

DOUGLAS COUNTY DIRT

DOUGLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Letter from the President

Spring has sprung, as have many of our muscles. Work is going full-force in the Vegetable Garden. Blue birds are building their nests in our two Blue bird houses. We have planted one new apple tree and plan to plant another one (this one in memory of Ralph Driskell of the Farm Bureau). We are making plans to have a Boy Scout build a new compost bin for us (saving us for the other gardening tasks). We have moved the herbs and have created a new bed in their spot already. Soon, we will empty the existing compost bin and have an abundance of good soil for the garden. Genie has scheduled the corrections department to haul some mulch up the hill (since many of us who work in the garden are “over the hill”). What a relief!

The Greenhouse is more than half-filled with plants, and new additions arrive weekly. Be sure to bring your surplus as soon as they appear in your garden. We want to add a couple of outside beds to house some plants to grow for future years, but that may take place after the plant sale. Thanks to all of you who have been showing up to help, and we never turn anyone away!

The Nature Trail Workday is Saturday, April 9, and we need all of you to put this date on your calendar. Thankfully, the old concrete picnic tables have been moved. We have asked some scouts to build a couple of wooden tables to replace those, and we will place these tables closer to the trail head. We have also asked a scout to propose building a back entrance to our park. Many folks at the courthouse indicated they had problems navigating our main entrance. The back entrance would involve a small bridge over the gully on Dorris Road (near the Transportation area), and the concept has been approved by the necessary authorities. Judy and Richard Cole are looking for some cooking help for our work day. We plan to continue to beat down the privet. We need to clean the trails. One of our new interns (Larry Cohran) will work on marking our trail with GPS. Kevin and Randy will lead some folks who want to plant some new maple trees where we have taken our privet previously. Lots to do!

Several of us will meet with the new interns at the Ag Center the morning of April 7, and this year Carroll County is providing the food and will bill us for our portion. This works better for us than past years when we were required to bring in food for our own interns.

Plaques for Ken Flickinger and John Cardell have been installed. New signs are now in at Bright Star (thanks to my husband who built new bases for them).

If you haven't logged into www.dcdirt.org and signed the petition for Kevin Livingston, please take time to do that (and ask your friends).

Until April 7,

Marjorie Stansel

**Next Meeting:
April 7th, 2011**

**6:30 for pot-luck
Dinner**

**7:00 meeting
begins.**

**St Julian Episcopal
Church
5400 Stewart Mill
Road
Douglasville, GA**

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Minutes
March 3, 2011

WELCOME

President Marjorie Stansel opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance. Visitors were welcomed and introduced. New Interns were welcomed and recognized. Interns present were Marty Mahoney, Larry Cohran, Linda Nunez, Catherine Pate, and Sandra Fisher.

MINUTES

The minutes as published in the DC Dirt newsletter for February 2011 were approved by the membership in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following treasurer report was submitted by Earl Cosgrove, Treasurer

- Reporting Period: February 2011
- Beginning Balance: \$ 7,654.32
- Deposits:
 - Dues, 31 Members, 10 Associates \$ 435.00
 - Cook Book Funds \$ 5,571.38
 - Gloves \$ 30.00
- TOTAL Deposits \$ 6,036.38

- Debits: \$ 670.74
- Ending Balance on 2/28/11 \$12,027.07

NEW BUSINESS

• **Plaques in Memory of Ken Flickinger and Ken Cardell**

Two plaques were shared with the group in memory of Ken Flickinger and John Cardell. Marjorie presented plaque for Ken Flickinger to Pat Flickinger. Pat will place the plaque by the tree MG donated in Ken's memory. Marjorie will place the plaque in memory of John Cardell.

• **Presentation to DCMG from Friends of Sweetwater**

Marjorie recognized Pheribie Prescott from Friends of Sweetwater Creek State Park. Pheribie recognized the work of Mellie Boykin, and other Master Gardeners for the work on the Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitors Center Green roof. A plaque was presented to DCMG. Marjorie recommended that the plaque be shared with Mellie for the DCMG group. A check was presented to the Douglas County Master Gardeners in the amount of \$500 as appreciation from the Friends of Sweetwater.

• **Greenhouse update**

Earl Cosgrove shared with the group an update on securing gravel for the greenhouse drive. Genie Gordon and Earl visited LaFarge Gravel, Bankhead Highway, Douglasville about donating two loads of gravel for this project. Mike Astin from LaFarge Gravel agreed to donate the gravel and have gravel spread. Earl indicated that the board had approved \$25 gift certificates to be given to the drivers as a token of appreciation. In addition, Earl reported that Mr. Astin had approximately \$15,000 for a beautification project at LaFarge Gravel. Earl will coordinate DCMG to assist with this project.

Marjorie thanked Paul Beggs and Judy and Richard Cole for their assistance with the greenhouse well. The well developed a putrid odor and the volunteers treated the well to correct the problem. Marjorie has sent a water sample to UGA to be tested. People should NOT drink the well water.

- **Dorsett Shoals Elementary School Potential Project**

Marjorie reported that Denine Rogers has obtained a grant to install a fruit and vegetable garden at Dorsett Shoals Elementary School. Marjorie called for volunteers to assist with this project. Michelle Kirk volunteered.

- **Nature Trail Workday April 9**

Marjorie reported that the Nature Trail workday would be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011. Volunteers will be needed for this project.

Door Prizes

A drawing was held for the March door prize. Doug Connell was the winner. Marjorie recognized Doug for his hard work at the green house and vegetable garden.

Speaker

Sherry Beggs introduced the speaker Carol Hight. Ms. Hight's presentation was on Hellebores.

Sherry reminded the group of the April 12, 2011 trip to Georgia Perimeter College to see the Trillium Garden. People that wish to carpool should meet at the Lee Road Park n Ride at 9:00 a.m. on April 12th. Lunch will be at the Watershed Restaurant in Decatur, GA

The speaker for April DCMG Meeting will be Geri Laufer, and her presentation will be on Growing and Using Herbs.

Meeting was adjourned by Marjorie Stansel, President

Submitted by: Janet P. Deal, Secretary

APRIL SPEAKER



Gerri Laufer will be guest speaker at the April 7th meeting of the Douglas County Master Gardeners.

She is a horticulturist, a garden writer and a consultant advising the plant industry on a wide range of problems and activities. She is a public relations consultant and counts among her clients the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Greenleaf Nursery Company.

She launched Garden DebutR for Greenleaf, a website dedicated to the introduction and marketing of new and improved plant varieties for a large group of participating growers and plant breeders. She serves as Senior Garden Writer, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster for the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Gerri is an Adjunct Professor at the Gwinnett Technical Institute where she designed curricula for seven courses in the Environmental Horticulture Department.

The recipient of many awards and honors in the gardening and horticulture community, Mrs. Laufer is a motivational speaker who is sure to delight.

Seasonal Calendar – April

FIRST WEEK

- Divide over-wintered baskets of Boston fern into four sections. Plant new hanging baskets using two sections of fern in each.
- Green grass in a Bermuda lawn is probably *Poa annua* ([annual](#) bluegrass). You can try digging it out but, better yet, make a mental note to put out weed preventer next September.
- Plant dahlias, elephant ear, gladiolus and caladiums now.
- [Prepare](#) spots where you intend to sod by first killing all weeds present. Use glyphosate (Roundup) or glufosinate (Finale).
- Examine the backside of euonymus and holly leaves for the white crust that signifies scale insects. Thoroughly spray leaves with [horticultural oil](#).

SECOND WEEK

- It is safe to plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant in your garden now that the soil is warm.
- Remove withered flowers from florist's azaleas you receive for Easter to prolong their blooming.
- Move houseplants outdoors gradually. Never place them in full sunshine; filtered shade is best.
- It's never the wrong time to [lime](#) your lawn. Forty pounds per 1000 square feet is approximately enough but a [soil test](#) can tell you exactly what you need.
- Spray azaleas with insecticidal soap if you have had azalea lace bug problems in the past.

THIRD WEEK

- Remove guy wires from your fall-planted trees. Trees that move with the wind grow stronger than those supported for more than a few months.
- Plant Easter lilies outdoors after removing their faded blooms.
- [Mulch](#) tomatoes immediately after planting to prevent early blight fungus from splashing from the soil onto the leaves.
- "Flowering Annuals for Georgia Gardens" is a free booklet available at your local Extension Service office. Call 1-800-ASKUGA-1 [begin_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) 1-800-ASKUGA-1 [end_of_the_skype_highlighting](#) to get local office phone numbers.
- Water houseplants more frequently with the onset of more hours of sunshine and new green leaves. Begin monthly feedings with houseplant fertilizer.

FOURTH WEEK

- Plant the seeds of annual flowers such as marigold, cosmos, zinnia and celosia. Mix lots of soil conditioner in [beds](#) to help them be drought tolerant.
 - Hang garden chimes on a tree branch so the wind keeps them constantly tinkling.
 - Plant corn, bean and pea seeds now. Use a soaker hose to water vegetable rows – you'll prevent disease and weeds plus save water.
 - Sharpen or replace your mower blade now that lawn grass has begun growing rapidly. Check the mowing height on a flat surface.
 - Look for aphids clustered at the tips of fast-growing crape myrtle branches. Blast them off with a water hose and give a ground-dwelling spider a nice lunch.
- Used by permission from Walter Reeves—www.walterreeves.com

Observations from the CAC Butterfly Garden

Hellebores and Daphne o'dora are in bloom at the Cultural Arts Center garden. Spring reminds me that we have many things for which to be thankful and among those I count are Ama-Kanasta's, Paula McClung; DCMG's, Kathy Henry, Randy Cooper, Sharon Morton, and Betty Jo Ridgeway; together with Mike Brantley, Douglas County's horticulturist extraordinaire, who met as the CAC Butterfly Garden & Grounds 5 Year Plan Advisory Committee.

The object of the meeting was to identify clear and precise horticultural goals for the CAC. The committees suggestions, coupled with action plans and timelines, will serve as a blueprint to the many organizations that help to nurture the CAC landscape. Working from the same page will enable us to move forward in a cohesive direction.

Along those same lines, does spring fever not only have you raking back the leaves of your garden, but also the clothes in your closet? Please consider attending the Ama-Kanasta Fashion Show & Luncheon at Sunset Hills Country Club in Carrollton on April 13 @ 11:30. Tickets are \$25 and available at the CAC. Proceeds will benefit the CAC Butterfly Garden and scholarships for horticulture students. Looks like we have 5 DCMG's in attendance. Let's try to fill a table of 10. If you're interested in carpooling let me know. Carrollton's own Steve Penley has donated an original painting for a silent auction which is on display at the CAC until the luncheon.

Opportunities - Weekly workdays at the CAC Garden have moved from Wednesdays to Mondays at 9:00A. Rise and Shine! We work about 1.5 hours. Many thanks to Sharon Morton and Joelle Balcom for their hard work. Current to do list is raking off some of this year's oak leaves and spreading shredded leaves in their place. And, there is ALWAYS ivy to pull. Let me know if you are interested in Saturday workdays. Yet to come, 2 major workdays for the CAC grounds; Tuesday, May 31 just prior to the Hydrangea Festival Garden Tour, and another TBD for an Autumnal cleanup.

Thanking you for your support,

Mary Yount
CAC Garden Committee



Many thanks to Morris Ellison with the 'Parks and Recreation Department' for bringing equipment last week to move those two mountains of mulch around the raised beds. Looks great!

Carol Hight presented an interesting, informative and humorous program for March and her topic was 'Hellebores'. We now appreciate and love this plant even more. Shown with her are Rachel Hendee and son Justin





What better place to be during a major thunderstorm than inside the greenhouse (which does not leak) during the second week of March.

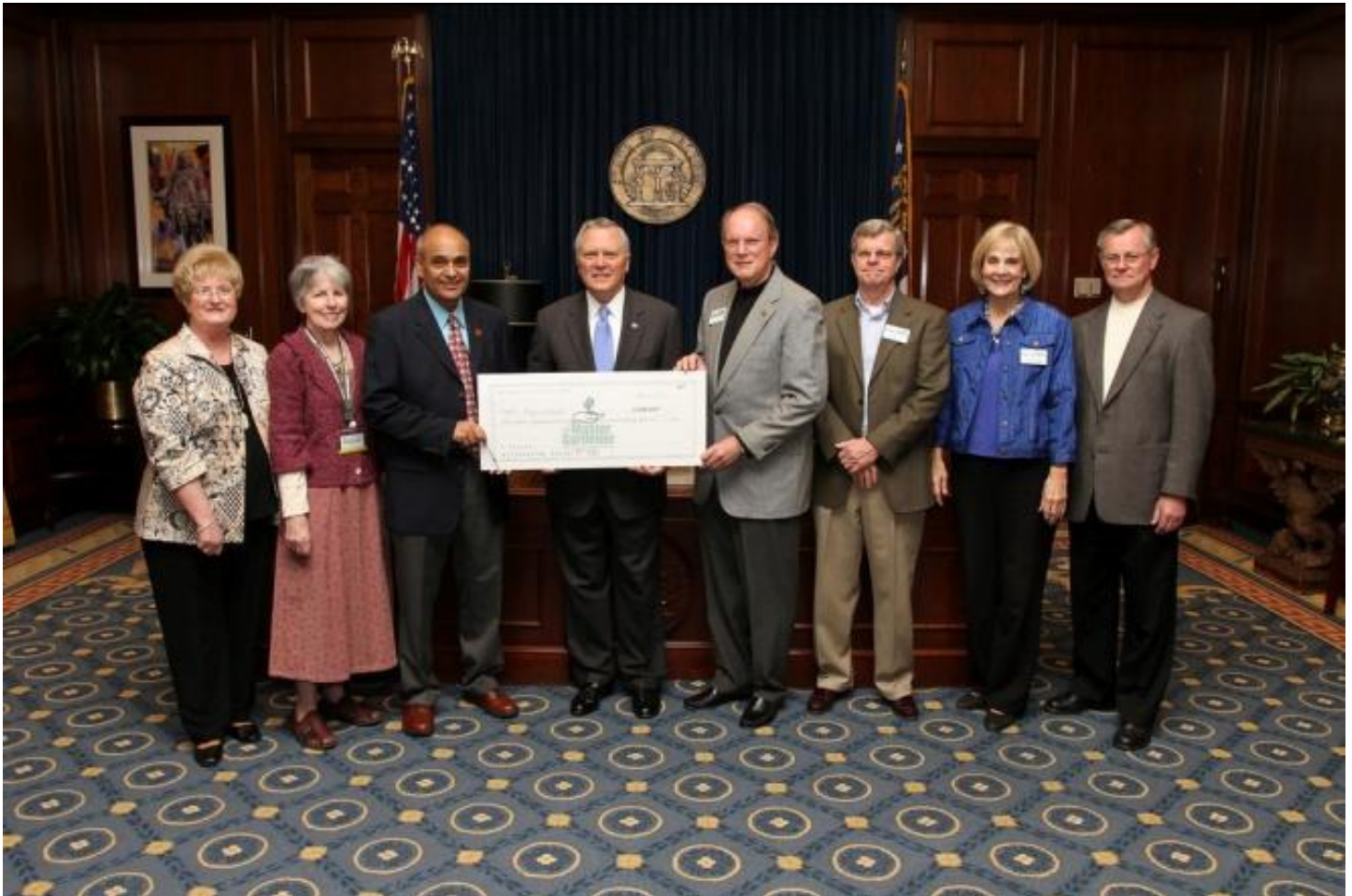
Pictured are Barry Durham, Bobbi Mauldin, Joelle Balcom, Marilyn Parker, Peggy Barron, Judy Cole, Sherry Beggs, Mary Yount, Sharon Morton, and Sandra Fisher. Several others dropped off plants and joined us for awhile



Aidan Abraham came to the vegetable garden with his grandfather Paul Beggs and learned how to 'hoe the rows' as well as how to plant Irish potatoes. With him are Vet Hunt and Melodie Walker.

Much is happening 'outside' at the greenhouse this year. Notice the gravel road we have now (three loads) and the landscape cleanup which is ongoing. We are cleaning outside beds and surrounding areas and outlining the beds with rocks. Much of the brush has been removed and we have started planting shrubs, trees and flowers in some of these areas.





On March 1, Douglas County Master Gardeners Paul and Sherry Beggs (far right in above photo) met with Governor Nathan Deal, and W. H. Smith, President of the Georgia Master Gardener Association. Governor Deal proclaimed March 19 "Master Gardener Day" in Georgia. In 2010, Douglas County Master Gardeners donated more than 3,500 pounds of vegetables to four local charities.

President: Marjorie Stansel 770-949-0946
Vice President: Sherry Beggs 678-715-9301
Recording Secretary: Janet Deal 770-489-7551
Treasurer: Earl Cosgrove 678-363-5366
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

DUES are due on January 1:
\$10.00 Master Gardeners;
\$15 Associates;
\$15 couples.

Complete and enclose this form with your check payable to Douglas County Master Gardener (DCMG) and mail to:

**Earl Cosgrove
419 McGarity Drive
Temple, GA 30179**

DCMG Member _____ **Year Grad** _____

DCMG Spouse/Associate _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telphone _____ **Email** _____