

August 2010 “The Dirt Worth Printing”

# DOUGLAS COUNTY DIRT

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

## *Letter from the President*

### Here's your Sign!



Here's the new Yard of the Month sign we recently had made. The sign currently in use is about ten years old. Please remember to submit the names and addresses of entries to Mr. Kirkwood.

Thanks to Mr. Kirkwood, Lou Davis and Aaron Walker for judging the vegetable garden contests this past weekend. The Big Tomato contest is still going on, and we are getting good press for this and all our activities.

The Vegetable Garden is producing well enough (about 200 pounds of vegetables per week). The rains this past weekend and this week will certainly help (although we're starting to grow some good-looking weeds). If any of you have time, we can always use your help.

Thanks to Judy Cole for undertaking the production of this newsletter. Melanie Cardell is taking the rest of the year off. Please give Judy lots of support as she keeps us going.

The Nature Trail is in pretty good shape. I created a group on Facebook called "Douglas County Nature Trail Group", and I will periodically post photos to that website. I am working on posting photos of all identified plants (as well as some that need identification). If you are on Facebook, please join the group—any comments or suggestions are appreciated.

Stay cool—See you on August 5!

Marjorie Stansel

Next Meeting:

August 5, 2010

6:30 for pot-luck

Dinner

7:00 meeting

Begins.

St Julian Episcopal

Church

5400 Stewart Mill  
Rd

Douglasville, GA

## Minutes of July 1, 2010

### Douglas County Master Gardeners

The July 1, 2010, meeting of the Douglas County Master Gardeners was called to order by President Marjorie Stansel, with over 40 members and visitors in attendance. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mrs. Stansel in the absence of Treasurer Betsy Simon as follows:

* \$9,531.02	Beginning Balance
* \$ 71.00	Deposits
* \$ 521.94	Expenditures
*\$9,180.08	Ending Balance

The following announcements were made:

**BUTTERFLY COUNT** – First week in August at Sweetwater Creek State

Park. Volunteers needed as drivers for those making the butterfly count. Contact Sweetwater Creek State Park if you want to volunteer as a driver.

**YARD OF THE MONTH:** Bob and Peggy Barron were winners of this year's contest as well as having won in 2001, 2005, and 2007. The plaque was presented by Mr. Kirkwood, who announced that it was the "Yard of the Month Hall of Fame" award to honor the multi-year winnings of the Barrons.

**HOME VEGETABLE GARDEN CONTEST** – First week in July. Volunteer judges were to call Mr. Kirkwood if interested in viewing and judging the participating gardens.

**TOMATO CONTEST:** Participants should take their entries to Turners Feed & Seed store to get the tomatoes weighed.

#### **Reports on DCMG Ongoing Projects:**

**VEGETABLE GARDEN:** Paul Beggs reported that beans, tomatoes, okra, squash, and cucumber yields from the garden totaled 485½ pounds thus far, in addition to 16 pounds donated from members private gardens. Working hours for the garden are Tuesday and Fridays, 8AM-11AM, and additional help is needed for this project.

**PENNY MACHENRY HYDRANGEA FESTIVAL & FLOWER SHOW:** Festival Chairperson, Kathy Henry, reported on a great turnout, saying that attendees represented 40 Georgia cities, 10 states, and 2 foreign countries (Canada & Virgin Islands). The Douglas County Master Gardeners had 97 entries and won 49 Blue Ribbons. DCMG Pat Flickinger won the Award of Merit for Best Hydrangea. Kathy Henry was commended by the DCMGs for her excellent handling of the flower show.

The evening's door prize was a combination flag stand/basket hanger (with flag) and was won by Gloria Hamby. Aaron Walker also donated several horticulture books for the members, and Mr. Kirkwood donated several black elephant ears, cleomes and angel trumpets. Randy Cooper donated money plant seeds.

**SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING:** Bill Waldrop of Kennesaw Mountain Daylily Farm, was introduced by Sherry Beggs. Mr. Waldrop presented a most interesting and colorful program on daylilies, particularly ones that he had hybridized himself. His daylily farm is located on McDaniell Road in Marietta.

Next month's speaker will be Gail Woody, and she will present a program on hummingbirds. Ms. Woody is a Carroll County Master Gardener.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Florence Frey (for Secretary Elaine Davis)

### **Douglas County Master Gardeners Association**

The following people earned their certification as Georgia Master Gardeners between 1979 and 1999. The efforts put forth and activities performed by them molded the DCMG image, and has left big footprints in which to follow.

Tom Clonts, '79  
Craig McManus, '83  
Roxanna Hicks, '92  
Debbie O'Donnell, '94  
Karen Hubenet, '96

James Kirkwood, '79  
Martha Chessser, '92  
Linda Najarian, '93  
Sharon Huneycutt, '96

Kurtis Allen, '97  
Terri Farmer, '97  
Cindy Harris, '97  
Susie King, '97  
Linda Mann, '97  
Jeff Reese, '97  
Toni Striblin, '97

Kathryn Beckhum, '97  
Cathy Garrett, '97  
Jean King, '97  
Kevynn Lapierre, '97  
David Parrish, '97  
Brenda Gail Rush, '97  
Margaret Walker, '97

Mellie Boykin, '98  
Linda Hughes, '98  
Terry Owenby, '98

Carol Hobert, '98  
Elmo James, '98  
Robert Stephens, '98

Mickey Dowd, '99

Tommy Munro, '99

At the August 5, 2020 meeting, the many accomplishments made during those early years will be acknowledged. While other interests and circumstances can make it difficult to maintain involvement in the program, several of the Master Gardeners contributed volunteer hours faithfully for ten years or more and will receive special recognition.

The list of Master Gardeners was compiled from available records. If anyone is aware of someone they believe earned certification during those years but is not listed, please provide the writer with that information.

M. Boykin, 8/10

## **Seasonal Calendar - August**

### **FIRST WEEK**

Water figs deeply now as they begin to ripen. Harvest every morning, before the birds can do their damage.

The soil in outdoor clay pots dries out quickly. Poke holes in it with a pencil to make sure water saturates the soil when you tend your plants.

The best way to control snakes is to remove their habitat. Move log piles, leaf piles and rock piles to the edge of your yard, away from the house.

Prune tropical hibiscus plants you plan to bring indoors. Reduce them to a size that will fit in front of your sunniest window in December.

Remove faded crape myrtle blooms and dry seed clusters now. With a little water and fertilizer, you may get more blooms in September.

### **SECOND WEEK**

Collect seeds from hosta, iris and blackberry lily to save for planting next spring.

To prevent ants from coming indoors, spread insecticide granules in a band 24 inches wide around the foundation of your house. Use ant bait traps near entrance doors.

Bermuda or zoysia grass encroaching in your fescue lawn? Spray it with glyphosate (Roundup) now and again in September before you plant fescue this fall.

If you had tremendous numbers of Japanese beetles, you might get some control next year by poisoning the grubs. Now is the best time to do it; remember to water heavily after the insecticide application.

Fertilize roses with 1 tablespoon of 10-10-10 per foot of height now to stimulate some new growth. As the weather cools, you'll get roses for the fall.

## **THIRD WEEK**

Look on the ground around your blackberry and raspberry plants. The canes snaking across the ground should be tied back on their wire arbor.

How long has it been since your lawnmower blade was sharpened? It should be done once each summer to avoid shredding the grass instead of cutting it cleanly.

Cut back faded annual flowers by half, then water and lightly fertilize with liquid 20-20-20 or equivalent. A second season of blooms will begin to appear in two weeks.

Water big trees. Apply at least 15 gallons per inch of trunk thickness each week.

Plant fall blooming bulbs like colchicum, fall crocus and sternbergia.

## **FOURTH WEEK**

Watch for the red or yellow, spider-like flowers of spider lily, also called surprise lily - because the foliage is nowhere to be seen when it blooms.

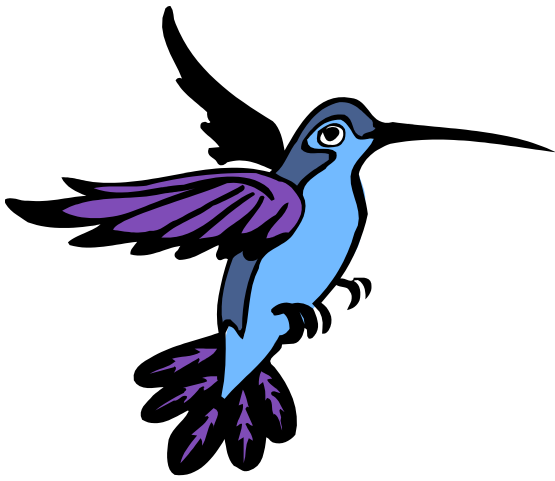
Make a slug trap from a small board raised an inch off the ground by small stones. Check it at noon and scrape the slimy crawlers into a bucket of soapy water

Wrap cheesecloth around sunflower heads to keep the birds away. The head is ready to harvest when the back has turned from green to brown.

Pull English ivy out of your trees. The leaves act like a sail in a thunderstorm - you don't want that tree to navigate onto your roof!

It's easy to see the big webs of fall webworm in your trees. If you can reach it with a stick, wrap and destroy the webbing to expose worms to the elements.

Used by permission from Walter Reeves, [www.walterreeves.com](http://www.walterreeves.com)



Hummingbirds will be the topic at the Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>  
Douglas County Master Gardener Meeting.

Gail Woody, a most energetic and enthusiastic speaker is a Carroll County Master Gardener. She is an ISA certified arborist, a member of the Little Tallapoosa Garden Club and an officer of the West Georgia Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

Gail's passion is growing native plants and trees, which attract so many birds and butterflies to her garden. She says that about a hundred hummers visit her garden each year.



## The Recipe Corner

### **Strawberry Pie**

#### Crust:

23 Ritz Crackers, crushed

1 cup pecans, chopped

3 egg whites

1 tsp. vanilla

1 cup sugar

Beat egg whites until stiff. Slowly add sugar; fold in other ingredients. Press into a well-greased pan and bake at 350 for 30 minutes: cool. Crust can be made a couple of days ahead and refrigerated.

#### Filling:

1 cup whipping cream, whipped

2 large cartons fresh strawberries, sliced and sweetened to taste.

Mix whipped cream and strawberries and pour over crust; chill. Best served first day as whipping cream does not keep well.

Sherry Beggs made this Strawberry Pie for our July meeting and it disappeared fast. Several of you were asking about the recipe so we copied it from page 242 of our cookbook (also submitted in the cookbook by Sherry).

## PHOTO CORNER



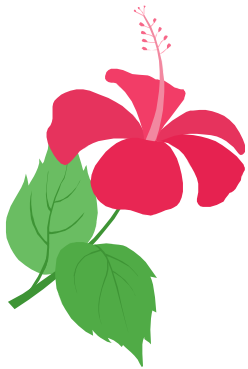
Peggy Barron is shown here accepting a plaque for 'Yard of the Month Hall of Fame'. The Barrons won three times; in 2001, 2005, and 2007.



Betty and Earl Cosgrove at a flagpole dedication for the 4-Hers of Paulding County. We donated and installed the flagpole with flag at the Paulding County Extension Office in Dallas, GA on Flag Day, June 15th.



**President:** Marjorie Stansel 770-949-0946  
**Vice President:** Sherry Beggs 678-715-9301  
**Recording Secretary:** Elaine Davis 770- 949-5963  
**Treasurer:** Betsy Simon 770-942-3424  
**Newsletter:** Judy Cole 770-489-0567  
**Web site:** Fred Finch  
**Web Site liaison:** Mellie Boykin 770 -942-6871  
**Yard of the Month:** James Kirkwood 770-942-1663  
**Douglas County Extension Office:** 770-920-7224  
Douglas County Court House



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

**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: [colerj@att.net](mailto:colerj@att.net)

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?

[www.dcdirt.org](http://www.dcdirt.org)