

Draft

DCGO Annual Meeting

Meeting Date: October 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:37pm by Cyndi McGill.

Cyndi began by welcoming everyone to Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard's annual meeting. The State of the Garden is in excellent condition. Our garden has provided sustainable food as well as being financially sustainable.

Year in Review and the roles various members have played throughout the year.

Greenhouse Volunteers are led by Art Simon and Richard Osterholtz. Volunteers were instrumental in the propagation of plants from seeds and cuttings, care of the plants, to the final stage or repotting for the use in successful use in the plant sales. Plants are also produced for use in charity beds as well as plants donated to various other charities.

Pantry Bed Farmers agree to a one-year commitment. Each volunteer is responsible for planting and maintaining their individual beds. The vegetables and herbs grown in the beds are the source of the food donated to Malachi's Storehouse.

Harvest Team members meet every Wednesday in the garden to harvest fruits, vegetables, and herbs. They then move onto the Barn to sort, package, and weigh the items. Ending with arranging the delivery of the food to Malachi.

Master Gardener Team are responsible for the tending of the Orchard area of the garden. All apples, pears and blueberries are grown and harvested for donation.

The group maintains the pollinator, butterfly, and shade gardens.

Ann Bone serves as Vice Chair and is instrumental with the updating of the website and notifications to the membership.

Ann Wright serves as the Secretary responsible for recording minutes from the Board of Directors meetings.

Art Simon and Richard Osterholz in their roles as Greenhouse Managers are responsible for the germination of thousands of seedlings used in the plant sales, pantry beds and to share food bank gardens.

Bill Grossman has served in the role as Treasurer for the past ten years. He has overseen all budgeting, financial reporting and record keeping for DCGO. Bill will be stepping down in his role this year but will remain active in the garden. Thank you for being a valuable member of the Board and serving for all these years.

Eleanor Geddes serves as the Membership Director. She is responsible for managing the community beds waitlist and following up routinely with members. Currently all 96 beds in the garden are rented.

Jeff Leech serves as the Garden Manager and oversees all maintenance in the garden. Jeff's duties include but are not limited to overseeing the numerous volunteer groups working in the garden, repairing irrigation in the individual beds, repair, and construction of beds, and arranging soil delivery for members to use throughout the garden.

Kame Awokoya serves in the role of Community Outreach working closely with the City of Dunwoody and other community partners to notify the public of all events ongoing in the garden.

Shelia Wilder and Sandra DuBois co-chaired the Social Committee. Organizing and planning the special events including the refreshments for the plant sales, greenhouse volunteers and monthly Master Gardeners talks in the Garden, to name a few. Their two main events of the year are the potluck dinners that coincide with the Spring plant sale and the Annual State of the Garden.

Rod Pittman founding member sadly passed away recently. He was instrumental in finding a location for families to practice organic gardening in the Dunwoody area. As a professional farmer, Rod started the garden with 60 raised beds, installing irrigation systems and setting up the greenhouses in 2009.

Rod will be missed and leaves behind many grateful friends and recipients of his organic gardening expertise throughout the years.

Community engagement has a long list of events that occurred throughout the year:

- Plant sales serve as an enormous service to our community providing plants to members as well as the neighboring communities.
- Snap Dragon Garden- was held in the garden March-April 15, 2022. The DCGO partnered with the Spruill Center of Arts to produce Instagram exhibits throughout the garden. Art exhibits were donated for use by local artist Kathy Walton.
- MLK Day of Service is a great event that brought members of the community together in February 2022. Restoration of picnic tables and general cleanup were completed in the garden.
- Ford Well Alliance and Cox Communication volunteers worked with Jeff Leech to rebuild and repair garden beds. All materials required were donated by the organizations and included the donation of two new picnic tables.
- Dunwoody Country Club donated plants to be repotted and grown for upcoming plant sales.
- Inside Global volunteers washed and cleaned mounds of plastic garden pots.
- Spalding Garden Club donated plants that were used at the Spring Plant Sale.
- Ace Hardware has been a friend to the garden donating flower and vegetable seeds.

- Malachi Storehouse is a food pantry that is offered by St. Patrick's Episcopal Church every Wednesday morning. Donations this year are on track to produce 1500 pounds of fresh organic produce. Last year's donation finished at 2000 pounds.
- Organic plants are supplied to the church for use in their own beds.
- Master Gardener Monthly talks provide an educational service to the Dunwoody Community

DCGO gives back to the community in the form of plant donations to the following organizations.

Malachi Storehouse

Stone Mountain Community Garden

Blackburn

Pals

Captain Planet

Garden Isaiah

Veteran groups

The Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard was selected as the organization recipient of the Sustainability Hero Award for actively promoting organic techniques throughout the garden.

What's Ahead...

Better Gardening Experience.

- Soil 3 partnership- soil will be provided for use by garden members to use in their pantry beds
- Proactive organic pest control with updated communication on availability for use in beds.
- Improved gate access and security.

Better Gardening Community

- Private Facebook group, called DCGO Members, will allow members to ask for advice and share expertise.
- Gardening classes

- Improved member engagement with volunteer opportunities geared to personal preferences and talents.

Bylaw Revisions

Starting with the 2023 Garden year, we will require that each member complete a Membership Agreement annually. The agreement will be available as part of the renewal process online as well as in the paper form. Changes include acknowledgement of garden rules and selection of a volunteer team:

- Greenhouse
- Plant Sales
- Main Garden (plot maintenance, irrigation, carpentry)
- Food Panty Farming
- Harvest Team
- Special Events

Minor: general language cleanup, deletion of language no longer in use. Copies of Bylaws with the proposed revision were provided to meeting attendees.

Cyndi McGill presented the revisions for discussion. Motion was made by Ann Bone to accept the revised bylaws, second by Art Simon.

The following slate of candidates for the Dunwoody Community Garden and Orchard Board of Directors were presented for consideration.

1. Chair: Cyndi McGill
2. Vice-Chair (Interim): Ann Bone
3. Greenhouse Manager: Richard Osterholtz
4. Garden Manager: Jeff Leech
5. Membership Chair: Eleanor Geddes
6. Treasurer: John Kriek
7. Secretary: Ann Wright
8. Community Outreach: Kame Awokoya
9. Social Chairs: Sheila Wilder, Ann Wright

Cyndi presented the slate, motion was made by Sheila Wilder to accept the BOD and second by Art Simon.

Art Simon AKA Gardener Emeritus was presented with an appreciation gift for his 13 years of service. He has been an invaluable member of the Board and garden. Thank you dedicated years of service.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Wright