

Mission Statement

To provide horticultural and environmental research based information and techniques. To volunteer in area horticulture projects.

Swallowtail Butterflies

Class - Insecta

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Papilionidae - Swallowtails and Parnassians. There are 23 families in the order for our area.

Swallowtail Scientific Name: *Papilio polyxenes asterius* Stoll

Caterpillar habits

Caterpillars appear during the last few weeks of spring. They are found clinging to fennel, dill, parsley, carrot and other host specific plants. Within days or even hours they can decimate most of the foliage on these succulent plants. You are not despondent as the plants are reduced to stems because you grew them for the benefit of the caterpillars anyway. Caterpillars have chewing mouthparts. Butterflies, however develop with a proboscis for sucking. Caterpillars do not move very quickly, can't see very well (they only have a few simple eyes), and are pretty defenseless. Full grown caterpillars can reach 2 inches in length and are smooth and green, marked with black bands and yellow spots. The only defense for the caterpillar is that it is bad tasting to birds and other predators because of the toxins absorbed from the host plants.



The foliage attracts the butterflies. When the eggs hatch they turn into striped caterpillars. Host plants of the caterpillar include members of the parsley family (Umbelliferae) including fennel, dill, parsley, carrot, and Queen Anne's lace and some members of the Rutaceae (*Ruta graveolens*).

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Is there anything you hate about gardening? We can name ten.

FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

OF COURSE!!!! That's part of what we get paid for!!!!

The Gardener's Catalogue that was published in 1974 ("The most important gardening tool since the watering can" as stated on the cover) was given to me and even though it is 33 years old the information is surprisingly up to date and useful. It is also full of wonderful drawings and pictures, all black & white.

One of the sections gives Six Ideas to Make Ornaments More Useful.

1. Use flowering plants to control pests- plant flowers with strong aroma to discourage pests: marigolds, cosmos, asters, chrysanthemums, painted daisy (pyrethrum), nasturtiums, and many herbs.

2. Select some ornamentals that encourage birds- chickadees eat cankerworm eggs, quails eat boll weevils and potato bugs, tree swallows eat chinch bugs, killdeers eat mosquito larvae.

3. Let ornamentals be your fence; mock orange, Spirea, deutzia, hollies, abelia, berries, and evergreens all create a living fence, protection, and food for critters.

4. Include ornamentals that produce food-berries provide spring blooms, vitamin rich fruit and attractive vines, flowering quince have attractive flowers and fruit for preserves, rugosa rose is a prolific bloomer and the hips are good for teas, jams, soups etc., chinquapin produces a nut that is like a sweet chestnut, and many herbs should be used.

5. Select ornamentals for shade and support of other plants- let taller ornamentals provide shade

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August 2, 2007 Monthly Program

It may be a stretch to think about drought tolerant gardening given we've had so much rain this summer. But we all know that in months to come, the rains will subside and we will be wishing for more to fall.

Judy Fender, our speaker this month, will have a "show and tell" on how she has managed to create a beautiful landscape and, in the process, achieve the winning award for Dallas Water Utilities' Xeriscape Garden in 2001. Her drought-tolerant landscape includes over 100 roses, various herbs, native plants and water garden and bog plants – and her gardens and ponds have been on many garden tours, including the prestigious Garden Conservancy 'Open Days' tour. A garden enthusiast since age 5, Judy's current gardens and pond are blended to create a wildscape. An artist and photographer, she paints garden murals for those wanting to bring the outdoors inside, and she is a frequent garden lecturer in the Metroplex and outlying areas, including Tyler, Waco, Fort Worth, Kaufman, and Houston.

As ever, we'll have a fun and interesting day with the following agenda:

9:30 Sign-in, coffee

10:00 "How to Create a Water-Wise Garden" – **Judy Fender**

11:00 Business meeting Meet, greet, and eat

12:00 "Creative Ideas and Whimsy in the Garden" **Judy Fender**

See you August 2nd!

— Joy Lease

Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes July 5, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Ginger Bason at 11:00 a.m. at the Resource Connection. 128 members were in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting (June 2007) were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

It was noted that the expense reimbursement form is now available for downloading from the TCMGA website.

The TCMGA Board made the following recommendations and they were approved by the membership:

- Dues will now be payable by October 31st rather than December 31st. The Standing Rules will be revised to reflect this change.
- The \$10 yearly fee for anyone achieving Emeritus status will be eliminated.
- The following announcements were made:
- A PowerPoint class will be held at the Extension Office on August 24. This class counts as CEU credit. The Beginner's Class will be from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m.
- The Advanced Class will be held from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. Members should contact Marilyn Sallee to sign-up for the class.
- New criteria for Awards have been developed. Information will be provided in the Sharecropper and was placed on the bulletin board.
- The Garden Conservancy Open Days, Ft. Worth, on October 14th is in need of volunteers for the gardens on the tour.
- There will be a Ft. Worth Home & Garden Show on September 14, 15 and 16. Members were urged to sign-up for a 4 hour time slot.
- The Nominating Committee will have officer candidates for 2008 at the September meeting.
- The members responsible for the writing, editing and publishing of the Sharecropper were recognized.

—Submitted by Judy Butler for Joyce Quam, Secretary

(PRESIDENT'S NOTEPAD Continued from page 2)

for lettuce, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower. Let beans grow on corn, asparagus, sunflower stalks after harvest.

6. Pick ornamentals for effective landscaping—soften lines, break wide expanses, use as ac-

cents and as eye-catchers. Think useful as well as ornamental! Even if some of these plants aren't the best for our area you get the idea and even though they are 33 years old, they do make sense.

— Ginger Bason

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(SWALLOWTAIL Continued from page 1)

The Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars desire Pipevines. **The Black caterpillars** wants the parsley family, including Queen Anne's lace (wild carrot), celery and dill.

The Giant caterpillars favors the citrus family, prickly ash, and hop tree.

Monarchs have different habits and lay eggs on Milkweed.

Butterfly habits

The swallowtail spends the winter in the pupal stage, but may be seen flying as early as the end of April and as late as the end of October.

Swallowtail pupa can blend very well with twigs and bark. This is especially important during the winter when leaves are gone and they must blend in to avoid being eaten by birds.

The butterflies feed on leaves of host plants, among them bronze fennel, honey-suckle, azalea, goldenrod, butterfly bush, pentas, alyssum, black-eyed Susan, Purple cone flower, and Rue (an ancient herb, but the oil can cause blisters and rashes).

Pipevine Swallowtail *Battus philenor* love plants like thistles, lilac, azaleas, phlox, lantanas, petunias, lupines, verbenas, yellow star thistle, butterfly bush and buckeye.

Butterflies will readily bask in the sun when it is warm out, but few are seen on cloudy days. Butterflies also like puddles. Several species can be seen congregating at small rain pools, forming puddle clubs.

The Black Swallowtail *Papilio polyxenes* favors nectar from flowers like red clover, milkweed, and thistles.



Pipevine Swallowtail



Black Swallowtail

(SWALLOWTAIL Continued on page 5)

(SWALLOWTAIL —Continued from page 4)

The black swallowtail is a black butterfly with yellow markings near the margins of the forewings and hindwings and more limited blue and red markings on the hindwings. Its wing span can reach 4 ½ inches.

The Giant Swallowtail *Papilio cresphontes*) goes for lantana, azalea, goldenrod, Japanese honeysuckle, and swamp milkweed.



Giant Swallowtail

The life cycle of the butterfly

The life cycle, known as the complete metamorphosis, has to be one of the most fascinating reproductive processes that nature has to offer and is a delight to witness. From the egg comes the hatching of a caterpillar (larva) with a voracious appetite, devouring more vegetation than one would imagine. This supports its rapid growth that causes it to quickly outgrow its non-expanding skin.

It will shed this skin for a new one several times before it reaches its last stage or instars as these stages are called.

At the end of its last instars the caterpillar will fasten itself to a stem or branch to begin its transformation into the pupa or chrysalis.



It is in the chrysalis that the most fascinating part of the process occurs. Over a period of time that varies by species, the thing that was a caterpillar metamorphoses into the completely different structure as the butterfly. When the time is right, it splits the skin of the chrysalis and emerges. The butterfly then pumps up its wings with fluid from its body. When the wings dry out it then takes wing as an adult butterfly.



The butterfly can survive well without humans, but we can help make the going easier. Water sources and nectar from specific type plants can be provided by us to keep them hanging around and healthy. Avoiding pesticides where possible will help as well. If you see a gardener applauding and excited amid a flutter of colorful wings just consider that a part of nature's beauty has just put on a show for someone who cares.

--by Derald Freeman

Fall Webworms Make Annual Debuts

Common Name: Fall webworm
 Scientific Name: *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury)
 Order: Lepidoptera

Fall webworms once again attempt to take over the trees heavy in foliage. Webworms are an annual problem appearing from late spring (usually May in North Central Texas) through fall.



Natural enemies generally keep their numbers low enough to eliminate the need for spraying. Occasionally they will appear "en masse", totally defoliating entire trees. Such epidemic outbreaks then call for special efforts to control them.

Life Cycle:

Winter is spent in the pupal stage in a silken cocoon in leaf litter or in cracks on rough bark. Adults emerge in spring and mate after host plants have developed leaves.

On the underside of leaves female moths deposit eggs in masses that appear covered with hair. The webs are made by groups of caterpillars hatched from the same egg mass. First instars caterpillars hatch and begin feeding on leaves, spinning silken webs enveloping their feeding sites. Caterpillars molt up to eleven times through growth stages (instars) before leaving the web to pupate. Two to four generations occur per year, depending on locality within Texas.

Habitat and Food Source(s):

Caterpillars have chewing mouthparts. Adults have siphoning mouths. Preferences for different host plant species appear to be regional and seasonal.

Pecan, Hickory, Sweetgum, Black Cherry, Willow, Live Oak, Ash and Mulberry are among their favorites. They will also feed on leaves of Redbud. However, many other shade, fruit, nut and ornamental trees and shrubs are potential food sources for these caterpillars.

While a web or two in a large tree may not seem alarming, their numbers can continue to increase as they pass through up to four generations in a single season. The last generation, which occurs in the fall, is usually the most damaging and gives this insect its name.



Webworm caterpillars and moths are active at night when most of their predators (wasps, birds) are inactive. They feed on tender parts of leaves, leaving the larger veins and midrib. Webworms can appear as early as April in south Texas and high numbers of webs can occur during any of the generations that occur through the summer. However, the last generation is generally the most damaging. Adults are attracted to lights. The pale yellow to green caterpillars are covered with tufts of whitish hairs. The larval hairs do not sting but may cause skin irritation and a rash.

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(Water-Wise Gardening Continued from page 6)

Decisions on control:

Webs can cover leaves, clusters of leaves or leaves on whole branches, becoming several feet in diameter. They spin webs as shelters in which they feed. Heavy infestations can defoliate a tree. While one or even two defoliation's will not likely kill a tree, such stress can weaken it and predispose it to other problems such as insect and disease attack. Trees need their leaves during the growing season.

Pruning out webs may control light infestations while they are still small requiring the use of a pole pruner. While I personally do not consider pruning to be the best approach, it is much safer and better for the tree than the curiously popular approach of "burning them out".

Situations may warrant pesticide sprays. Insecticide products which will effectively destroy these webworms include (in order of increasing toxicity): Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel, Thuricide, Ortho's Bio-Worm Killer, and Green Light Worm Killer), Malathion, acephate (Orthene), carbaryl (Sevin), chlorpyrifos (Dursban).

Bacillus thuringiensis, or Bt as it is commonly called, is a natural (or organic) control. Bt is deadly to caterpillars of all kinds while causing no ill effects for birds, fish, pets, or people. Bt products must be eaten by the caterpillars to be effective (hence-spraying the leaves). Once the caterpillars digest the treated leaf, they stop feeding, and die within three to seven days.

It is best applied when caterpillars are still young. Older caterpillars are not feeding as actively and therefore will not be as effectively controlled. Apply Bt products in the late afternoon, because the bacteria-based toxins are sensitive to the sun and will degrade in bright sunlight. However, Bt will not persist in the outdoor environment more than a few days. Repeat the application in 5 days and thereafter as needed when the pest reappears.

The key to effective spraying is to penetrate the webs. A long pole with a wire or nail on the end may be used to break up the webs prior to spraying. Including a little commercial

surfactant or dishwashing soap in the spray mix will help penetrate the webs and improve coverage.

A high-pressure sprayer is necessary to reach the tops of tall trees and to penetrate the dense webs. For large trees or heavy infestations, it may be necessary to rent a power sprayer or hire a commercial tree spraying service.



Another webworm control method does not utilize chemicals of any kind; rather it depends upon the homeowner to pierce holes in the webs. Tearing open the webs with a pole will allow wasps, hornets and birds access to enter and feed on the webworms. Wasps, hornets, and birds, if given the opportunity, will reduce webworm populations quite handily with just a minimum of assistance from you. If the webs are totally out of your reach, try using a jet spray nozzle on your water hose. Possibly the force of the water will be strong enough to tear a hole in the web.

—by Derald Freeman

PowerPoint for MGs Class – Aug. 24th

Learn how to make PowerPoint presentations, to organize your own knowledge or create a slide-show presentation. PowerPoint is a great way to combine photos and text in a lively way to share with others.

The date is August 24th at the Computer lab on the first floor of the Tarrant County Extension office building.

The class has two parts:

9 am-12 noon PPT for Beginners – Learn the basics, create slides, add backgrounds, colors, text and pictures, and simple operating controls. Pre-requisite: basic computer skills, open and save documents, use a word processor.

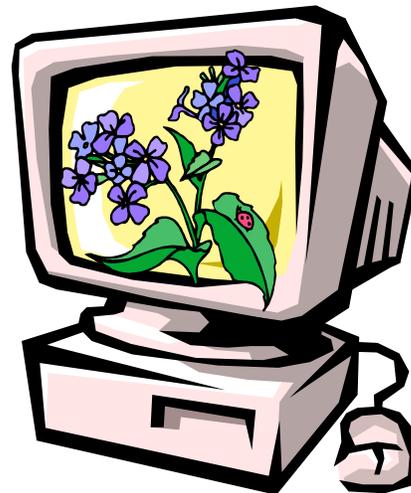
12 noon-3 pm Advanced PPT – Learn how to add livelier elements, animations, sounds, bullets, walk-in text and use presentation tools. Make more than just simple slides. Pre-requisites: already know what's offered in the first part, or take part 1 above.

Both classes bring – some ideas you want to work on, a rough outline and pictures, electronic media to carry your work (disk, thumb drive, etc.)

Cost: Donation of a balanced non-perishable meal for the food pantry. Can be a hearty soup, spaghetti and meat sauce, 8-bean soup and canned tomatoes, etc. Should have all the elements for a complete balanced meal in storable, non-perishable form.

Class size limited to 20 students each session.

To register or for more information, contact Marilyn Sallee, 817-441-7388.



L.J.'s Ten Things I Hate About Gardening

By L. J. Williams

1. Knowing what you planted, but not knowing where you planted it.
2. Knowing where you planted, but not knowing what you planted.
3. Being in the middle of a gardening project and having your spouse remind you of a dinner date in an hour.
4. Not pulling up a plant that looks like a weed, only to find out that it was indeed a weed.
5. Pulling a weed and finding out that it wasn't a weed after all.
6. Finding a row of daffodil bulbs in September while planting a tree.
7. Not being able to barbeque and garden at the same time (I'm always in the front or side flower bed when the steaks start to burn).
8. Going to the nursery to purchase a bag of potting soil and coming home with everything else.
9. Selecting a spot to plant a tree, purchase the tree, and then find out that water won't leach out of the planting hole.
10. Digging and planting in the yard all year and on January 1st not a bloom in site.

Amazing Annuals



Annuals remind me of that bunny with the battery that keeps going and going and going. From first flower to fall frost, our flowering annuals keep going. Of course deadheading and cutting blooms will help your plants put on new growth.

Despite it being midsummer, there is still time to enjoy a new swath of color in your yard. Prices are much lower now for all annuals than a few months ago. Choose healthy vigorous plants. Most annuals need full sun to produce good blooms although caladiums, nicotiana, and others need some shade. Your flowering plants need to be fed. If you are using water-soluble plant food, apply it with each watering. If you use granular fertilizer, apply every four to six weeks. When planting, keep plants a little high in the soil so you can apply 2 inches or more of mulch after an initial good soaking. Keep new plants well watered until roots are established.

An annual plant is one that completes its life cycle within one year, often within one or two seasons. Why should we plant a flower that lasts only a short time? No flowering plant that we grow can match the show put on by a bed of blooming annuals. All this color gives you lots of bang for your buck.

Annuals can be planted by seed but Texas gardeners might want to try transplants as they give plants a chance to get established before the heat sets in. Check the back of your seed packages to learn if a fall planting is appropriate for your annuals. Some will prefer fall plantings rather than in spring. They will winter over and you will be ahead of the game.

New cultivars of well-known annuals have produced bigger flowers often with a more compact plant. Or an upright plant could now be a sprawling ground cover. Take your time when you go to the nursery, ask questions, make notes. The lowly zinnia has morphed into a much more compact plant with larger flowers and intense color.

Warm season annuals (will bloom now until frost): Zinnia, marigold, blanket flower (gaillardia), begonia, ageratum, nicotiana (flowering tobacco), moss rose, penta, petunia, phlox, salvia, and lots more!

Cool season annuals (plant in fall or early spring): alyssum, calendula, dianthus, geranium, larkspur, poppy, bachelor button, baby's breath, pansy, snapdragon, bluebonnets and other wildflowers, and lots more!

—by Pat Durda

Demo/Community Garden News by Ginger Bason

The garden is expanding and there are many jobs to do.

The areas of responsibility are being divided so the load will be shared by TCMGA members.

Thanks to Bill Hall and the Outriders for working on the water collection system.

Give them a call to volunteer in these areas:

- Barn flower beds- Charlotte Berck
- Composting-Charlie Shiner
- TCU student classes- Pat Higgins
- Mowing- Larry Matl

RIVER LEGACY FIELD TRIP

A group of 45-plus enthusiastic Master Gardeners found their way to the River Legacy Park Pavilion in northwest Arlington on Tuesday, June 19. Mr. Richard Browning, the Planning & Environmental Manger of the Trinity River Authority, educated us on many aspects of the Trinity River and surrounding area. He is Planning and Environmental Manager, Trinity River Authority. Maps gave us an overview of the Trinity River drainage. All lakes along the Trinity are man-made. Lake Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain, and Lake Worth are the lakes to the northwest along the West Fork of the Trinity River. The Clear Fork comes through Lake Benbrook and joins the West Fork in downtown Fort Worth with the major Elm Fork coming into Dallas from the north. The river then flows southeast to the Gulf of Mexico near the Galveston area.

Up until the 1840s, Native American Indian villages dotted the areas along the river in what is now Fort Worth to Dallas corridor. Settlement was not a problem for the river at first, but the increase of people, wastewater became a big problem and the towns took rather primitive ways to address the problem. Around the turn of the 20th century, the slaughterhouses and meat packing plants in Fort Worth only worsened an already polluted river. Scientific data not being available at the time, the river's toxicity was measured by the number of typhoid cases diagnosed among people living close to the river. After a terrible drought that finally ended about 1914, city leaders knew something had to be done. Lake Worth was built and citizens assured this water would be adequate for the city's needs forever. The Depression and World War II put a stop to most water resource and wastewater concerns, but the late 40s brought forth ideas and dam building.

As Master Gardeners know, water resources are limited and we are challenged to continue to find new ways to protect this irreplaceable re-

source with plants that need less water and techniques to conserve and implement the intelligent use of this precious resource.

After Mr. Browning finished his presentation, he led us down to the river. He explained that although the river was flowing three times the its usual flow, it is a turgid color and would never be a clear-flowing stream because of the nature of the soil surrounding it. The river at Legacy Park is 500 feet above sea level and it is 500 miles to the ocean so the normal flow is leisurely. Some of the group saw two beavers come down the opposite bank and slide into the water. In the early 1900s, the river was so polluted that there were no fish within a 150 miles of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The oxygen level was zero. Now there are fish of all kinds up and down the length of the river. There is still a ban on eating fish caught between the 7th street bridge in Fort Worth to just downstream of downtown Dallas. These fish still have traces of chlordane and PCBs 30 years after these chemicals were banned. We still have work to do!

Sandra Flory and Frank Durda won Gift Certificates. After our outing to Legacy Park, we drove a short distance to the private garden of Ron and Ann White. They graciously welcomed us to their lovely tri-deck level back yard filled with lush tropical plantings, white crepe myrtles, and oak trees. Fruiting lemon and lime trees edged the deck by the swimming pool. A covered outdoor living area invited us to sit down, lean back and relax in this beautiful area. Another smaller pool on a lower level rippled as the koi fish looked for something to eat. Their yard was described in a Star-Telegram in an article in 2006 as "a mountainside retreat with the work done by the owner in five years." We appreciate the Whites inviting us to enjoy their retreat

—by Pat Durda



COOKING WITH HERBS PROGRAM



Master Gardeners at the Community Garden are participating with Tarrant County WIC¹ Program under USDA sponsorship in a program to emphasize the use of herbs instead of fat in cooking. The purpose of the program is to introduce clients of the Resource Connection WIC Clinic to the nutritional benefits of herbs. Avoidance of obesity is a major objective of the program.

The program started in early June and will continue through August. Two classes lasting about two hours each are held every Thursday at the Resource Connection WIC Clinic. Typical attendance is 10-20 persons in each class. The main agenda item is a discussion by Tarrant County WIC program personnel on common herbs and their use and benefits in everyday cooking including many recipes and recipe ideas.

Following the main session, each client is given a choice of three different herbs each in one-gallon containers to take to their homes for growing and use. A variety of herbs are available for client choice. Most commonly selected are rosemary, chives, parsley, sage, oregano and tarragon. Prior to distributing the herbs, a Master Gardener gives a brief discussion on the care and harvesting of the herbs in the home environment.

A selection of fresh vegetables harvested from the Community Garden the morning of the class is also available to class participants.

The herbs are purchased in flats of 4-inch pots from Esther Proctor's Weatherford nursery. The flats are taken to the Community Garden where Master Gardeners transplant them into one-gallon containers, prune and fertilize as necessary and care for them until needed for distribution to the classes.

In the first month of the program, about 400 potted herbs were distributed to WIC clients. It is planned that a total of about 1,100 one-gallon containers will be distributed by the end of August.

The program has attracted the attention of the Resource Connection Senior Resource Center personnel who are requesting a similar program for Senior Citizens.

¹WIC is abbreviation of Women, Infants and Children

Master Gardeners interested in participating in this program or other emerging education-oriented programs at Community Garden please contact ...

Jim Nelson at nelsonj2@swbell.net.

—by Jim Nelson

RAFFLE NEEDS

It's time to get some more "Guy Stuff." Garden tools need to be used and not kept for sentimental reasons, so pack those unused tools into the trunk of your car.

Your garage will be cleaner and we'll make money for the projects.

Thanks to everyone for the June total of \$157 toward our projects.

And thank you for your support. The Raffle Committee.

—by Joyce Colegrove and Barbara Durnan

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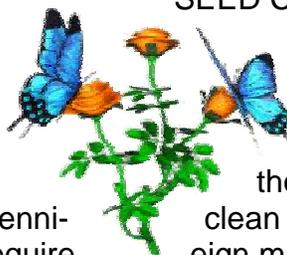
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Grow Your own Herbs and Beautify Your Landscape! By Steve Chaney, CEA- Home Horticulture

In addition to their use for flavoring purposes, the savory herbs may also be used to good advantage in the landscape, adding beauty and fragrance to the home. The perennials may be arranged in flowerbeds, borders, and rock gardens, or grown in small formal herb gardens convenient to the kitchen. Annuals may be planted along with other vegetables or in separate beds. Herbs will grow, generally, under the same conditions suitable for growing vegetables. It is good to add well-finished compost to the soil before planting perennials of any kind. Certain of the herbs require consideration of soil-moisture conditions: i.e., sage, rosemary, and thyme require a well-drained moderately moist condition; parsley and mints give best results in soils that retain moisture but have good drainage. On the whole, most of the herbs grow with success under a wide variety of soil conditions.



The majority of herbs are relatively free of diseases and insect pests. This may be partly because of the "aromatic oils" in the plants. Parsley family plants are sometimes bothered by aphids and in dry weather, spider mites may damage sage and lemon balm, but these problems seldom cause long-term damage so the gardener needn't be greatly concerned about them.

You will enjoy harvesting and curing your own herbs to have on hand for the winter months. As the flavor of the herbs, for the most part, is due to oil contained in small glands in the leaves, seeds, and fruits... proper harvesting, curing, and storing are very important. LEAF HERBS should be harvested on a sunny, dry day as soon as the dew is off the plants just as the plants begin to flower. Dusty or gritty leaves

need to be washed in *cold water* and thoroughly drained. Hang the sprays in loose bunches in the sun in a well-ventilated room for half an hour; then, put them out of the light in an *airy place* until completely dry. Long exposure to light causes the leaves to lose their green color. SEED CROPS are harvested when mature, or as they change from green to brown to gray. After curing for several days in an airy room, a day or two in the sun before storing will ensure they are thoroughly dry. When the herbs are dry, clean from the stems and separate any foreign matter. Tightly closed containers are the most suitable for storing herbs and they will not absorb the oils and flavors of the plant.

Cooking with herbs adds zest and superior flavoring to meals! The mints are one of the largest herb groups; there is apple mint, corsican mint, lemon mint, orange mint, pineapple mint, spearmint, and my favorite chocolate mint along with quite a long list of other mints. For those that enjoy watching butterflies in the garden, there is basil, dill, fennel, lemon verbena, sage, and many other wonderful herbs. Last but not least are all of the wonderful cooking herbs that we use on a daily basis, such as oregano, rosemary, thyme, rue, sage, chives, mustard, marjoram, parsley and many more depending on the type of food you prefer.

Some herbs can be placed in pots and grown indoors during the winter months. Place in a sunny south window, and use care similar to houseplants. Either dig up herbs toward the end of the growing season and place them in pots, or start from seed indoors. Basil, chives, mint, parsley, sweet marjoram and rosemary are some of the best adapted to pot culture.

HEY, DIG THIS

By Pat Durda

Another great Texas superstar! Lantana and its many varieties offer a great plant for color in your garden all season from spring until frost. It is drought-tolerant, low maintenance and loves the Texas summer heat. Lantana needs full sun and, if a new plant, requires additional water if Mother Nature doesn't supply. Although lantana is hardy in zone 8-B, these woody plants will freeze to the ground here in Tarrant County. Give them a good pruning and a blanket of mulch for the winter.



"New Gold" Lantana

Some of the best varieties available are:

- "New Gold", blooms profusely with bright yellow flowers and a spreading habit. Height is 2 feet tall and 4 feet wide.
- "Weeping Lavender", has fragrant lavender blossoms with a low spreading habit.
- "Weeping White", has white fragrant flowers with a low spreading habit.

- "Pinkie", is a pink/cream bicolor on an extremely compact plant which does not need cutting back
- "Texas Flame" (Dallas Red, New Red), has orange/yellow/red tricolor blooms which turn to a deep red. This plant is a compact bush.
- "Samantha" (Lemon Swirl), has bright yellow blooms and variegated foliage on a compact bush.

Another TEXAS SUPERSTAR is the Trailing Lantana with lavender, purple or white flowers. Its size ranges from one foot high to four feet wide. It is resistant to the lantana lacebug. All lantanas attract butterflies and hummingbirds. A beautiful plant that blooms from spring to frost, loves the heat, and is drought-tolerant.

Look for another HEY, DIG THIS! in an upcoming issue. — Pat



"Weeping Lavender" Lantana

Recommending a TCMGA member for awards

Criteria for recommendations:

- Must be a member in good standing
- Attends monthly meetings
- Diversity in MG participation – projects, committee chair or member, speaker’s bureau, etc
- Supports the MG organization (actively participates, sees a need and comes forth with helpful suggestions)
- Leadership and/or offers assistance to leader in more than one committee or event
- Active for several years

You make as many recommendations as you feel are needed, but please give an explanation as to why each person you recommend should be considered.

You may either drop this in the box marked AWARD that is at each meeting, mail it to me or e-mail (new e-mail is joannhahn@att.net}

—JoAnn Hahn Awards Chairman



Birthdays for this month

- 8-1 Toni Moorehead and Joanne McClendon
- 8-2 Ashley Moncrief
- 8-4 Ken Barham and Leeann Wilhelmi
- 8-5 Pat Durda
- 8-7 Lisa Bratton
- 8-9 Ron Kerwin, Janice Richardson, and Gary Hames
- 8-10 Sue Short
- 8-12 Debbie Patriquin
- 8-15 Sandy Williams and Cindy Woelke
- 8-16 Johnna Reed and Connie Anderson
- 8-17 Fritz Kingeter
- 8-18 Julie Florence
- 8-19 Margaret Hare and Francine Babril
- 8-21 Nancy Curl
- 8-29 Kathy Howard
- 8-31 Vicki Laughlin

—by LaVonne Nowlin



TCMGA SCHOLARSHIPS

Have you taken any of the Specialist Programs offered by the Extension Service, i.e., Propagation, Entomology, EarthKind, etc.? Have you completed the minimum number of hours required to obtain Certification in your new found training? Have you been recognized at the annual State MG meeting as a Specialist? If so, you may be eligible for a scholarship reimbursement from Tarrant County Master Gardeners of one-half of the Registration Fee for that particular Specialist Program. You must be a

Certified Master Gardener with at least one year in the Association to qualify.

Also, the Texas Master Gardener Association makes a Scholarship available for completion of a Specialist Program and its follow-up requirements. For classes held in 2007 the reimbursement is \$50.

To find out if you qualify for any of these scholarships, please contact the Scholarship Committee (Judy Butler and/or Eleanor Tuck).

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>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	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
313 BG Cottage Garden	Call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	First Mon.-Warm Place 9 a.m., 2nd-4th Mon. - Reg. Schedule	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Project	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Gayle van Leeuwen	817-472-7264
		Barbara Gates	817-465-6656
326 Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	Tues & Fri 8-11 am	Jim Nelson	817-688-2842
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	Thurs. & Sat 9-12 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 8:30 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	1st Sat, 9-12 Tues 9-12 p.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
408 TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765

School Gardens

601 Alice Carlson	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Call chairman	Carl Trehus	817-481-3435
611 Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
200 Taylor St., Suite 500
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-7308



Calendar of Upcoming Events

08/24	PowerPoint Class
08/25	Yard Smart Seminar @ FWBG
09/11	S-08 MG Intern Class Orientation
09/14 - 09/16	FW H&G Show
09/21	Little Hands on the Farm planting day
09/26 - 09/28	Earth-Kind Specialist Training in Odessa
10/02 - 11/27	MG Level II Classes
10/10	MG Intern Class Interviews
10/14	Garden Conservancy Tour
10/18	Earth-Kind Rose Symposium @ FWBG
10/24 - 10/25	MG Greenhouse Specialist Training



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