Master Gardener Association

April 2004



JoAnn

We are starting our busy gardening season, and it is also our busy time for

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association-Tarrant County, Texas

Thoughts from On Master Gardener day we will have our garage sale. Bring lots of pre-priced items to sell and lots of money to purchase those wonderful

things you have just discovered you can't live without.

There is still time to sign up to go to the **MG State Convention** in Corpus Christi on May 6, 7, and 8.

Sarrant County

events.

Remember to check the bulletin board for other gardening news, and if your garden club is doing something special, tack it on our board.

As an affiliate member of the Garden Club Council, MGs can participate in their activities. If you want to enter the Flowercade show (especially the Horticulture Division since we all grow such beautiful flowers) and are not sure how to go about it, call Edith Pewitt or Marion Taylor-Badey.

At next month's meeting we will be putting out a couple of sign-up sheets to move things along more rapidly. We hope to have our directories at the meeting. You will have to sign to receive one.

See you all at the April 1 meeting!

IoAnn

Master Gardener Program

TCMGA has a lot of talented and hard working members and the projects presentations at the March meeting were the proof! THANK YOU to everyone for

your participation.

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee
- 10:00 This APRIL 1 morning session is a GARAGE SALE and SILENT AUCTION (fund raisers). Be sure to price your items to sell (reasonably, cheap) so you won't have to take the things back home!! Come ready to BUY BUY BUY!!!! There will also be caladiums bulbs to order.
- 11:00 Business Meeting and social time.
- 12:00 Barney Lipscomb speaks on DISCOVERING OUR TEXAS BOTANICAL HERITAGE. Barney comes to us from BRIT.

This is all for real Gardners, NO APRIL'S FOOLS!!!!!!

**Ginger Bason** 



The first TCMGA 'Garage Sale' is now only days away! Mark your calendars for April *1st.* The April meeting will feature a members-only (plus interns of course!) garage sale. Please price all items you bring. Items should be garden-related only, such as plants, seeds, pots, tools, and garden art. Items not sold should be taken back home, please!

Silent Auction - Here's your chance to help TCMGA by donating an item to the silent auction being held at the April meeting. Please bring a special item for auction. Popular items are anything garden related, wreaths, bird houses, and gift certificates. Please bring your donation by 9:30 AM to the Silent Auction table. Questions? Call Ginger Bason at 817-838-7321.











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#### Tarrent County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2004

President JoAnn Hahn called the TCMGA meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. March 4, 2004 at the Resource Connection.

A correction was made to the minutes for the February meeting to change the name of the March program to "On The Wing Again". The minutes were approved as corrected. Attendance for the March meeting was 140 (Certified and Interns).

**Treasurer Warren Tingley** provided the financial report, which was approved by the membership. He stated the membership is currently 238 paid certified members. He reported a donation to the Regional Science Fair was made in the amount of \$250 for one Jr. High entrant (composting with earthworms) and one Sr. High entrant (better germination of bluebonnets) as a special category award. He advised the Christmas banquet overage amount had been approved for payment by the membership.

**Don Blanton** has submitted his resignation as Secretary and was thanked by the membership for his services. Parliamentarian **Ben Oefinger** advised that the Executive Board by a majority vote selected **Judy Butler** to fill out the rest of the year as Secretary.

#### Announcements:

- MG Harry Arber transferred from Houston.
- The new membership directory is at the printer and will be available mid-March. These are to be available at the April meeting or can be mailed if a stamped envelope is provided.
- **Dave Wilson** is taking orders for Felco pruning shears for the price of \$31.00 to be paid in advance at the March and April meetings.
- **Ginger Bason** announced the April meeting will consist of a garage sale of garden-related items with revenue to be placed in the general fund. The afternoon speaker will be **Mr. Barney Lipscomb** of BRIT speaking on the history of botany in Texas.
- Members were directed to the postings on the wall dividers for information on upcoming events such as the Master Gardener State Convention in Corpus Christi on May 6, 7 and 8 and other area garden shows and sales.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

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## INTERN SCOOP

Now that classes are over, the 2004 Interns are finishing their test, working in the office and checking out the projects. The project demonstrations at the last Master Gardener meeting were "awesome"! All in one location, with plenty of time to spend talking to each project coordinator about these great volunteer opportunities.

Office training is well under way under the guidance of **Eleanor Tuck**, **LaVonne Nowlin**, **Judy Ratzlaff**, **Becky Armstrong**, **Joy Lease**, **Barbara Finholt**, **Mary Benevides** and all the Certifieds who are helping to get our Interns off to a good start. This is so important since we represent Dotty and everyone at the Texas Cooperative Extension Service!

On February 17<sup>th</sup> the Interns toured the Botanic Gardens to see what the many different areas have to offer. They will be finishing their tour on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with a visit to the Japanese Garden and tree trails. A special thank you to **JoAnn Hahn** and all the docents who helped us on both of the BG tours.

both of the BG tours.

As everyone can probably remember, those first few months after your Intern class are extremely busy - a bit overwhelming but so exciting! Please find an intern at the next meeting and say hello!

#### Intern Advisors



#### HOSPITALITY NOTES from Joyce Quam

The March **MG** table was loaded with wonderful goodies. Thank you to all who brought food! And a huge thank you to **Ben Oefinger** for preparing over 160 hot dogs! We do not need chips for the April 1 meeting because we have an entire case of potato chips left. If you signed up, but did not know what you were bringing: **THINK VEGGIES!!!** 

# What's a Master Gardener to Do?

A great big thank you to Activities & Events committee member **Charlie Shiner** for setting up the March TCMGA Garden Tour. We had great attendance and didn't even lose anyone on the road. Thank you, also, to **Charlie**, **Mary Nell Hubbard**, and **Taylor Stephens-Parker** for letting us tour and learn from their gardens.

The April tour will be held Thursday, April 8. We will meet at 8:45 AM in the Village Park Antique Mall parking lot on HWY 26 North. The parking lot is 4.5 miles north of Hudiburg Chevrolet, which is located at HWY 26 and North Loop 820. Directions/maps to the meeting place will be handed out at the TCMGA meeting April 8. Look for our table at the meeting and pick up your directions. We have set one rain date for the tour - April 22. If it rains both days, the tour will not be held.

Some of you are concerned with the 'secrecy' of the location of the gardens. This is being done strictly to help control traffic in neighborhood situations. We have tried hard to seek out interesting learning experiences for you. Read the article concerning the gardens that will be toured and come on the tour because of your interest in the subject. Be ready to car pool.

The first garden on our April tour features berms, a raspberry bed, blackberry bed, vegetable garden, a French parterre plus perennials and herbs. All this has been developed since the owner became a Master Gardener. This Master Gardner is a first class propagator and will have plants to sale.

The second garden was to become a butterfly garden. As the garden developed, the Master Gardener realized it would qualify as a backyard habitat. Come learn how you, too, can qualify.

The third garden started as a lot full of photinias and Indian hawthorn. The Master Gardener had a lot of removal to do and also solved a drainage problem with a dry creek bed. Due to the amount of shade on the lot, the Master Gardener gardens by leaf color and texture. Xeriscaping is important to this California transplant.

Come tour with us Thursday, April 8 at 8:45 AM. Pre-sign up and pick up your directions at the Activities & Events table at the April 1 TCMGA meeting. Call **Patsy Johnson** 817-292-5358 for answers to your questions.

# **STATE MASTER GARDENER CONVENTION - MAY 6-8, 2004**

The Texas Master Gardener Convention in will be held Corpus Christi this year on May 6 - 8. TCMGA has been invited to share a bus with the Wichita Falls Master Gardeners. The approximate fee will be \$54.00 round trip and the bus will pick us up at a convenient place on Hwy 35W. Please see website http://nueces-co.tamu.edu/ and click on "2004 TX MG Convention" for details - tours, activities, times, etc.

All of the details will be put on our TCMGA website when plans are finalized. If you are interested in reserving a space on the bus, please contact Activity Director, **Patsy Johnson** at 817/292-5358 or pjrdh@sbcglobal.net.



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Ĭ	102	Perennial Shade Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Kim Snyder	817-732-1483
		BRIT Activities	$2^{nd} \& 3^{rd}$ Tues.	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
			$1^{\text{st}}$ Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	121	Composing Demo	$2^{nd}$ Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
	123	Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
			call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
		FW Library at Hulen St.		Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
		TC SW Sub Courthouse	Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
		Veterans Park-Wildscape	1		817-457-4703
		Willow Park DemoGarder		Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
		Henrietta Creek Orchard			817-439-3202
		Teen Challenge	every Wed.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
		Thistle Hill	$3^{rd}$ Wed.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
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		Union Gospel Mission	every Mon.,9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
		Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed., 9a.m.	Lindsey Hannah	817-477-1696
		CEMAP	call chairman	Benita Reese	817-483-5950
		TX Smartscape Demo		Michael Warren	817-531-6765
		School Garden Consultan		Linda Williams	817-907-5668
		School Garden	sign up at MG mtg.		817-907-5668
			Ion & Tues 8:30 am		817-926-2575
	301	Childrens Garden	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Sargent	817-589-0221
		Trial Garden Maintanence	$e1^{s_1}, 3^{s_2} \& 5^{s_1}$ Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
		Trial Garden Data	$2^{nd}$ & $4^{th}$ Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
	324	Weston Gardens	Ongoing as needed	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555

Flowercade: A Stroll Through The Garden

The Garden Club Council of Fort Worth is again hosting their annual **Flowercade**, a standard Flower Show, on April 24 and 25. The theme of the show is "A stroll through the garden" with floral designs interrupting the various gardens within the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. On Saturday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., everyone is invited to attend a free lecture by Phillip Combs entitled "Your Vaseable Garden."

#### Rules to Remember when Preparing Horticulture for Showing

- The exhibitor must have grown all plant specimens.
- Multiple or combination plants must have been in the exhibitors possession for at least 6 weeks.
- To be eligible for the top award, the plant specimen must have a botanical name.
- Exhibitor may have more than one entry per class, if each entry is a different variety, cultivar, etc.

For more information, contact Edith Pewitt or Marion Taylor-Badey.

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## TCMGA May Meeting - May 13

Due to conflicting dates with the state convention, the May TCMGA meeting will be on the second Thursday, May 13th.

### TCMGA Awards Students

TCMGA gave two special awards at the recent Fort Worth Regional Science Fair. One was for a well done project demonstrating the value of compost in Earth Worm development in soil. The other was for a project comparing pre-treatment methods for the best germination of Blue Bonnet seed. We congratulate the two young recipients for their wonderful projects and for the special recognition received by Tarrant County Master Gardeners.

### Rose A Thon - April 17th in Big County

Sponsored by the Taylor County Extension Service, the Rose A Thon will include a variety of speakers from 9 am—5 pm. At 1:30, Dr. Steve George will speak on "How to Grow Roses & Landscaping with Roses". For more information, go to website www.bcmg. tamu.edu.

### **Upcoming Spanish Class**

The next Spanish class is scheduled for April. Those interested should contact Mary Benevides.

#### <u>Vendor Tables in May</u>

There will be Vendor Tables available at the May 13th TCMGA meeting. Tables are available for \$15.00 and are only available to TCMGA members. Contact **Ann Couch** at 817-732-7103 to reserve your space.

#### Texas A&M offers Entomology class - July 12-16

Texas A&M will be presenting an Entomology class July 12-16, 2004. For more information, check the web site: http://insects.tamu. edu/mgtrain/. Eleanor Tuck attended last summer and highly recommends it. She would love to talk to you about it.

## TCMGA Website Password

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#### Newsletter on the TCMGA Website

Each month the TCMGA newsletter, including any names, addresses, and phone numbers, is posted on the TCMGA website. Please contact the Newsletter Committee if you prefer this information not be included on the website.

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Note: Master Gardeners are welcome to submit articles to the newsletter for consideration. All non-regular
features should be submitted to Linda Hardy at hardyjandl@netzero.net.

The newsletter editorial staff reserves the right to edit articles submitted for content, brevity, and correctness.  $\begin{bmatrix} u \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ 

#### Lanceleaf Coreopsis

Some native plants should be part of your landscape simply because they fill in a bare spot in what seems like an instant. Lanceleaf coreopsis is one of these plants. I received a small plantlet from a like-minded native plant lover and within a few months, it was a large, flowering clump in my backyard. Plus, I received abundant rewards for minimal effort, since it produced many flowers the same year I planted it. Lanceleaf coreopsis, or *Coreopsis lanceolata*, is a yellow-flowered composite. Both botanical taxonomists and amateurs alike often refer to yellow-flowered composites as DYC's (darn yellow composites) because yellow seems to be the predominant color of composite flower heads. Surely, you have noticed this, too. As you drive by an open field in late summer, you might notice the ground appearing as a sea of yellow that is made of several species of composite species. So many composites with yellow flowers can make identification difficult. Like its yellow sisters, Lanceleaf coreopsis is a member of the sunflower family, Asteraceae. Members of the genus *Coreopsis* are closely related to *Bidens* or Beggar-ticks.

Lanceleaf coreopsis is a perennial that flowers from April through May. This species of *Coreopsis* naturally occurs in the midwest and southeastern U.S. and is documented as growing naturally in both Dallas and Tarrant counties. The plants can be up to two feet tall. The common name, lanceleaf, belies the leaf shape: long, narrow, sword-shaped. These leaves are usually crowed near the base of the plant and are usually entire or with a few lobes. The flower heads are golden yellow, with yellow bracts surrounding yellow centers. Flower heads occur singly on mostly leafless stalks. It is an infinitely easy plant to establish. Seeds can be planted in the fall or divisions of established plants can be transplanted. A small piece of stem with root will mature into more plants. Lance-leaf coreopsis is drought tolerant and prefers full sun or part shade.

# Spotlight the Native Plant Garden at the Southwest Regional Library

Submitted by Mary Alice Renner

Frequently Master Gardeners are called on to sponsor a project that was initiated by another organization. The Native Plant

Garden, located on the grounds of the Fort Worth Library on Hulen Street, is one of those projects. **Evaline Woodrey**, who was in the first Master Gardener class in 1987 and a charter member of Texas State Master Gardeners in 1988, is a dedicated an involved volunteer. One of her activities is the Native Plant Society of Texas. That organization installed the garden, designed by Jim Leavy, in March of 1997. It was intended for the education of the public, so that they could see and be encouraged and motivated to use native plants in the landscape. This project originated with our organization in March 2000.

The public library provides the opportunity to reach people of different ages, backgrounds and education who are present because they are seeking information. Here they see and experience the garden as a source of environmental and horticultural education. The design presents a circular path with planting on the interior and exterior of the path. There is also a special spot with a bench that provides a place to enjoy the garden. Some plants are labeled and plans are in effect to provide labels for all the plants. A clever feature is a "mailbox" located at the garden entrance. It contains hand- outs with the horticultural and common names of the native plants. Inside the library a large board provides information about the garden plants.

The educational value of this project makes it one that Tarrant County Master Gardeners are pleased to include as an approved

project. Master Gardeners maintain the garden and the bulletin board. On the volunteer day, they also set aside time to learn about the plant of the month. We fulfill our mission as educators at the Native Plant Garden at the Fort Worth Southwest Regional

Library.

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#### **Dotty Woodson to Star** яf "The Fielder Blooms Again" **Annual Festival**

It is with great pleasure that The Fielder House Museum and The Arlington Council of Garden Clubs announce that the Tarrant County Horticulture Extension Agent, **Dotty Woodson**, will present a one time lecture, "Attracting Birds to the Garden", on May 1st of this year beginning at 12:30 PM in The Fielder House Museum. Dotty has graciously agreed to tailor her talk along the theme of this year's festival, "Music in the Garden."

The Fielder House Museum was the first two story brick home to be constructed in Arlington. Built in 1914, the home was the center of a 215 acre farm. In the 1970's the City of Arlington acquired the Fielder House to serve as the museum of Arlington history.

"The Fielder Blooms Again" is the major fund raising activity for the gardens of the Fielder House and all proceeds are directed back into the gardens. As with all festivals, there will be vendors, children's activities, and to enhance this year's theme, musicians will be playing throughout the gardens and house.

The Fielder House Museum is located at 1616 W. Abram Street, Arlington, Texas 76013. The Festival runs from 10:00 AM through 4:00 PM and admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the Festival will be cancelled.

#### Submitted by Dorothy Beard

#### Native Plant Sale at the Wildscape

Veterans Park, Arlington May 1, 2004—9 am—3 pm

Directions: from I-20, north on Green Oaks Blvd. east on Arkansas Lane, south on Spanish Trail, second parking lot entrance is the Wildscape Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Wildscape volunteers propagate all plants and proceeds go to the improvement of the Molly Hollar Wildscape. Some of the plants available are:

Perennials	Ground Covers / Vines
Columbine	Mealy Blue Sage
Flame acanthus	Salvia Coccinea
Four Nerve Daisy	Turks Cap
Purple Coneflower	Gayfeather
Lanceleaf coreopsis	Zexmenia
Black-eyed Susan	Winecup
Violet Ruellia	Coral Berry
Maximillian Sunflower	Passion vine
Mexican Butterfly	Frog fruit
weed	Golden Groundsel
	Horseherb
Grasses	Violets
	Lyre Leaf Sage
Gulf coast Muhly	Snakeherb
Lindheimer's Muhly	
Inland Sea Oats	Trees
Other Grasses	Eastern Red Cedar
Provided by	Roughleaf Dogwood
Bluestem Nursery	
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# **CALADIUM BULBS**

Quantity Quantity

Quantity

It's time to order Caladium Bulbs. Bulbs are #1 size, healthy, and are a great buy for Master Gardeners. Orders may be turned in at our March and April meetings, or mailed, with payments attached, to Ann Couch, 2906 Rivercove Court, Fort Worth, TX, 76116, 817-732-7103. Deadline for ordering by mail is March 30th. Payment must accompany order form.

Postman Joyner (red)

Rosebud (pink)

NAME

Special Orders available on request

Total # of bulbs	
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	Quantity
X.40 each =	\$
	PHONE

Make all checks payable to TCMGA. Bulbs will be delivered at the MAY meeting.

#### WEED CONTROL

The early cold rain in late summer made many winter weeds germinate before homeowners and landscapers had time to apply pre-emergent to keep the annual winter weeds from germinating. Now early warm spring and rain has made the winter weeds grow fast and large. We have received many calls to the office about weed control. Most homeowners want to rush out and apply a weed and feed product thinking the weed control in the produce will take care of the weeds. While most weed and feed products have pre-emergent herbicides in the bag, there are a few that now have a granular post-emergent herbicide in the bag. I have no reports about how well these products work but I just wanted you to be aware of the situation. Most weed and feed products only have pre-emergent herbicides, which do not work on growing weeds. Pre-emergent herbicides keep seeds from germinating or kill the emerging seedling. Post-emergent herbicides are applied to growing weeds. Read the label very thoroughly and apply herbicides very carefully.

I do not recommend weed and feed products because in this area the fertilizer does not need to be applied at the same as a herbicide. Right now the winter weeds are growing very fast and the summer weeds are germinating. Adding a fertilizer to this mix will cause the weeds to grow faster and if the weed control is only a pre-emergent it may help control summer annuals weeds but many of them have already germinated. If the product has a post-emergent it will effect the winter weeds currently growing but not stop the summer annuals germinating. Read the label.

Weed seeds blow into landscapes and birds and animals drop weed seeds. Weed seed is in soil used for landscaping. We carry weed seed on our car tires, boots and lawn equipment. However the weed seeds arrived in your landscape, weed seeds grminate when there is soil contact, moisture, sunlight and the correct temperature. Annual winter weeds germinate in the fall and annual summer weeds germinate in the spring. Perennial weeds grow from their roots left from the previous season.

The first steps to combat weeds in a lawn is mowing, fertilizing and watering to create a thick healthy lawn. Since weed seeds have to make soil contact and receive light to germinate, a thick lawn prevents weed seed making soil contact and receiving light if the seeds do find the way through the tick grass to the soil.

The first step to control weeds in the shrub, flower and garden areas is to add a tick layer of bark mulch. The mulch helps control weeds by preventing sunlight on the seeds and burying the seeds too deep. If weed seed blows into a mulched area and germinates, weed seedlings are easier pulled from mulch than soil. Herbicides (weed killers) are available. When selecting a herbicide, read and follow the directions very carefully. Many homeowners have damaged desirable plants by misapplying herbicides. Two classes of herbicides exist, post-emergent and pre-emergent. Post-emergent herbicides are used to control actively growing weeds. Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent weeds from germinating and growing. There are three categories of herbicides in these two classes: grassy weed killer, broadleaf weed killers and non-select. Grass herbicides kill grass. Broadleaf herbicides kill all plants except grass. Non-select herbicides kill all plants. A fourth post-emergent herbicide for sedges such as nut grass is also available. As you can see, there are many choices. Herbicides are a good tool for controlling weeds if you apply the correct herbicide at the right time using the correct formulation.

First identify the weed as grass, broadleaf or sedge. Then consult your local nurseryman or feed store owner for advise on herbicide selection. Read the label before purchasing the product. Herbicides cannot tell the difference between and weed and a desirable plant. If herbicides are misapplied, you can damage desirable plants.

Post-emergent herbicides are applied to active growing weeds. These herbicides are usually applied with a sprayer. Carefully mix the herbicide according to the label directions. Label all tool used for measuring and applying herbicides so you will not use them for anything but herbicide applications. Only apply the herbicide when the wind is below 5 mph, rain is not expected for 48 hours and on a hot sunny day.

Pre-emergent herbicides are applied before the weed seed germinates. To control winter weeds, apply a pre-emergent in the fall before the weed seeds germinate. To control spring weeds apply a pre-emergent in late winter/early spring and repeat in summer according to directions. Pre-emergent herbicides are usually granular and applied with a fertilizer spreader. Water the area after the pre-emergent herbicide is applied. The pre-emergent herbicide forms a barrier on the surface of the soil to prevent weed seed germinating or the seedling from growing.

Most of the weeds growing now are winter weeds. These weeds germinated last fall. Mowing, pulling and post-emergent herbicides are the only control. Mow often to stop seed production. Pull weeds before seeds are dispersed. Use a post-emergent when necessary. If you have a large amount of winter weeds, remember to use a pre-emergent next fall. If you had a large amount of summer weeds last summer, apply a preemergent now.

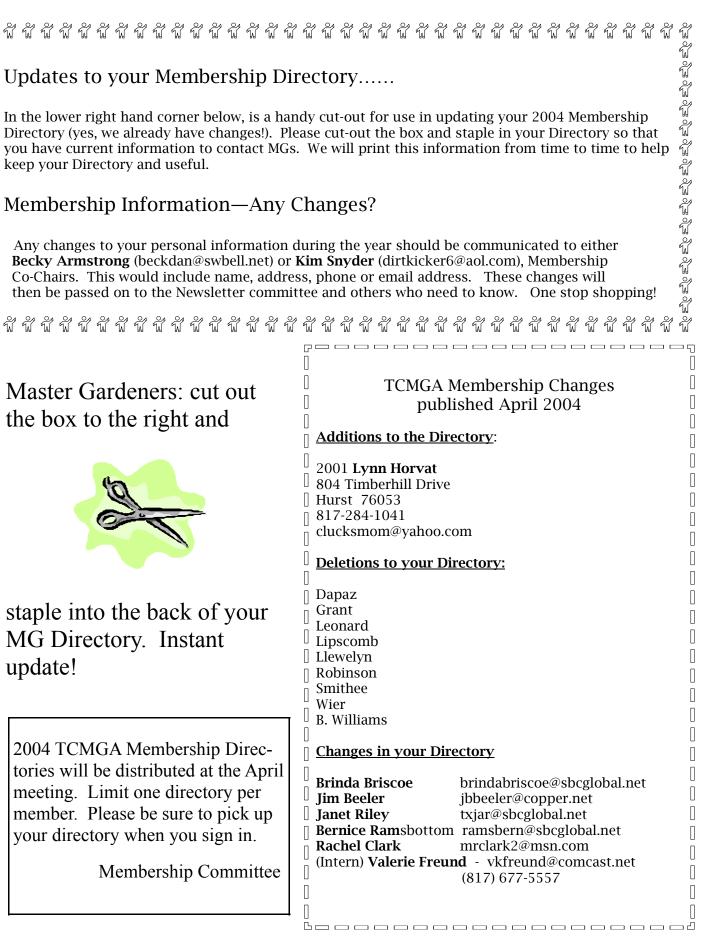


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Warrant County Waster Gardener Association 401 East Eighth Street Fort Worth, Texas 76102-5504







For up to the minute TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org More state news: www.texasmastergardeners.com