

Annual DCGO MEETING

(Board approved 11/7/2023)

MEETING DATE: October 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 PM by Cyndi McGill.

Reflection and recognition on the past year:

DCGO volunteers, dedicated and demonstrated a strong commitment of their time and energy which resulted in amazing results this past year.

- Community Volunteers lead by Richard Osterholtz and Art Simon meet year-round several days a week in the greenhouse volunteering their time and talents. This group is instrumental in growing and preparing hundreds of plants for the annual sale.
- Pantry bed Farmers headed by Ann Bone meet weekly. Diligently the volunteers plan their plots throughout the growing seasons, watering, weeding, and rotating their crops with all their produce being donated to Malachi's Storehouse.
- Harvest Team meet every Wednesday morning during summer months, and every other week during cool season. Picking, weighing, and packaging crops that are then delivered to Malachi's. YTD 2028 pounds of food has been harvested. Faye Roan will be stepping in as the new Harvest Team Chair for 2024.
- Master Gardeners Team hosts monthly classes available to the public. They are also responsible for the care of the pollinator and shade gardens.

Thank you to our Sponsors:

- City of Dunwoody Parks and Recreation.
 - Highlights from the past year include installation of pavements, drains, central walkway and installing power to the garden. Parks and Rec have been instrumental with providing ongoing help in the greenhouse complex and the garden whenever called upon.
- Dunwoody Country Club donated perennial plants for spring plant sale.
- Food Well Alliance provides groups of volunteers throughout the year to complete needed projects in the garden and greenhouse.
- Ace Hardware in Dunwoody donated their unsold seeds at the end of each season.

Implemented in 2023

- Better garden experience.
 - Soil 3 has been made available for use by all members in their garden beds.
 - Proactive organic pest control.
- New electronic online renewal process.
- Volunteer teams geared to personal preferences.

Year in Review

- Monthly MG classes were always well attended.
- 2023 MLK Day of Service

- Volunteers spent the day rebuilding and replanting charity beds. Several volunteers opted to join the garden following their day of service.
- DCGO volunteers led by Eleanor Geddes hosted students participating in the Path to Shine program. The elementary students were introduced to the garden where they took part in planting seeds and harvesting crops from the beds.
- Snap Dragon's Garden Partnership with Dunwoody.
- Coffee Gathering for members in the garden was launched in April proved to be a great opportunity to meet and get to know fellow members.
- Steve Englander Memorial Service was celebrated in the garden. The day was established to remember a wonderful garden volunteer with the dedication of a standing raised bed in this honor.
- Spring Plant sale this year produced our most successful sale to date. Coordinated by Cyndi McGill, with the help of diligent greenhouse volunteers growing plants throughout the year, individuals donating plants as well as working the event.
- Wine and Cheese event
- The Sunflower Project in partnership with the Dunwoody Woman's Club established the new program this summer. Members of the DCGO planted 600 sunflowers from seed and the plants were then distributed to groups for entrances of neighborhoods, parks, commercial real estate properties, and the Dunwoody Library.

- Girls Scouts in the Garden was a workshop led by Ann Bone. The scouts were instructed on planting spider plants that were then used for Mother Day gifts.
- Volunteers from the Wesley UMC, Bloomington, Illinois. This awesome group of youth volunteers led by Jeff Leech spent three hours working on task throughout the garden.
- DCGO was selected to host Becky Griffin and TEDx Atlanta to complete the statewide Great Georgia Pollinator Census which took place in the garden.
- Richard Osterholtz hosted, Boy Scouts Pack 434. The scouts were led through a tour and introduction to the behind the scenes work that occurs in the greenhouse.
- Wedding in the garden. Fellow Harvest team members Deb and Judith exchanged vows in the garden surrounded by family, and friends.
- Continued and careful stewardship of resources and budgeting by the board. The main source of income raised is through the annual plant sale. Dues account for 1/3 of the income which currently do not cover the expenses to maintain the garden. Expenses account for providing soil for the beds, mowing the areas around the garden, maintenance, and repair of the raised beds.

Founding of the DCGO:

The garden was established 14 years ago with initial dues starting at \$60. Individuals provided their own soil and lumbar for the bed construction. Throughout the years the members have received added benefits such as, supply of Soil3, pest control, weekly mowing

of the garden, and repair of the beds including their individual irrigation systems.

Planned for 2024

- Addition of new garden signage.
- Increased volunteer activities.
- Continue with Soil3 partnership.
- Continue and expand organic pest control.
- 2024 Membership dues increase to \$80, due 12/31/2023.
- Defining benefits for our Affiliate members

2023-2024 proposed DCGO Board

The following slate of nominees were presented for election.

Cyndi McGill - Chairperson

Dave Siegler - VP

Ann Bone - Secretary

John Krieck - Treasurer

Eleanor Geddes - Membership Chairperson

Jeff Leach - Garden Manager

Richard Osterholtz - Greenhouse Manager

Kame Awokoya - Community Outreach Chairperson

Ann Wright - Social Director

Motion to approve slate as presented by Ann Bone, second by Richard Osterholtz, unanimously carried by attending members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sheila Wilder upon her departure from the board, for her years of service to the DCGO community.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Wright

Recording Secretary