



Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Volume 13, Issue 3

DCMGA Plant Sale May 9, 2010

I think we need to call this letter: "Ramblings from the President". In the course of a month's time, I work on a number of different projects, and my mind has to move from one topic to the other very quickly, so excuse the rambling!

Earlier this month, we were asked by Kevin Livingston to give a hand to Mark Price in potting some plants for the courthouse for a competition the courthouse had entered. While that type of project isn't one we do in the ordinary course of business, I thought it important to accommodate Mark. I went with Mark to Home Depot, and we selected a number of plants with low-light requirements and moderate water needs. Leon Ballentine and I spent a couple of hours potting the plants, and our efforts were appreciated. The courthouse looks nicer for the contribution.

I also had another "first" this month. I was asked by Susan Culpepper, the County Coordinator, to make a presentation to a group of extension personnel. The presentation was informational--an overview of the projects of the Douglas County Master Gardeners; the Junior Master Gardeners, and the classes taken by Master Naturalists. I had never made such a presentation, nor did I know how to use Powerpoint. I learned! I have Powerpoint on my computer, and I was able to put together a slide show covering all the projects of the Master Gardeners, and all the classes the Master Naturalists had taken in 2009. I think it would be worthwhile for several of us to learn this program and to utilize it in any classes we hold for the public.

Thanks to Mellie Boykin and Randy Cooper for the pruning walk and talk at the Library this week. That was very interesting, and I learned a lot. If any of you are able to help at the Library, some additional pruning needs to be done!

Today was another great day. Thanks to Genie Gordon, I was able to pick up a pallet of Jungle Growth potting soil today (February 19) at Lowe's for \$1.00 per bag. I unloaded these at the greenhouse, and Barry Durham and James Dickinson came to help move the bags inside the greenhouse. Judy and Richard Cole, Genie Gordon and I will pick up the two additional pallets tomorrow.

A very big thanks to Genie Gordon and Judy Cole who have agreed to co-chair our plant sale. Our first gathering will be held February 25 (Thursday) at 10:00 a.m. at the greenhouse.

Several of you have mentioned that you'd like for us to set up a portion of the greenhouse to use for planting seeds for our vegetable garden. We will certainly talk about that next Thursday. I'd also like to hear from those of you who have an opinion or concern about growing our own vegetables from seeds. We're also in need of old mini-blinds to use for plant identification, so please bring those to the greenhouse as early as possible.

See you at the greenhouse!

Marjorie

Next Meeting:

March 4, 2010

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.

March 4, 2010



DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Minutes for February 4, 2010

The meeting was opened by President Marjorie Stansel, who welcomed members and guests. New Master Gardener Interns for 2010 were introduced and welcomed to the meeting. Marjorie mentioned the lovely table decorations and thanked the Hospitality committee for their work.

Marjorie reminded members to sign in, initial the roster next to their names, and to take a ticket for a door prize.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

On behalf of the membership present, Marjorie recognized Pat Flickinger, 2009 President, with a gift and thanked her for her two years of service to the DC Master Association.

MINUTES:

Elaine Davis announced that the minutes for January meeting were posted in this month's *DC Dirt* newsletter and the minutes as published were put to a vote and approved by the membership present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Betsy Simon gave a report of funds in the treasury as follows:

Reporting Period: 1/1/10-1/31/10

Beginning Balance: \$5,474.78

Deposits: \$159.00

Debits: \$132.12

Ending Balance: \$5,501.66

She also thanked those who had already paid dues and reminded those who had not to do so as soon as possible.

COOKBOOK REPORT:

Sherry Beggs reported on the cookbook sales and announced that all cookbooks had been sold and the amount raised came to \$6,013.70 with all associated bills paid in full.

PROJECT REPORTS:

- Judy VanHook raised the question about the Gamel Memorial being moved from its present location to the new jail site and recommended that no annuals be planted and more plants like Knock-Out roses be used.
- Marjorie Stansel stated that her husband had built a Monet bridge for the Bright Star Elementary School garden and that a photo was on the website.
- Pat Flickinger is the Hydrangea Festival representative for our MG club and encouraged members to enter plants, grasses, and shrubs in the Flower Show. Flo Frey added that last year's Flower Show won numerous awards on the national level. Judy VanHook passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers who wanted to work at this year's Hydrangea Festival.
- Mellie Boykin reported that the Children's Garden at the library is dormant now but she is looking forward to rejuvenating spring weather.
- It was announced that Rachel Hendee, who has been working at the Winston Elementary Children's Garden needs help with the garden this year.
- Mellie Boykin reported that the Green Roof garden at Sweetwater Creek Park is the same as the Children's Garden-dormant.
- Marjorie reported that the Jr. Master Gardener's garden produced a good bit of produce, including watermelons that were stolen. The Junior Master Gardeners produced a video that won First Place nationwide this year. The JMG's bought produce and canned peach jam, plumcot jam, sliced plumbots, green beans, salsa, and dill pickles. Four of the JMG's entered these in the National Fair of Georgia and all won ribbons. Six jars of each item were donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Nine of the JMG's completed enough activities with Amanda Dunnell to earn the Golden Ray Series Certificate from Health and Nutrition from the Garden. She also said that the group wants to try hydroponic gardening this year if possible. A pavilion to be located at the garden will be designed and built by an Eagle Scout candidate who is a Junior Master Gardener.
- Paul Beggs reported that work to plant early vegetables will begin soon at the Vegetable garden currently on Mondays from 9:00 until noon. He said that the blueberry bushes still need to be planted and that the garden produced just shy of 4,000 lbs. in 2009.
- A committee met a few weeks ago to discuss the needs at the Nature Trail and clean up and repairs to the site will commence soon. Morris Ellison is working on getting the picnic tables cleaned and has placed a plastic trash can near the picnic tables. Marjorie said that she is meeting with Gina Strickland of the Native Plant Society who will help name and mark the native plants on the trail. In addition, the Master Naturalists are going to use the Trail for two of their classes this year, including the Adopt-a-Stream program. Part of the money in the budget included an amount to buy a kit to perform these services.

Marjorie asked for volunteers to help at the greenhouse and plant sale and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Kathy Henry asked that it be announced that Ga. Senate Bill #164 would allow clear cutting of an area the size of football fields on each side of the billboard and that this would literally destroy trees and vegetation along highways.

The announcement was made that Randy Cooper would be giving a pruning demo at the DC library garden on Feb. 18 at 10:00.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mellie Boykin reported that an audit on the financial records for 2009 was completed on Jan. 15, 2009 and everything was found to be in good order.
 - Marjorie pointed out to the members that copies of the 2010 Budget were on each table for members to review. She added that the Vegetable Garden and Greenhouse allotments were increased and that each project for which the Master Gardeners were responsible or are maintaining should have a sign indicating that it is a project of Master Gardeners. She also indicated that each project should have two people to share the work.
 - Concerning the newsletter, Marjorie asked for a show of hands as to who would want to receive a copy by email or regular mail. Those wanting to receive it by regular mail were asked to speak with her later in the meeting, but it was pointed out that non-email members are currently receiving it from the Extension office by regular mail.
 - It was announced that new committees for 2010 are Membership, Greenhouse/Plant Sale, Hospitality, and Education. Members were asked to please volunteer for committees. The Education Committee will meet to plan opportunities to educate the community about gardening and the Master Gardener program and Mellie Boykin and Janet Deal are on that committee. James Kirkwood indicated that he would assist Genie Gordon on the Membership Committee.
- Earl Cosgrove opened a discussion concerning the door prizes and members voted to have the dollar amount for door prizes be at least \$5.00 but no more than \$15.00.

SPEAKER:

Sherry Beggs introduced the speaker for February-Rick Smith, the Pruning Guru, who presented a very informative program on how to prune ornamental trees and shrubs to enhance their appearance and growth potential. A number of visitors from the community also enjoyed the presentation.



PHOTO to the left Don Shadix talking with our February speaker, Rick Smith, after his presentation on pruning

Georgia Senate Bill 164

Let's Cut Some Trees and Install Some Billboards!

That is exactly what will happen if we fail to call or write to our Georgia legislators.

The Issue

In the last session of the Georgia General assembly, SB 164 passed in the Georgia Senate by a vote of 41 for and 7 opposed. SB 164 allows outdoor advertising companies to obtain permits to remove vegetation from public property along Georgia's 1244 miles of interstate highways. Specifically, the permits will allow clearing of 500 feet of our property for each billboard, and 1000 feet for a double-sided billboard. In order to be permitted for vegetation removal, a new billboard can't be more than 75 feet high, and an existing billboard would have to be lowered to 75 feet. In addition, the outdoor advertising company will be required to plant up to 22 small trees costing up to \$3,000 and contribute \$1000 to the DOT beautification fund.

You can read the bill by going to: <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/> and entering SB164 in the "legislative search" block in the top right corner of the home page. The billboard companies have spent somewhere between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in the last year lobbying our legislators to secure passage of SB164, and they are very close to their goal. SB 164 was barely defeated in the Georgia House of Representatives by a vote of 89 to 74. But then, they passed a motion to reconsider. This means another vote can be taken as soon as the legislature reconvenes in January.

The U.S. Congress is talking about legislation that will cost each of us thousands of dollars (in taxes and increased cost of energy, goods, and services) each year to reduce CO2 emissions. Does it make sense for us to allow our legislature to cut trees that absorb CO2? Did you know an acre of trees absorbs enough CO2 over one year to equal the amount produced by driving a car 26,000 miles? Did you know that one mature tree produces enough oxygen to support two human beings? Surely, we will not cut trees and then turn around and spend more money to rid the atmosphere of CO2 .If losing our natural resources isn't bad enough, how about the impression more billboards will make on visitors to our state? We already have billboards on some stretches of Georgia roads, but can you imagine how trashy Georgia will look with even more of them?

(Continued on next page.)

What You Can Do

Learn how your representatives voted. Go to <http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>, enter SB164 in the “legislative search” block in the top right corner of the page. Then scroll down and click on “senate vote 49” or “house vote 409”.

If you don't know who your representatives are, it is easy to find out at. Click on “Find Your Legislator” at the bottom of the Georgia General Assembly home page. All you have to do is enter your zip code in one of the several links provided on the “Find your Legislator”.

If you are incensed that our legislature would allow cutting of thousands of trees that *belong to us*, call, email, or write your representatives today. If your representatives voted in favor of this bill, ask them to reconsider when it comes up for vote again. If your representatives voted against this bill, tell them thank you.

After you have contacted your representatives, call or send emails to your friends and neighbors and ask them to do the same. Consider writing a letter to the editor of your local paper or the AJC. We have entrusted our elected leaders with stewardship of our beautiful natural resources. Please hold them accountable.

Legislators do listen when we speak up.

**Information gathered from Georgia Garden Club Memo
Dogwood District Legislation Chair, Mary Ann Bryant
Any questions contact Kathy Henry**



These are pictures from our February meeting:

Flo Frey, decorating committee, and the beautiful decorations with a Valentine theme used at the February meeting

Marjorie Stansel (and the lovely table decorations)

Rick Smith, Sherry Beggs, and Craig McManus (guest and our speaker for October)

24th Annual Southern Gardening Symposium Callaway Gardens

If you've never attended the Annual Southern Gardening Symposium held at Callaway Gardens, you must put it on your calendar for next year. It is a must attend for avid gardeners. This year's event was held January 29-31, 2010 at the Mountain Creek Lodge at Callaway Gardens. Sherry Beggs, Betsy Simon, Michelle Kirk and Janet Deal of Douglas County Master Gardeners attended. Highlights of the weekend were presentations by gardeners from across the south. The market place was open daily and was packed with books, plants, gardening tools and new "gadgets" for the gardener.

Ferns for Shade, Ferns for Sun - George Sanko

Did you know we have a little jewel of a garden right here in Atlanta area. We met George Sanko who has been with Georgia Perimeter College for the past 40 years where he taught Botany, Biology and Plant ID. While at the College he started the College Herbarium which eventually house more than 5,000 species of native plants collected throughout the U.S. In 1990 he started the GPC Botanical Garden which has more than 2,000 native plants, making it one of the largest native plant collections in the Southeastern United States. The garden also houses some 75 rare and endangered plants. In 2003 he developed the Ferns of the Word Garden which has more than 448 taxa of hardy ferns, making it one of the top zone 7 collections in the world. You can find this collection a short drive to Panthersville Rd, Decatur, GA. It just across from the GBI. July thru September the ferns are at their peek. Look for the garden on the website at <http://www.gpc.edu/~decbt/> You will find photos, hours and directions.

Ferns for success are autumn fern, Christmas fern, lady fern, Japanese fern, shaggy shield, north maidenhair, dixie wood and holly fern. Others not as utilized that are outstanding are the following.

Upside Down Fern – *Arachnoides standishii* This fern has 2 ½ foot fronds and a thick top.

Green Cliff Brake Fern – *Pellaea viridis* – Full sun and grown in soil.

Wood Lip Fern – *Cheilanthes tomentosa* – Grows in clumps on rock

Hairy Lip Fern – *Cheilanthes lanosa* – Grows on granite and is evergreen

Buchtein's Lip Fern – *Cheilanthes buchteinii* – "Easy to Grow"

Other highlights of the weekend were presentations by a variety of gardeners from the southeast. Of course, every gardener loves to spend the winter days, looking through catalogues and gardening books. Here are a few new books written by some of the speakers that you might enjoy.

Proven Plants-Southern Gardens by Erica Glasener

Tropicalismo! By Pam Baggett

Easy Container Combos: Vegetables & Flowers by Pamela Crawford

Easy Gardens for the South by Pamela Crawford

Easy Container Gardens by Pamela Crawford

Put the annual Southern Garden Symposium on your calendar for next January 2011!



DC Master Gardener Interns

There are twelve individuals from Douglas County currently enrolled in the '2010 West Metro Georgia Master Gardener Program'. A total of 23 classes which began January 26, and continue thru April 15, are being taught and include topics covering almost every aspect of gardening. Those completing the program are required to volunteer 50 hours of service in one or more of the many projects of the local Douglas County extension service. Master Gardeners work within the community to promote and teach environmentally sound, research-based gardening practices to the citizens of Douglas County under the guidelines of the UGA Extension and the Georgia State Master Gardener program.

Front row: Tatia Stevens, Mary Teague, and Connie Hewitt.

Second row: Jim and Brenda Wildt, Melodie Walker, and Denine Rogers.

Top row: Valerie Carey, Jayne Belk (husband Donald not pictured), Mary Yount, and Bobbi Mauldin

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

President: Marjorie Stansel

Vice President: Sherry Beggs

Recording Secretary: Elaine Davis 770 949-5963

Treasurer: Betsy Simon

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

GMGA Mission Statement:



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



Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who met at the greenhouse both Friday and Saturday to unload approximately three pallets of 'Jungle Growth'. It's that time of year to begin preparations for the plant sale so please start thinking about plants from your gardens (or from your friends or neighbors gardens) that you will be able to dig and divide. As always, we are in need of 'one gallon' pots so bring those to the greenhouse as soon as possible. And we could use white mini-blinds which we cut into 4-6 inch pieces to use as identification markers in the pots.

We will have our first organizational meeting at the greenhouse this Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. We plan to do an inventory of supplies and we will begin compiling a list of those other items that we will need. Please plan to be there if you can. Time permitting, we will do a clean-up both inside and out.