

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 4

July 27, 2007

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box  
if no longer  
subject to  
Section 16.  
Form 4 or  
Form 5  
obligations  
may continue.  
*See Instruction*  
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF  
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
LYONS DANIEL M

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
[DRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5900 LAKE ELLENOR  
DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
07/25/2007

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_X\_ Officer (give title \_\_\_\_ Other (specify  
below) below)  
SVP Human Resources

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original  
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
Applicable Line)  
\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting  
Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                         |                                                             |                                         | (A)<br>or<br>(D)<br>Code V Amount (D) Price                                |                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                   |
| Common<br>Stock                       |                                         |                                                             |                                         |                                                                            | 73,998                                                                                                             | D                                                                    |                                                                   |
| Common<br>Stock                       |                                         |                                                             |                                         |                                                                            | 351.21 <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                                              | I                                                                    | Savings<br>Plan                                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

# Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 4

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stock<br>Option<br>(Right to<br>Buy)                | \$ 42.68                                                           | 07/25/2007                              |                                                             | A                                    | 20,587                                                                                                       | 07/25/2010 <sup>(2)</sup> 07/25/2017                           | Common<br>Stock 20,587                                              |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                         | Relationships                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| LYONS DANIEL M<br>5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE<br>P.O. BOX 593330<br>ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330 | Director 10% Owner Officer Other<br>SVP Human Resources |

## Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for LYONS, DANIEL M., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive,  
P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI) 07/27/2007

\_\_\_\_Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- The number of shares reported is based on a plan statement dated June 30, 2007, and is derived from an undivided interest in a fund
- (1) consisting of both Darden common stock and a small cash position that fluctuates from time to time. The number of shares reported may change based on the size of the cash position at the time of reporting.
- (2) The option vests in two equal annual installments on 7/25/10 and 7/25/11.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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