



Mission Statement

To support and assist Texas Cooperative Extension by providing the community with information on horticultural practices consistent with Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations.



President's Notepad

Are you bumping up now? Only gardeners would realize that this has nothing to do with contact sports. As we view the garden calendar, we are past seed catalogue browsing, bulb planting and seed starting (for some of us). We ponder once again why we spend so much time on the "good" plants when the weeds are growing so vigorously. Been to your favorite nursery lately? Have you bought something and wondered where you were going to put it? Admit it! I've been on field trips with you.

Life is renewing itself around us. The most beautiful of gardens we create will go fallow without our stewardship. I am vowing to share the delights and wonder of gardening with a child. Spring is here! Hurry, hurry! I've got to go outside. Good Gardening!

Warren

April Monthly TCMGA Program

I dreamed that I had moved to a farm in Granbury to raise sheep (tails down), goats (tails up), chickens (in cages off the ground) and started a community garden. If you can't explain this dream, you must have missed our March meeting!! **Sondra Wallace** (Little Hands on the Farm) asked that her honorarium be given back to TCMGA. THANK YOU Sondra!

PALMS, PALMS, PALMS will be the subject of our April meeting. **Tony Cebone** not only models for 'that' calendar, he also raises and propagates palms very successfully at his Dallas home. I have been there when his garden was on the Garden Conservancy Open Days (TCMGA will be hosting Open Days Oct. 9, 2005 www.gardenconservancy.org) and I couldn't believe all the palms he grows. Tony will tell us how to grow palms from seed to the perennial landscape miracle.

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee.
- 10:00 Palms - **Tony Cebone**
- 11:00 Business meeting and social.
- 12:00 More Palms with Tony.

Don't forget to bring your treasures for the garage sale and silent auction (garden related items only please). Put a price on your items and place them on the tables. All proceeds go to TCMGA. If anything is left, you can take it back to your garage or we will donate items not sold to charity. Be sure to bring your \$\$\$\$ to take home some treasures!!!!!!

Ginger Bason



What: TCMGA Garage Sale!
 When: April 7th
 Where: Resource Connection

Bring garden-related items priced to sell and \$\$\$ to buy, buy, buy!

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
Meeting Minutes - March 3, 2005 submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by President **Warren Tingley**. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper. Treasurer **Rita Hottel** gave the Treasurer's Report. A copy of the Report was available for members review. The membership approved the cost of website hosting for a year in the amount of \$104.50.

The Standing Rules were approved by the membership. The approval was given with the advisement of a minor typographical error as published in the Membership Directory. The change should read that a library memorial in the amount of \$50 would be provided upon the death of a member rather than the \$25 noted.

The Executive Board selected **Dave Wilson** to be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. A slate of four additional members will be presented for approval at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

Announcements were as follows:

1. Rose Symposium - volunteers are needed for the event on April 16th. **Dave Wilson** and/or **Ben Oefinger** should be contacted.
2. The Website Committee encourages members to participate in the Meet A Member section.
3. April 28th is the date of the Clark Garden Tour. Members will meet at the Botanic Gardens to carpool. A box lunch for \$6.50 will be available, to be paid in advance.

Steve Chaney, Tarrant County Home Horticultural Agent advised of the following:

1. Volunteers are needed for the Tarrant County Regional Water District Exhibit at Mayfest on April 28, 29, 30 and May 1.
2. The Earthkind Rose Symposium goal is to sell 1,000 roses.
3. The Master Gardener Fall Class will begin September 20, 2005 with Orientation in May.
4. Members were encouraged to attend the Regional Conference in Denton May 5 - 7, 2005.

Members were again reminded there will be no Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting in May due to the Regional Conference. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Hospitality Notes by Joyce Quam

Thank you to the Master Hot Dog Griller, Ben Oefinger!! The March TGMGA Hot Dog Day is our annual salute to the new TGMGA Interns. Tah Dah!! Ben did a wonderful job bringing all the dogs and buns and grilling. Yea, Ben!! And thank you to the folks who brought all the goodies that "dressed" the hot dogs! What a spread!

Our Programs have been outstanding so our recent attendance has been around 175! That's a lot of people! A lot of people means we need a lot of food! We are short on food sign-ups for April 7th. Please consider bringing some sandwiches, deviled eggs, veggies, fruit, salads, **BUT NO CHIPS!** (We have a huge box of little bags of chips.) Please e-mail me if you can bring food. I will be e-mailing those who signed up to remind them.

Who forgot their dishes? I have them: large plastic bowl w/lid and yellow spoons, large clear glass plate, 2 blue/white ceramic plates. E-mail me. Happy Gardening!

Why Volunteer?

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, especially wanting to help others. But it's also OK to want some benefits for yourself from volunteering.

Some people are uncomfortable with the notion that a volunteer "benefits" from doing volunteer work. There is a long tradition of seeing volunteering as a form of charity, based on altruism and selflessness. The best volunteering does involve the desire to help others, but this does not exclude other motivations as well.

Instead of considering volunteering as something you do **for** people who are not as fortunate as you, begin to think of it as an **exchange**. An exchange of your time, talent or interests for the hope of the cycle to keep going. There's a song that tells about a man name Joe who helps a lady in distress, she offers to pay and he refuses to accept any money. He simply says do something nice for someone else and don't let the chain be broken. She stops at an all night diner and unknowingly meets Joe's wife who is 8 months pregnant and working to make ends meet. She orders and they talk, she later leaves a \$100 bill for the cup of coffee and says do something nice for someone else and don't let the chain be broken. You never know when that chain will come back to you, when it does then what an exchange that was!!!!!!

As a group you are all exceptional in volunteering your time and energy; you all deserve a huge show of hands. Over the next few months and years I will be asking for more of your time and energy in exchange for the opportunity to start the chain going forward. I hope you will all be on board for these wonderful times that are ahead of us. Please feel free to let me know your interests as well as your concerns, my door is always open to you!

Webster's dictionary defines the word 'volunteer' as: one who enters into or offers

himself for any service of his or her own free will. To me a volunteer is one who gives unselfishly of themselves and their time, for the betterment of their community. What type of person are you?

Steve Chaney

CHECK THE WEBSITE!

WWW. TCMGA.ORG

Submitted by **Carolyn Barnard**

As Warren mentioned in the March meeting, we are anxious to increase participation in our 'Meet a Member' feature. So far, we have featured 8 members and sure have learned a lot about them. You can see the interview form we use on the 'Meet a Member' page and you can share as much or as little as you wish. Please contact **Jolene Hetrick or DonnaTurner** if you would like to participate and we'll do the rest!

Devanie Fergus has done a great job of keeping the volunteer and educational calendars full - so if you have a little extra time, check them for opportunities. Did you know that you can search the telephone calendar for your name if you have forgotten when you volunteered. Just use the Search button and put in a part of your name and the date range you want to search.

To receive your newsletter via e-mail or forward website comments or content ideas, contact **Carolyn Barnard** at cbarnard@abacinc.com.

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.

Membership Committee

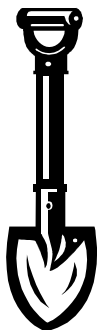
Thanks to a heroic effort on the part of the County Graphics Department, even dealing with equipment failure, we were able to have a minimum number of directories available for our March meeting.

For those who didn't receive a directory or would like to purchase a second one (or more) for \$1 each, we will have them available at our April meeting and at the Extension Office.

Please contact **Pat Lovejoy**, 817-447-7924 or patlovejoy@att.net for any directory changes.

Please welcome new Intern **Deborah Garrison** to our organization. Deborah completed her classroom studies in Gainesville and will join our Intern class in completing her required volunteer hours.

Membership Committee



INTERN SCOOP

Can you believe it is time to think about our first Fall Intern Class! Please get the word out to interested friends, family, former colleagues. People can call the Extension office to receive an application.

The dates are as follows:

Orientation - Tuesday May 24, 2005
 Interviews - Tuesday June 7, 2005
 Classes - Tuesdays and Thursdays
 September 13 - November 15, 2005

The new classes will be limited to 30 people.

Berry Bock for the Intern Advisors

Scholarship Committee

Your Scholarship Committee has been very busy reviewing and revising our criteria for college scholarships. We are already receiving applications!

We are also studying the possibilities of scholarships for our own Master Gardeners who are interested in Specialist Training. In a nutshell, the Specialist Training Program provides training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designated educational programs of the Texas Cooperative Extension and the Texas Forest Service. At present, some of the areas that are offered are: Entomology, JMG, EarthKind, Fire Ants, Landscaping, Oakwilt, FireWise and Plant Propagation. The Specialist certification is a one-time, one-year commitment and is considered as a resource to the Extension office and the Master Gardener program. Detailed information will be presented in next month's newsletter.

Members of this year's Scholarship committee are **Nancy Dozier, Patsy Johnson, Barbara Munn, and Hester Schwartz**.

MG State Conference May 5-8 Doral Tesoro Hotel

This year's conference is entitled "For the Love of Gardening - Lessons and Inspirations". Heads up! Registration is now thru March 31st. Late registration is available afterward with slightly higher prices. More info and registration application is available at <http://www.tcmga.org/Docs/StateConfRegistration.pdf> The hotel is located just south of Alliance airport and the Texas Motor Speedway - very convenient for us! **Note: This meeting will take the place of our May TCMGA meeting.**

New Items

- April 16** **Rose Symposium – volunteers are needed. Contact Dave Wilson or Ben Oefinger.**
- April 28 thru** **Tarrant County Regional Water District Exhibit at Mayfest -**
May 1st **volunteers needed. Contact Crystal at 817-884-1296 or**
Steve Chaney.

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Managers Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
312 Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
313 BG Cottage Garden	call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	Wed. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	every Mon. 10 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	call chairman	Rachel Clark	817-488-0035
324 Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
326 Teen Challenge	every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4th Thurs, 10 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, 4th Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 9-12:00	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
407 Willow Park DemoGarden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
408 TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mon/Thurs	Sharon Chastain	817 926-2575
602 Bransom	call chairman	Glenda Page	817 447-8348
603 Brewer	call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817 367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	3:15 p.m. Wed	Leeann Rosenthal	817 237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Contact Ginger	Ginger Bason	817 838-7321
606 South Davis	call chairman	Mary McCoy	817 891-0598
611 Children's Garden	Apr 6 & 27 9-11 a.m.	Judy Sargent	817 589-0221



Butterfly Gardening

Submitted by **Dotty Woodson**

Butterfly gardening is creating a garden specifically to attract butterflies. Butterflies are attracted to flowers that produce nectar, a sugar type substance. There are many nectar producing plants that will thrive in this area. If you want to see and study the metamorphosis of butterflies, you also need to plant larva plants where butterflies lay eggs. Caterpillars hatch from the eggs, eat the plant to grow big and then create a cocoon or chrysalis to become a butterfly. This is called complete metamorphosis: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon or chrysalis), and adult (butterfly).

Creating a butterfly garden can be as simple as planting a lantana plant, which attracts many different butterflies or planting many different plants to attract specific butterflies. Select a site for the butterfly garden where the sun will warm the area for most of the day. The butterflies like the warmth of the sun. Or find a place in full sun for a very large container or flowerpot. Measure the space for the garden. The size of the space will determine how many and which plants you can plant and how much compost and mulch you will require.

Remove all the grass and other plants where you want to plant the garden. Using a shovel, hoe or garden fork, break up the soil about 6 inches deep. Six inches deep is ideal but I know not possible with some soil. Distribute 6 inches of compost over the garden area. Turn the soil and compost so there is a good mix. In a container, use potting soil or a combination of compost and perlite.

The next step is selecting and planting the plants. I have created a short list of plants to help you make a selection. I have tried to name plants that have a long flowering period for the nectar plants. The list includes how tall and wide the plants grow so you can determine where in the garden to place the plants. Tall plants will shade short plants. Also the plant size will help you determine how many plants you can plant. A small Autumn Sage, *Salvia greggii*, purchased in a 4 inch flowerpot will grow 2 feet by 2 feet or larger by the end of the summer. So draw the butterfly garden plan according to the size the plants will grow.

Nectar Plants

Butterfly	Plant	N/L	Ht	W	Flower Color	P/A
Many	Lantana, <i>Lantana spp</i> or Hybrids	N	2-4'	2-4'	Many	P
Many	Autumn Sage, <i>Salvia greggii</i>	N	2'	3'	Many	P
Monarch	Butterfly weed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	N/L	2'	2'	Orange	A
Many	Butterfly Bush, <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	N	5'	4'	Purple/blue	P
Monarch	Albelia, <i>Albelia</i>	N	4-5'	4-5'	White	P
Many	Mealy Blue Sage, <i>Salvia azurea</i>	N	2-3'	2-3'	Blue	P
Sulphur Gulf Fritillary	Turk's Cap, <i>Malvaviscus drummondi</i>	N	4'	4'	Red	P
Gulf Fritillary Skippers	Zinnia, <i>Zinna spp & hybrids</i>	N	1'	1'	Many	A

Note: N nectar; L larva; P perennial; A annual; Height and Width in feet



Larva Plants

Butterfly	Plant	N/L	Ht	W	Flower Color	P/A
Black Swallowtail	Parsley, <i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	L	1'	1'		A
Black Swallowtail	Fennel, <i>Foeniculum officinale</i>	L	3'	2'		A
Black Swallowtail	Dill, <i>Anethum graveolens</i>	L	3'	1'		A
Monarch	Butterfly weed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	L/N	2'	2'	Orange	A
Gulf Fritillary	Passion Vine, <i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	L/N	12'	4'	Blue	P

Note: N nectar; L larva; P perennial; A annual; Height and Width in feet

Mark the spots in the garden where the plant will grow. Plant the plants. Water the garden to settle the soil. Cover the entire area with bark mulch. Enjoy the butterflies all summer.

If you would like to see tropical butterflies, visit the Fort Worth Botanic Garden conservatory during the month of March, 9:00 to 4:00, daily. You can actually see butterflies emerging from their cocoon or chrysalis. Call the FWBG for more information, 817-871-7686.

For more information and a more comprehensive list of butterfly plants, send a SASE to Dotty Woodson, 401 E. 8th St. Fort Worth, TX 76102 requesting the North Central Texas Butterfly list.

Clark Gardens Tour—April 28th

The Clark Gardens tour is on Thursday, April 28th. Clark Gardens is one of the most extensive privately-owned botanical parks in the state, inspired by gardens in of England and Europe. The last thing one would expect to find in Mineral Wells is this magnificent garden filled with azaleas, herbs, day lilies, roses and mature trees. Birders bring your binoculars!

We will picnic at the gardens after our tour. Bring your lunch or order a box lunch. Pre-pay for lunch at the April meeting or send a check by April 21st to Barbara Durnan, 2615 Boyd Ave., Fort Worth, 76109.

There will be plants for sale at the garden. A map to other local nurseries will be available for shopping on the way back home. We will meet at the Botanic Garden parking lot in front of the Conservatory at 8:15 am. Carpools will leave at 8:30 am promptly. If you travel on your own, meet at Clark Gardens at 10:00 a.m.

Questions? Contact **Joy Lease**, **Barbara Durnan** or **Joyce Colegrove**.

Member Garden Tour—May 20th

Mark your calendar for May 20th! We will be touring some of our own MGs' home gardens on the east side of Fort Worth in the morning. A list of great lunch and shopping places in the old Handley area will also be provided, for those adventurous folks with the afternoon to explore! More information will be provided next month.

Activities Committee



Speedy

Submitted by **Happy Gardener**



Working, working, working. Oh, what a beautiful web you spin busy spider! I know it's a lethal trap for the little bugs in the neighborhood, but you make it look so inviting.

My two-year old grandson and I watched day after day. As the web grew, so did our acquaintance with Speedy the spider (who was actually anything but speedy).

The location of Speedy's web was in a quiet corner off the beaten bug path. One anchor was attached to a shrub and the opposite anchor was attached to the eaves of the house with some two or three feet of silken circular design in between. A great place to take up residence if you were older and had plans for retiring, but it was quite apparent that Speedy had a vision and wanted to see some action. We mentioned all this to Speedy in several heart-to-heart conversations, but our words fell on deaf ears. "It's all about location, location, location. What are you doing investing so much of your life here in this corner?" We would say to Speedy. Our only response was the leggy motion of quiet spinning.

The morning was cloudy. I'm not sure whether the sky was overcast, or if the news that morning made the world seem just a little less bright. "Speedy is deyad," my little grandson announced very seriously with his Texas drawl. Sure enough. The spinning had stopped. The spinner lay motionless on the ground beneath the web; legs tucked beneath the little body as if they had spun until all the life was literally spun out.

Speedy's web swayed in the breeze, standing silently as a monument to a busy life. How odd - Speedy's lifeless body lay beneath his surviving life's work hanging in perfect form - and not a single bug on the web. How sad.

A few weeks have passed since Speedy left us. I've kept the web as a reminder. A reminder that life is brief and there's more to each day than spinning. Maybe Speedy understood that, but I doubt it.

A Job Well Done by Bylaws Committee

February's TCMGA meeting saw the revised Bylaws and Standing Rules were accepted and approved by the membership. The Bylaws committee worked for three and a half months to bring these revisions (some suggested by you!) to fruition.

The members of this hard-working group were: **Judy Butler, Joann Hahn, Joy Lease, Pat Lovejoy, Ben Oefinger** and **Emily Ward**. As Chair, I want to thank each one very sincerely for your time, commitment and dedication.

Eleanor Tuck, Bylaw Committee Chair

MG DIRECTORY APRIL UPDATES

New email addresses:

Nancy Bannow woswes@sbcglobal.net

Peggy Falconer
 pfalconer475@sbcglobal.net

Jack Mitchell bobbijack@sbcglobal.net

Intern Donna Morris
 morrisd1@swbell.net

Correct name and email:

Marjie Nelson nelson@sbcglobal.net

New address and phone:

Ann Firkins 18000 Hwy 377 S.
 Cresson, TX 76023
 817-512-3133

New member:

Intern Deborah Garrison
 P.O. Box 162814
 Ft. Worth, TX 76161
 817-228-0624

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee would like to remind all of the TCMGA members that if you know or hear of someone that is ill or has a death in their immediate family, we would like to know about it so we can send them a card. Please contact **LaVonne Nowlin** at lavonne@ev1.net.

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

4-1 **Charlotte Berck**; 4-2 **Lucy King**;
4-8 **Sandra Plane**; 4-9 **Steve Prenger**;
4-10 **Fatima Gameiro**;
4-13 **Margaret Anderson**;
4-15 **Anna Anderson**; 4-17 **Debbi Luhr**;
4-20 **Matt Mulhern, Linda Turner**;
4-24 **Debbie Bollinger, Raelene Darling**;
4-25 **Berry Bock, Mary-Sheba Graves,**
Teresa White; 4-26 **JoAnn Hahn**;
4-29 **Cathy Lawrence**; 4-30 **LeeAnn Rosenthal**

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because **LaVonne Nowlin** does not have it. Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.

Rockport Herb Festival - April 2nd
Contact ltcollins_1@charter.net
Or Pam Herl 361-729-5046

**Sweet April showers
Do spring May flowers.**
Thomas Tusser, *A Hundred Good Points of
Husbandry*, 1557

Hood County MG Garden Tour - May 14-15
Contact Marty Vahlenkamp, 817-579-3280

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 30	Field Trip to Tyler Azalea Trail
April 2	Herb Festival - Rockport
April 7	TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection
April 16	Earth-Kind Rose Seminar
April 23	Community Garden Field Trip (details coming soon)
April 28	Clark Gardens Field Trip (see page 7)
May 5	State Convention - Denton
May 20	Tour of Member Gardens: East Ft. Worth
May 28	Texas Smartscape

Intern Field Trips:

- April 14 – Willow Park Demonstration Garden and Esther Procter's
May 12 – Thistle Hill, Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment,
Hulen Library, Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse
June 9 – Teen Challenge, Union Gospel Mission, Veterans Park Wildscape

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