



June 2009 "The Dirt Worth Printing"



# Douglas County Dirt

Douglas County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



Volume 12, Issue 6

## Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival June 5, 6, & 7, 2009: 3 Days!

Hello All!

Guess what, summer is really coming with all its sunshine, bugs, and other problems. After an interesting spring, we now get to go on vacations and hang around pools! Or work in our gardens!

The plant sale was a big success with the club earning over \$4000.00. A big THANK YOU goes to Jan, Sharon and Rachel for their leadership. Keep in mind next year's sale and what you can contribute.

The vegetable garden itself looks wonderful and is producing thanks to those few who are very diligent. (Paul, Sherry, Mary Jane, James, Vet and others) But the area that surrounds the garden needs A LOT of TLC. Be thinking of a time when you could help out the flowerbeds up there. A day of cleaning up and weeding is in the future. We will need to drag along weed whackers, clippers, bottles of water, gloves etc. and make a morning of fun!

The BIG push right now is the Penny McHenry Hydrangea Festival. Right now eight (8) Master Gardeners have committed to providing an entry for the flower show. Now, I know there are more of you that have something in your garden that hasn't been eaten by deer or other varmints and could be entered. We have our own entry number so be sure to contact me for your own personal number.

June 4<sup>th</sup> is the next Master Gardener meeting and it's for the BIRDS says Mellie. YALL COME!

Hope to see you at the June 4th meeting.

Pat

### Next Meeting:

**June 4, 2009**

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.**

**June 4, 2009**

# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

## May 7, 2009, Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by President Pat Flickinger, welcoming members, friends and guest speaker Sara Henderson.

Minutes of the April meeting, which appeared in the DC Dirt, was approved by a show of hands.

James Kirkwood distributed brochures on the Vegetable Garden of the Year Contest and the Largest Tomato Contest. The vegetable garden applications need to be in by the last weekend of May. Members were asked to participate in the garden evaluations and the date for that will be announced later.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Elaine Davis reported a beginning balance of \$2,926.99, deposits of \$171.00 and expenses of \$455.01, with an ending balance of \$2,642.98.

### **Project Updates:**

**Vegetable Garden** – Mary Jane Huie reported that all the vegetables were planted and weeding and mulching are ongoing activities. Vet mentioned that 20 pounds of vegetables have been donated.

**Nature Trail** – Pat said the workday is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, and that volunteers were needed. Janet Deal is organizing a lunch to follow. Pat will be cooking the hotdogs, as she did last year. Members are asked to contact Janet if they can help serve lunch.

**Plant Sale** – Pat Flickinger noted that people arrived by 7:30am, hoping to get good selections and make their plant purchases. The plant sale went well, with about \$4,000 profit after expenses. Appreciation was expressed by Pat for the leadership role undertaken by Jan Thomas, Rachel Hendee and Sharon Morton to make the plant sale possible and for the dedication by many others in the contributing plants and helping in various activities to prepare for the plant sale.

**Hydrangea Festival** – Pat urged members to participate in the festival by entering horticulture, a design table, or volunteering to help during the festival. Pat made available brochures, booklets, and entry forms for the horticulture competition.

Flo Frey announced that the festival needs entries to design a 'Table Scape'.

**Cookbook** – Flo stated that the cookbook is full steam ahead. She said she has quite a bank of recipes already but would like to be able to include recipes from each member if possible.

Pat asked anyone with bills related to projects to see Elaine.

**Speakers** – Mellie Boykin noted that, with the help of Genie Gordon, speakers have been booked through the remainder of the 2009 year. A listing of those speakers will be made available soon on the DCMG website, [dcdirt.org](http://dcdirt.org), and in the newsletter. She announced that the program for the June 4, 2009, meeting will be 'Birds in the Garden' presented by Frank and Patty Hiller of the Atlanta Audubon Society. Frank and Patty are very knowledgeable speakers on birding and also happen to be Master Gardeners.

### **Program:**

"Hydrangeas 101", was presented by hydrangea expert Sara Henderson. Sara is the owner of GardenMakers, a garden consultation business. She is four-time past President of the Georgia Perennial Plant Association, founding member and twice past President of the American Hydrangea Society, and has a number of other illustrious affiliations.

Sara presented a very interesting program which included a slide show of various species and varieties of hydrangeas. Of the many varieties discussed, 'Merritt's' Supreme' hydrangea seemed to be a favorite. After the program, a number of questions from the audience were answered. Sara's email address, [gardenmakers@att.net](mailto:gardenmakers@att.net), was included on her handout and she emphasized that she will respond to emailed requests for additional information on hydrangeas.

Although an emergency situation interrupted the meeting, Sara completed her presentation and the meeting wrapped up about 9:30pm.

Door prizes were distributed and the meeting adjourned by Pat.

Minutes submitted in the absence of Kathy Henry by Mellie Boykin.

## Frank and Patty Hiller Bios

Frank and Patty Hiller are originally from the Northeast. Frank had a 26 year career in the US Army as a medical department operations officer and instructor. After numerous overseas and US assignments, Frank and Patty were transferred from Texas to Georgia in 1993 where Frank subsequently retired at Fort McPherson. Subsequently, Frank had a second career with Electronic Data Systems and retired from EDS in December, 2007.

Frank and Patty are both Master Gardeners and Master Birders with the Atlanta Audubon Society. They are both "certifiers" with the Audubon Society for the "Backyard Wildlife Habitat" program. Both of these volunteer organizations keep them quite busy. Last year, Patty presented a four part "Introduction to Birds" at the Fayette County Senior Services. Working with the Clayton County Extension Office, they recently gave three one-hour beginner birding presentations to various Clayton County Senior Centers and, in March, a special presentation to the Peachtree City Garden Club.

Frank and Patty are proud to be associated with The Shepherd Spine Center in Atlanta. Thru the Audubon Society, they took on a volunteer opportunity at the Center's Horticulture Expo several years ago and have been a part of it ever since. They were recently invited to host six patients on an overnight outing to Phinizy Swamp in Augusta which was part of the Shepherd Center's Marcus Community Bridge Program.



# Douglas County Master Gardener Association

www.dcdirt.org

**President:** Pat Flickinger 770-920-0988  
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**Web Site liaison:** Mellie Boykin 770 942-6871  
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**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 will be June 4, 2009.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**June 4th**—The topic for our June meeting will be ‘Attracting More Birds to Your Yard or Garden’. Our guest speakers will be Frank and Patty Hiller, both Clayton County Master Gardeners. See their biographies on page 3 of this issue.

## June 5,6,7<sup>th</sup> --- Hydrangea Festival.

We will need people to man the Master Gardener booth on Saturday, June 7, that we share with the County Extension Office.

## GMGA Mission Statement:



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