

Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County (Georgia) Master Gardener Association

January 2015

Letter from the President

What a great time we had at our Christmas party! The Olive Tree was a great place to celebrate the 35th year of the Master Gardener program in Georgia. The gifts went round and round, but I think everyone was pleased with their final gift.

We've also had a busy year this year with our many projects. In case some of you don't know about all our projects, here's a list of approved projects:

- Agriculture Support Program – Alexander High School (Syble Cowart)
- Articles – Write articles for newspapers and magazines (Marjorie Stansel)
- Administration – Service as an officer or volunteer with local DCMGA
- Approved out of County Support – Working an extension or Master Gardener booth at Georgia Green or Southern Nursery Association (Marjorie Stansel)
- Children's Garden at Selman Avenue Library (Connie Christenson and Debbie Haddle)
- Contests – separate entries for Heaviest Potato, Yard of the Month, Great Tomato and Vegetable Garden (James Kirkwood)
- Community Educational Booth – We are in the process of putting together a new Master Gardener Booth and a schedule of events for 2015 (Marilynn Parker)
- Cultural Arts Center Butterfly Garden (Mary Yount)
- Douglas County Home Visits (Kevin Livingston)
- Extension Approved Educational Presentation (Kevin Livingston)
- Extension Office Entrance, Pollinator Garden (Kevin Livingston)
- Extension Office Help/Support Desk (Kevin Livingston)
- Greenhouse/Plant Sale (Marjorie Stansel, Genie Gordon)
- Informational Newsletter (Judy Cole, Genie Gordon)
- Informational Website (Genie Gordon)
- Junior Master Gardeners, Deer Lick Park (Kevin Livingston)
- Lithia Springs Elementary School (Linda & Ramon Nunez)
- Nature Trail behind Courthouse (Marjorie Stansel)
- Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival, June 6-7, 2015 (Pat Flickinger, Marjorie Stansel)
- Sweetwater Creek State Park (Mellie Boykin)
- Vegetable Garden (Paul Beggs/Marjorie Stansel)
- Water Wonders Booth (Kevin Livingston)

We need for each of you to volunteer for one or more of the above projects. Sign-up sheets will be on the tables at our January meeting.

I will send out a separate e-mail about the budget since we've added a few new categories.
Continued on next page....



January 8th – DCMGA Meeting

6:30 P.M. Pot-luck

7:00 P.M. Business Meeting

No Speaker

St. Julian's Episcopal Church, 5400 Stewart Mill Road, Douglasville, GA

www.dcdirt.org

Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. – Plant A Row vegetable garden workdays; behind Selman Drive Library; the garden is beautiful and we need YOU! Contact Paul Beggs or Marjorie Stansel. Come to work, or **bring your produce donation**—it will be delivered to one of 5 non-profits.

President's letter continued

We will have a drawing at our next meeting of all Master Gardeners who volunteered 100+ hours in 2014. I look forward to seeing the list, and many thanks in advance to all those who made Douglas County Master Gardeners more visible in our community. If you have not yet paid your dues, please get those to Peggy Mulcare or Linda Nunez soon.

See you at the meeting!

Marjorie Stansel



Observations from the CAC BFG

The garden is fast asleep and we are dreaming of spring plantings
and all that we learned from last year's work.

The wall is silence, the grass is sleep,
Tall trees of peace their vigil keep,
And the Fairy of Dreams with moth-wings furled

Plays soft on her flute to the drowsy world.

~Ida Rentoul Outhwaite

Wishing each and everyone as very happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Yount

On behalf CAC BFG Garden Committee:

Kathy Henry, Peggy Mulcare, and Sharon Morton

RECIPE CORNER



PUMPKIN CAKE

1 PK. Duncan Hines Yellow Cake Mix (reserve 1 cup)
1 stick of softened butter
1 egg
Beat together by hand and pat into a greased and floured 9 X 13 Pan

1 Large can Libby's Pumpkin Pie Mix
3 eggs
½ cup Brown Sugar
2/3 cup evaporated Milk
Beat together by hand and pour into pan

1 cup reserved Cake Mix
½ cup granulated Sugar
¼ cup softened butter
2/3 cup chopped nuts
Mix by hand and sprinkle on top of layers. Gently press toppings.

Bake at 350 degrees for 55 – 60 minutes.

Recipe shared by Betty Cosgrove.

2015 Officers

President: Marjorie Stansel 4615@bellsouth.net
Vice President: Sherry Beggs sherrybeggs@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Elaine Davis peachelaine53@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Linda Nunez hartsleap@att.net

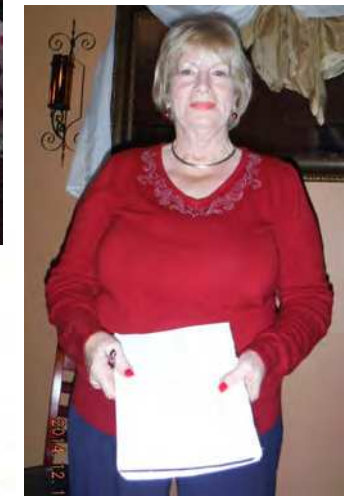
Other contact persons:

Newsletter: Judy Cole colerj@att.net
Communications: Genie Gordon Geniego@bellsouth.net
Webmaster: Fred Finch fred@fredricfinch.com









Seasonal Calendar – January

FIRST WEEK:

- Prepare beds for bare-root roses that will soon arrive in nurseries. Dig an area four feet wide and twelve inches deep for each plant, adding plenty of soil conditioner to the soil. see Rose Buying and Planting
- Water poinsettias only as needed – when the top inch of the soil becomes dry to the touch. Keep them in bright light but cool temperatures. Do not fertilize until March. see Poinsettia Care After Winter
- Now is a great time to drain and replace the oil in your mower and to have the blade sharpened or to replace it completely. see How to Maintain Your Mower
- It is easy to see the limb structure of trees now. Tie ribbon around the ones you think should be removed then step back for another look before cutting them off. see Tree Pruning
- If the ground is dry, till the soil in your vegetable garden. You'll eliminate lots of insects, weeds and nematodes.

SECOND WEEK:

- Small, leafless shrubs and trees can be transplanted easily now. Wait for a warm day when the ground is not frozen. see Shrub Transplanting 1-2-3
- Chop unwanted kudzu, English ivy and bamboo to the ground. Follow with weedkiller on the leaves in April. see Bamboo Control
- Prune clumps of pampas grass down to 12 inches tall. Use a gloved hand to pull out dead stems in the clump. see Pampas Grass Care

- Water pansies and ornamental kale after a hard freeze so they can re-hydrate their wilted leaves. Remember to regularly water window boxes and other outside plant containers.
- Give houseplants a half turn every month so they don't lean too much in one direction.

THIRD WEEK:

- Check indoor plants for insects like spider mites, scale, and mealybugs. Remember to spray insecticidal soap or indoor houseplant insecticide on the *undersides* of leaves to get good pest control. see Spider Mites on Indoor Citrus
- Amaryllis flower stems and their faded blooms can be removed now. Treat it like a houseplant for the rest of the winter then plant outdoors in a sunny bed in May. see Amaryllis Outdoors
- Use calcium chloride or potassium chloride instead of salt on icy sidewalks. Too much rock salt (sodium chloride) can burn nearby plant roots.
- If temperatures drop below 20 degrees after a week-long warm spell, cover gardenias and camellias nightly with black plastic anchored to the ground on all sides. see Shrubs – Protection in Winter
- Write or call for your yearly supply of garden plant and seed catalogs. Buy an issue of a gardening magazine for addresses and phone numbers. see Recommended Gardening Magazines

FOURTH WEEK:

- Plant pansies and English daisies in a sunny bed when the weather is mild. Use plants in three inch or larger pots to make an immediate impact in your landscape.
 - Look out for poison ivy when working outdoors. Even the leafless vine and branches can cause a powerful skin reaction if touched.
 - Watch for brown edges on houseplant foliage. Mist the leaves twice each day and move them from drafty areas. see Brown Houseplant Leaves
 - Check on the tender bulbs (canna, caladium, dahlia) you stored indoors for the winter. If they are beginning to shrink, mist each one with warm water. see Storing Elephant Ear
 - Prune apple and pear trees and grape vines. see Fruit Tree Care
- Used by permission from Walter Reeves—www.walterreeves.com

Douglas County Master Gardeners

DUES are due on January 1:

**Master Gardener Intern..... \$10.00; Certified Master Gardener.....\$10.00; Associates.....\$15.00;
Affiliate Members.....\$10.00; Family Membership (one vote) ...\$15.00; Spousal Membership (two votes)
.....\$15.00; Honorary Members.....\$10.00 ; Associate Family Membership.....\$20.00**

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

**Linda Nunez
7311 Cantrell Rd
Douglasville, GA 30135**

DCMG Member _____ Year Grad _____

DCMG Spouse/Associate _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____