volunteers to assist serving with the Chick-fil-A lunch. Elaine Davis volunteered to take pictures.

**Cultural Arts Center Butterfly Garden** – Volunteers are always welcome on first and third Wednesday of the month and second and fourth Friday of the month.

**Green roof at Sweetwater State Park** – Michele Kirk reported anyone interested in helping can join them on Friday mornings at 8 to assist with the re-establishment of the roof garden.

**Gambel Memorial Garden** – The Van Hooks announced plans to plant low maintenance Knock Out roses. Black tulips, Blake Gambel's favorite flowers, were discussed.

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# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

## Minutes of the Meeting held October 1 (continued)

### Old Business

Pat reminded everyone to tally up their volunteer hours and to be prepared to send them to Kevin Livingston in December.

Genie Gordon announced November's program will be presented by Jim Marbutte, a master wood carver from Summerville, Georgia. He is known for his garden art and will demonstrate his carving during our program.

Cookbook – Flo Frey thanked her committee for all their hard work with special thanks to Paul and Sherry Beggs for making a special delivery trip near Memphis, Tennessee to pick up the cookbooks so they could be distributed at our meeting, saving \$750 in shipping charges. The committee considered it a labor of love and is proud to have money available soon for Master Gardener use from the sale profits from this quality book. Flo gave appreciation for the Carroll County Master Gardeners' assistance and to all who contributed recipes.

September Saturdays - Pat announced although only one pair of gloves was sold, the publicity from participating was worth the effort. Flo announced the gloves are not only excellent for gardening but also for quilters. Alan Bradd donated \$53.00 from his honey sale during the event to Master Gardeners.

Junior Master Gardener Fruit Sale - Pat announced the Junior Master Gardeners with Kevin Livingston and the 4-H'ers are extending their small fruit plant sale through October 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Pick up on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00pm at the new Courthouse.

### New Business

Jan Thomas announced she has some of Alan's honey to sell.

Nominating Committee – Pat requested volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for next year's officers.

Vet Hunt announced "Women Making a Change" is in need of basic necessities after the flooding.

### Program:

Mike Frances of Maple Ridge Nursery in Decatur presented a most interesting program on Japanese Maples with a great *PowerPoint*<sup>™</sup> presentation and generous door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned by Pat. ~ Minutes submitted by Kathy Henry.





## Jim Marbutte, November Speaker



Photos of Sherry Beggs and Genie Gordon with Jim Marbutte





## DCMGers Playing in the Dirt

Was it just a month ago that our 'vegetable garden' was being overtaken by kudzu? We realized that we needed help and help came in the form of Sergeant Denver Thompson and one of his work crews. Last Friday, they brought the tractor again and continued to push back the 'kudzu jungle'. Even Sergeant Thompson

got in on the action with a roto-tiller to clean the area beyond the fence. Sherry and Paul had recently planted eight blueberry bushes in that area which had to be dug up for the tilling and replanted in the much-improved soil. We invite all of you to come by and witness the transformation of our garden and volunteer awhile if you can. Our new workdays beginning this week are Monday and Thursday, still at 9:00 a.m. Hope you will be able to view this slide show and enjoy the pictures. Sergeant Thompson plans to be back with a work crew so come and join us.



# Douglas County Master Gardener Association Membership Application

*January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010*

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_, GA \_\_\_\_\_  
(Zip+4)

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Certified Master Gardener.....\$10.00

Year Master Gardener Course completed \_\_\_\_\_

Master Gardener Intern.....\$10.00

Associates..... \$10.00

Family Membership..... \$15.00

Dues will be accepted at the monthly meeting with completed application, or mail to Treasurer:

**Elaine Davis**  
**9108 Grampian Court**  
**Winston GA 30187**

**Please make checks payable to DCMGA.**





# 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?

<http://www.dcdirt.org>

**The DCMGA meeting will be **November 5, 2009****

## GMGA Mission Statement:



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

## Woodcarver Jim Marbutte: November Program

November's DCMG program will be presented by Jim Marbutte, a master wood carver from Summerville, Georgia. He is known for his garden art and will demonstrate his carving during our program.

Sherry and Paul Beggs 'discovered' Jim Marbutte at a stop in Summerville, GA while returning from a trip and couldn't wait to share their discovery. The Appalachian woodcarver, author, and subject of a number of television documentaries, newspaper and magazine articles, has agreed to be our speaker at the November DCMGA meeting.

A creative woodcarver with a knack for storytelling, he will have several completed works to display and do a woodcarving demonstration. A handsome Indian sculpture created by this artist now stands guard over the Beggs' backyard pond.

You won't want to miss this final program this year! Check out the photos on page 5 of this issue.

(No speaker is planned for the December meeting which will be the Christmas gathering at Sherry and Paul's home.)