



March 2006 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



Douglas County Dirt



Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 3

News from the President of DCMGA

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

The Southeastern Flower Show has come and gone. For those that made it downtown to it, it was a nice show.

The opening of the greenhouse went well. We had a good size group and lots of plants to divide and pot. I want to thank those individuals who brought the plants. During the next couple of months, please be looking in your yard or anyplace else where you can find good plants for re-sale. We still have two months, but as you know from experience, it will be here in no time.

Our guest speaker's topic for March will be propagation, multiplication and division. We will skip addition and subtraction. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Next Meeting:

March 2, 2006

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.

March 2, 2006



Yours Truly,

Judy



Remember: your membership application and check for this year's dues are now being accepted. **Application is on page 3.**

March To Do List



March is a great month to plant trees, shrubs, and hardy perennials if the soil is dry enough. Do the squeeze test--Take a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it forms a hard ball, then it is too wet. If it crumbles easily, it's probably just right for planting.

Try to plant at least one tree this spring and, speaking of trees, remember to fertilize them when they start to leaf out. Be sure to spread the fertilizer out as far as the tree canopy extends and slightly beyond.

Camellias and hellebores are good companion plants for shady areas. Butterfly bush and lantana are a good combo in the sun. Now is the time to prune shrubs that have become overgrown or leggy. Pruning now will give them time to put out new growth before hot weather sets in. When Penny McHenry said to prune hydrangeas before March, she meant it! Tardivas and other hydrangeas that bloom on new wood, that is.

My son gave me a nice rose bush for Mother's Day last year and I'm looking forward to seeing how it will do this summer. I'm new at growing roses, so here's what I've read from Walter Reeves that needs to be done in March: For newly planted roses, topdress with one cup each of bonemeal and cottonseed meal. Scratch the meal into the soil and water with one gallon of water in which 1/4 cup Epsom salts has been dissolved. For established roses, topdress with one cup each of bonemeal and cottonseed meal, plus 1/2 cup bloodmeal and water lightly. Established perennials love to be topdressed with cow manure or compost.

Cut back ornamental grasses to about 6-12 inches high just before new growth appears. Plant beet, cauliflower, mustard, radish, and turnip seeds outside and tomato seeds indoors.

Prune peach and plum trees when you are fairly sure that severe weather won't visit again. To prevent brown rot, spray a fungicide labeled for fruit trees when all the blooms are open.

And don't forget: divide your perennials and get them ready for the plant sale!

Your Sister in Soil--Elaine

DNC Annual Hard to Find Plant Sale

Each year, Dunwoody Nature Center's annual "Hard-to-Find Plant Sale" offers a selection of native plants that are not usually found in your average nursery. This year the theme is "Plant Natives for the Birds." The selection highlights a number of native species with high wildlife value. Many of these same species have been planted along the stream at DNC as part of the stream restoration project. It's an exciting selection this year!

You can find more information on the website - <http://www.dunwoodynature.org>
<<http://www.dunwoodynature.org>> .

Order and pay for your plants by March 10 and pick them up at the DNC on March 24 & 25.



Just for Laughs

It's a relief to know the truth after all the conflicting medical studies:

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausage and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

DMGA Spring Plant Sale

DeKalb Master Gardener Association, the independent organization of Master Gardeners in DeKalb, will have their annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the Northlake Mall Parking Lot. They're offering amazing and wonderful things just right for your Spring garden. For sale will be annuals, perennials, garden art, small shrubs, and rare plants. Gardening Advice will also be available. For information contact Bert Weaver at 707-934-7838.

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Membership Application

January 1, 20056- December 31, 2006

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ GA Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Type of Membership (Check one):	Certified Master Gardener: Year Training completed:	Fee: \$10
	Friends of DCMG:	Fee: \$ 15
	Couples get a price break	Minimum Donation \$15

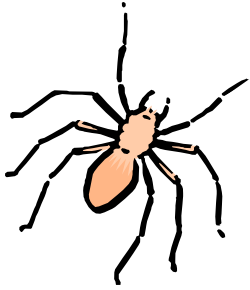
Make Checks Payable to: DCMG

Mail to:

Jim Sims, DCMGA Treasurer

**3076 Beaver Drive
Douglasville, GA 30134**

Daddy Longlegs: Deadly or Not?



One of the most persistent urban myths is that daddy longlegs have some of the deadliest venom in the world, but we are fortunate that their fangs are too weak to penetrate human skin. Is this true?

There are actually two common creatures called daddy longlegs. Both have extremely long slender legs. True daddy longlegs, sometimes called harvestmen, are actually in the order Opiliones, which makes them not true spiders, although closely related. These do not produce silk webs, and they completely lack fangs and venom glands.

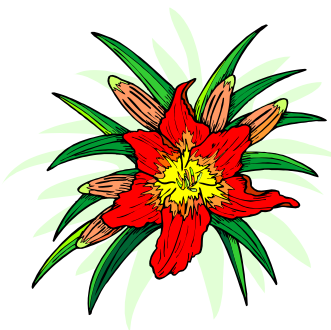
But just to confuse things, there are a group of spiders in the family Pholcidae that people call daddy longlegs, and they look almost identical to opilionids. Pholcids make webs out of silk and their venom is deadly to small prey like insects. But no person has ever been bitten by one because they have jaws that are unable to penetrate human skin. We just don't know how potent their venom is, and anyone claiming the venom is especially dangerous is just repeating one of those common urban myths they have heard.

Submitted by Nelson Cruz, MG



DC MG Plant Sale May PLANT SALE INFO:

We are starting to think about plants from our yards that can be divided and potted up for the plant sale. We will be able to keep them in the greenhouse. Please take walks around your yards and watch for what you think you would like to donate. Even if it is just one of a type of plant! We would like to get them out of the ground while they are just starting to peek out from the soil so they will have a chance to get used to a pot and not be leggy by sale time. We will be having a potting session at some point in order to have uniformity of pot size for types of plants. At this point, don't worry about the type of pot, just get them potted over the next month. Plants to consider: shrubs, hostas, ferns, some herbs, perennials, perennials, perennials, (daisys, purple cone flower, artemesia, cannas, interesting day lily, like Stella d'Oro, bee balm, water plants, etc) vines, house plants.



Please BE SURE of the type and color of plants and label them correctly. If you are not sure, we will work on that! Here is a list of plants **WE DO NOT NEED**: Mexican petunia, ajuga, black eyed susan, thyme, creeping jenny, ivy, oregano, chocolate mint, bronze fennel, mums, lambs ear, Elephant ears.

If you are not sure if we need what you have or if you have any extra pots, please call Rachel or Barbara!

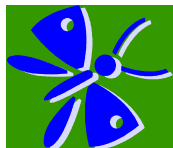
Douglas County Master Gardener Association

President: Judy Cole 770-489-0567
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Archivist: Rachel Hendee 770-577-3493
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?



GMGA Mission Statement:

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



Georgia Iris Society

The Georgia Iris Society will meet on Saturday, March 11, 10 AM, at Pike Nursery Corporate Office, 4020 Steve Reynolds Blvd, Norcross. The group will be discussing plans for the Iris Show to be held April 290 at Gwinnett Tech Horticulture Building in Lawrenceville. There is no charge for the meeting. Visitors and interested members are most welcome. For more information call Mary Bolton at 770-491-8253.

Piccadilly Farm "Hellebore Days"

See hundred of clumps of Lenten Roses (Helleborus x hybridus) in full bloom. Lenten roses and many companion plants will be for sale. Piccadilly Farm is located in Bishop, Georgia (south of Athens, near Watkinsville) For information, hours of operation, and directions call 706-769-6516.

Continuing Projects & Works Days

Greenhouse Work ~ All on hold at the present
Butterfly Garden at Deerlick Park ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
Children's Garden at DC Library ~ Generally Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Nature Trail Work Day ~ Generally Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
Vegetable Garden Work Days ~ Definitely On hold at the present

www.dcdirt.org

Putting Knowledge to Work