

Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 10, Issue 9

Total Watering Ban in Douglas County~ began 7/1/07

News from the President of DCMGA

Hello fellow gardeners,

It is with a sense of disappointment that I write this article. The lack of rain and the constant heat has taken a toll on my plants. I'm worrying about their future. I'm also concerned about the future of our master gardener group.

I am aware that some people are unhappy about some of the procedures and policies currently in place. Our club has always been such a caring and considerate group with very competent leadership. We have always been able to discuss any problems and come to a solution that is agreeable to all.

We will not have a speaker at our next meeting so that we can address the issues and concerns of our group. Please come to the meeting not only with your concerns, but also with an open mind and ideas of how we can solve our problems and make our group a strong and a truly valuable asset to our community. Together we can do it!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our September 6th meeting.

Let's all go play in the Dirt!

Sharon Morton

Next Meeting:

**September 6,
2007**

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.**

**September 6,
2007**



DC Master Gardeners Minutes of the August 2, 2007, Meeting

President Sharon Morton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Treasurer Judy Cole gave our current bank balance...\$9,938.00. Only expenses have been Randy Cooper for miscellaneous.

Mr. Kirkwood gave an update on the vegetable garden contest. He is concerned that the same gardens win the contest every year. Asked for suggestions for how to make it fairer. Richard Cole suggested making a separate group... only of people who have won several times. This would free up the contest to others. Also reminded people of the "Great tomato contest" going on right now.

James Dickinson gave a vegetable garden update, and reminded people that we need workers every Wednesday and Saturday morning at 9:00. Current pounds donated is 743! Great job to those who have worked very hard on the vegetable garden this year!

Randy Cooper said the Cultural Arts center is doing well in spite of the drought. Butterfly weed is doing very well, weeds even better!

Michelle Kirk told about a visit to Linda Scupenor's home to see her rose garden. Also told us that a grant had been applied for from the Georgia Master gardeners for the rose garden at Woodie Fite Senior Center. Rose garden group plans to visit other gardens.

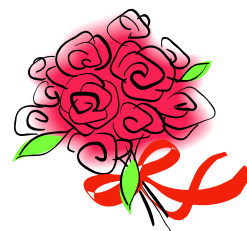
Sharon mentioned that she had been given a list of grievances from Randy Cooper that morning regarding the greenhouse and several other concerns. She informed the club that the board would be meeting this month to discuss these issues. Also, I assured the club that the greenhouse is not deserted. We are working to purchase more shade cloth, and have added 2 more louvers to help keep it more comfortable. When weather conditions improve we will be back in there for the fall. Also, we are not doing any raised beds right now because there is a water shortage and we would need people to go water at least every other day.

Certificates were awarded to Pat Kirkland and Sherry Beggs for completing their 50 hours. Congratulations to both of them!

Wayne Seabolt from Natural Growth Inc. spoke to us along with friends from the Atlanta Zoo about improving soil conditions. They brought all attending bags of "Pachy Poo" which is composted manure from the three African Elephants at the zoo! People interested in purchasing this for their own yards can do so by calling Wayne at 770-834-4472

Door prizes were given out. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jan Thomas, Vice Pres.



New Variegated Plant Introductions

At the recent SNA Forum, there were many plants on display that will soon be available at the retail nurseries (I hope).

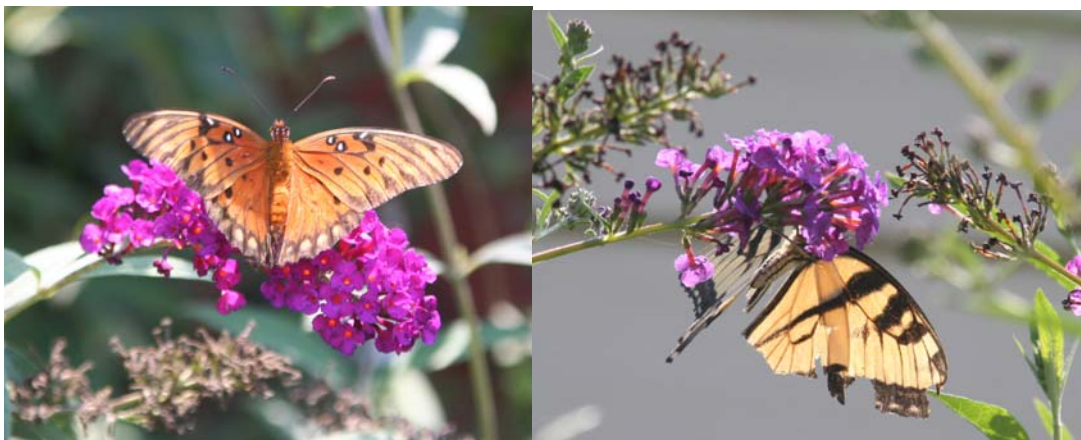
Variegated plants have always attracted plant fanciers. Here are some of the variegated plants that caught my attention this year.

Callicarpa 'Duet' - a variegated form of *Callicarpa dichotomata* var. *albafructus*, the white fruited beauty berry. The foliage is green with a very distinct yellow margin, reaching 6 feet tall and 6 1/2 feet wide in about 4 years. This plant is an U.S. National Arboretum plant introduction.

Forsythia x Kumson - this is a form of Korean forsythia, with green leaves and white leaf veins. From a distance this plant looks ordinary, but up close, the variegated leaves give this plant a very elegant and attractive appearance. This forsythia grows to be about 4 to 6 feet tall and about as wide.

Variegated asiatic jasmine- *Trachelospermum asiaticum 'Tricolor'* and *'Snow-N-Summer'*. These 2 variegated forms of the asiatic jasmine were very striking. Though being slightly different, their appearance was basically the same, new foliage coming out pink, then turning white, then developing into a nice marbled dark green and white leaf. These plants are groundcovers, growing about 6" tall and 36" wide. For the best appearance these plants should be placed where they get enough light to maintain the variegation but protected from the hot afternoon sun which may scald the leaves.

I look forward to seeing these plants available and planted out in our landscapes and gardens. Submitted by Randy Cooper



Butterflies on a Butterfly Bush [*Buddleia davidii*]

Photograph from the Cardell garden

Botanical Name: *Buddleia davidii*, *Buddleia x weyeriana*

Type: Woody Perennial

Soil Preference: This plant tolerates some drought and wetness. Suitable soil is well-drained, loamy sandy or clay with a pH preference of acidic to alkaline.

Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

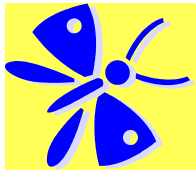
President: Sharon Morton 770-949-4797
Vice President: Jan Thomas 770-489-9276
Treasurer: Judy Cole 770-489-0567
Newsletter: Melanie Cardell 770-920-1278
Web site: Fred Finch
Secretary & Archivist: Rachel Hendee 770-577-3493
Yard of the Month: James Kirkwood 770-942-1663
Douglas County Extension Office: 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.

Hello All!

Please call Randy with questions on the Cultural Arts Center 770-920-2193, Jan for the greenhouse 770-489-9276 and James for the veggie garden at 770-489-4680 or MaryJane at 770-944-2780 Thanks everyone! Jan

Calendar Creation

We are in the process of creating a yearly calendar of events that DC gardeners would want to participate in or attend. For example, May is our plant sale month. The first Thursday of each month is our regular pot luck dinner and meeting.

If you know of other specific events that need to be on our calendar, please email them to Melanie Cardell at MJ_Cardell@yahoo.com.



August Meeting Program: Thursday, September 6, 2007

Putting Knowledge to Work