



Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Mission Statement

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



AUGUST 2009 IN THIS ISSUE

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Articles welcome
and encouraged.

Send submissions to
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

The Importance of MULCH! by Steve Chaney, Texas AgriLife Extension

Did you ever feel the earth in the summer? In the shade, soil is cool; in the sun it can literally bake tree and shrub roots. Thick layers of a good organic mulch (cypress, hardwood, cedar, etc) will keep soil temperatures moderated in the summer in addition to preventing the loss of moisture. If the mulch is thick enough (minimum of three inches) most weed seeds won't get the sunlight needed to germinate, and those that do come through will be spindly and easy to pull.



Mulches around the trunks of young trees will help prevent the dreaded "lawnmower blight" so many contract at an early age with chewed up bark being the final result. Weedeaters too are guilty of girdling young trees, and mulches can curb the weeds near tender trunks and stave off temptation to bring mowers and trimmers too close. The trunks of mature trees do not need near as much protection as a new young tree does. In fact, heavy mulches may actually favor rot, especially those 'mulch volcanoes' some try to do around their trees! Pulling mulches a few inches away from the collar of tree trunks will greatly reduce the occurrence of rot around a tree.



As organic mulches (leaves, grass clippings, and compost) decompose, they quickly lose their mulching qualities. They should be replaced frequently, simply by top-dressing back to a minimum of three inches. When they decay, they add valuable nutrients, especially trace minerals to the soil along with a slow release nitrogen.

(Mulch Continued on page 11)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The August TCMGA meeting will be on the second Thursday, August 13, 2009 at Resource Connection.

MGs in ACTION

Photos by Gay Larson



A youth group from Alabama helped mulch the side path at Union Gospel Mission



Cathy Sabin and friends Becca, Stephanie and Maureen Maidlow
Cement Leaf Class ▲ and results ▼

Photos by Gay Larson

YOUR PHOTO could be **HERE**
We are always looking for shots of MGs in action — at field trips, projects, tours, educational events, etc. Please send any photos to the editor, with your name, date and event.

Photos by Nancy Curl



Photos by Nancy Curl



Intern Sherry Flowers and Claire Alford planting for the fall vegetable class at the CG Greenhouse



Claire Brown and a well-weeded path at UGM

Photos by Gay Larson

LEADERSHIP

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TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>
TCMGA office 817-884-1944

NEW Project Profile: Heritage Elementary School Outdoor Learning Classroom (OLC) in Colleyville

by Jackie Peel, Project Chair

Location:

4500 Heritage Avenue,
Colleyville, TX
(NE Tarrant County
just off of SH 121)

The teaching garden adjacent to Heritage Elementary School was created in 2002 by the HES PTA. A grant from Keep Grapevine Beautiful helped pay for the irrigation system, the ornamental

metal fence, and the concrete aggregate sidewalk. The ½-acre space was professionally designed with crabapple trees and 'Forest Pansy' redbuds for shade, blooming shrubs like althea and antique roses, and many perennials for a succession of seasonal color and fragrance. Sensory plants like lamb's ears, parsley, lavender, society garlic, and rosemary grow along the walkway. Host and nectar plants for butterflies thrive throughout the garden, and benches nestle in the shadiest spots for students, teachers, parents, and the local community to rest and relax. Stepping stone paths wander through the garden, encouraging children to explore. The entire garden is accessible to students during recess as part of the schoolyard and playground area.

In August 2008, the HES PTA invited TCMGA to assist with the OLC as educators and facilitators of the Junior Master Gardening program. MG Jackie Peel volunteered to create a curriculum for the HES Garden Club, and used activities in the JMG leader guide and handbook. Shari Stanfield is the co-chair. The past year's curriculum focused on composting, water conservation, and native and food plants, and will be expanded on in the coming school year. Speakers on insects, composting, and wildlife habitat protection will give more information on these topics.

The students made sachets, seed balls to establish a wildflower area, and greeting cards with pressed and dried flowers. Students also planted a "pizza garden", marking out a 12-foot circle with "wedges" planted with tomatoes, onions, garlic, basil, thyme, oregano, and peppers. Homeroom classes had a tallest sunflower contest. In the Garden Club, each student keeps a personal gardening journal. Many classes have "adopted" small areas for experiments and planting as part of their daily learning. In May, thirty students were awarded certificates as Junior Master Gardeners.

During the summer, MGs are busy planting a fall garden for the students to learn from when they return to school. Workdays are every Monday morning 8-10 a.m. Several dedicated certified and intern MGs have helped throughout the school year, but we can always use more! Come join us in the garden!

Workdays: When school is in session, our meetings are on Monday afternoons, 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. See calendar for exact dates.

Contact: Project Chair Jackie Peel, 817-581-0977, jackiepeel@sbcglobal.net





President's Message

August 13, 2009
TCMGA 'Garage' Sale

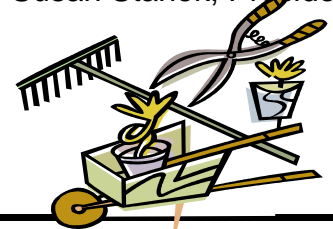
I love the garage sale! It's a time to 'recycle' and raise some funds for our projects with minimal effort. It's going to be pretty hard to top last year's Top Ten Reasons (see July '08 newsletter) to actively seek and bring items to the garage sale. Here's my attempt.....

1. 'Re-gifting' was last year's holiday rage. Items donated to the garage sale, have little chance of being re-gifted back to you!
2. July clean out - as shameful as it is, your garage (and mine!) has once again become cluttered since last year's garage sale and needs a good July clean out!
3. Like things in your clothes closet, if you haven't used it in over a year, you probably will not use it again - time to move it on!
4. Exercise - it will require you to lift and bend to haul it to the garage sale - every calorie burned is one less to fret about!
5. Sharing - who among us does not have a few extra plants (or plants gone 'wild') that we could dig up and bring?
6. Keeping up with the Jones' - my personal goal is to haul in a bigger pile of 'stuff' than Judy Butler, the garage sale queen!
7. Things have been known to ride around in my truck for a long time - I only need to get it *into* the truck between now and August 13th!
8. Rid myself of guilt - if I give it away to a good cause, I don't have to explain any more why I bought it to start with (OK - it seemed like a good idea at the time!)
9. Make room - for all of the things I am going to buy at the garage sale, assuming I beat you to them!
10. Finally, who amongst us doesn't just love this organization so much that we wouldn't part with a few unused items. Even if we

don't have many bucks to spend, we can still bring our 'treasures' and share them with our fellow MGs!

Remember the running rules ...after you sign in at the meeting, you will see a 'Drop Off' table where you leave your valuable donations and receive a donation receipt from a smiling Raffle Committee member. ***There will be absolutely no shopping until after the Business Meeting***, as this will allow the Raffle Committee time to complete the pricing and organize the items. If you have any Silent Auction items (\$25 value or over), it would be super if you could let Sandra Johnson, Raffle Chair, know in advance of August 13th. See you all in August at the garage sale!

— Susan Stanek, President



August Monthly Program

Laura Miller on Invasives

Our August speaker needs little introduction: Laura Miller, Commercial Horticultural Agent in our very own Extension Office! But did you know that she is not only a Native TEXAN, but also an AGGIE? She worked for several years in Florida with ornamental plant producers, nurseries, greenhouses and sod farms before being lured back to TEXAS.

Laura will be speaking about invasive pests--other than the neighbor's cat in your flower bed! It seems that we may be looking toward other than the fire ant; i.e. chili thrips and pink hibiscus mealybug and more!!

As you know, after the business meeting and snack lunch, we will be showing off our projects and conducting the garage sale. Please spend some time exploring the project tables themselves--see where you could be some help and learn what ALL our Association does. I look forward to seeing ya soon, ET



TCMGA Meeting Minutes July 2, 2009

The day's program about bees was presented by Janet Rowe, Bee-Charmer. The Meeting was called to order by President Stanek at 11:25 a.m. with 143 members present, representing a quorum. The Minutes of the June, 2009 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

Treasurer Carl Trehus presented the Treasurer's Report:

Money Market Account Balance	\$21,811.04
Checking Account Balance	<u>2,032.70</u>
Total Assets as of June 30, 2009	\$23,843.74

Joyce Quam, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced there would be a written vote for the Nominating Committee today. The nominees were introduced, ballots were passed out, and members were asked to vote for four nominees and turn in their ballots. Judy Butler, Teller, was responsible for getting the votes counted and for announcing the new Committee.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer announced that a list has been compiled of all contact changes since the printing of the 2009 Membership Directory and will be available to all members.

Announcements

There is a sheet on the board at the back of the room for birthday corrections.

Bill Vandever is collecting canned food and cash for the Resource Connection Food Drive.

Cathy Sabin needs a home volunteer for a cultural interchange student for July 23–August 1.

The August General Meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month because the gym will not be available on the first Thursday. The meeting will be our Garage Sale to raise funds to be divided between our projects. Items brought in for the garage sale should not be priced, and items valued over \$25 will be added to the silent auction. Project leaders can reserve tables to put up their display boards to enlist new volunteers. Eleanor Tuck will be taking reservations for tables. Garage Sale shopping will be done after the business meeting.

Steve Chaney discussed parking fees for the parking lot at the Extension office. Members arriving at the office after 12:00 p.m. should be prepared to pay \$4.00 for parking upon arrival. The parking ticket can be validated in the office, and on departure from the parking lot, the \$4.00 will be refunded.

The meeting was recessed at 11:45 a.m. for votes to be counted, and was resumed at 12:10 p.m. The Nominating Committee was announced as follows: Judy Ratzlaff, Eleanor Tuck, Emily Ward, Lucurtis Williams, and Joyce Quam, Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Bucy, Secretary

Nominating Committee Begins

The Nominating Committee for 2009 is: Joyce Quam, Chair, Judy Ratzlaff, Eleanor Tuck, Emily Ward, and Lucurtis Williams. Now they are beginning the task of preparing the slate of officers for 2010. They are to "select certified members in good standing, who have been a TCMGA Certified members for a minimum of one year, to serve as an officer."* The committee is looking for TCMGA members who have exhibited leadership and responsibility in the organization. As a TCMGA member, you may certainly suggest yourself or someone else for an office to a committee member. Suggestions will be discussed among the Nominating Committee and the committee will come up with a slate. This slate will be presented at the September membership meeting and further nominations may be made from the floor. Then the slate and any floor nominations will be voted on at the October meeting. If you are asked by the Nominating Committee to serve as an officer for 2010, consider it carefully and accept. Ours is an organization of volunteers and depends on members sharing the responsibilities of leadership.

— Joyce Quam, Nominating Committee Chair

*TCMGA Bylaws Article X, Section 4, G, iv.

SuperStar MG Profile
GINGER BASON-BOWDEN
+500 Hours Superstar 2008



Ginger Bason
In Her Own Words

I became a Master Gardener in 2002, when I retired from teaching. I knew a lot of Master Gardeners and they enjoyed what they were doing and had lots of fun. I learned so much associating with them. What I enjoy most are the people and the friends I have made, and all the new plants that I discover and the knowledge that I gain. There's always something else to learn; one never knows it all. In my own yard – I add this, change that. Working in my garden makes me see more things I want to do. My favorite plants are anything that blooms because I like color. I don't have any favorites.

To someone thinking about becoming a Master Gardener I would say really commit to what you are signing up to do; to the new Interns, find a place to work where you enjoy the work and the people.

My Favorite Project – Teen Challenge because we are actually working with the people. They are interested and I hear back from them about how they are growing things. I see how some residents come there and are very distanced at first. Before long they are asking questions and talking about the plants their grandmother used to grow. They think we're a blessing, but really they are a blessing to us because it is a pleasant interaction.

I was a teacher for 30 years. I taught all subjects for homebound students for half of those 30 years and taught all grade levels and subjects at the Psychic Hospital Rehab. In the classroom, I taught students who were behaviorally challenged .

Family: Husband, daughter, 3 grandchildren — my three future Master Gardeners. My husband says my gardening causes him to have to dig a lot of holes.

Activities – I still work part time with a teen-parent program. Gardening and taking care of grandchildren keep me busy. In addition, I also am a MG level II. That was an experimental pilot program, like another intern class with extra classroom and volunteer hours required. I'm a member of the Oak Cluster Garden Club, Oakhurst Neighborhood Association, on the Church Council and a Board member of the Master Naturalists. Occasionally I like to get some sleep.

For the MG program, I volunteer locally at Teen Challenge, Perennial Garden at Demo Garden, Juvenile Detention Center Garden, Hospitality (mugs), newsletter, advisory board, speakers bureau, TCC gardening class, Garden Conservancy Open Days Tour area rep. On the State level - Awards Chair, Outreach Committee, Audit Committee

My philosophy:
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That's the way I like to treat people, be up front and level.

My inspiration:
Walt Disney because he thought you could do anything. Anything definitely was possible. And he didn't just think it, he did it.

.....
● It is the dedicated Master Gardeners, such as
● Ginger, who inspire us all and make this
● organization the outstanding chapter it is.
● Watch for future profiles of our SuperStar
● Master Gardeners in coming months.
.....

The Joys of Gardening Through Photography

By Nancy Curl



Members of the Master Gardening crew who volunteer at the Union Gospel Mission recently worked with the children at UGM and taught them about gardening

On May 14 Marilyn provided a brief lesson about taking pictures in the garden to 14 children ages Kinder – High school. Each child then selected a Master Gardener, who escorted them out into the gardens at the mission. The Master Gardeners provided additional instruction about the cameras, plants that they were observing; and as they took their photographs they were reminded about their lesson on photography. Each child took 25 -50 pictures, then ended the day with an ice cream treat.



After downloading all of the photographs onto CD's the Master Gardeners returned to UGM. They sat down with each child at a computer to view the CD and to select their favorite photo to be judged and printed.

As a wrap-up to this event, each child was presented with their 5 x 7 photo inserted into a black, folded matte. They also received a personal CD with all of their photos. One child's name was selected to receive a special prize, which was a digital camera donated by Wal-Mart.

After we left, we were told most of the kids wanted to get on the computers to look at the rest of their photographs. The photos that the children took were amazing. There is a plan to follow-up with this class by producing a calendar for next year.

The proceeds from the sale of the 2010 calendar will be used for more cameras to use in future photography classes for the residents of Union Gospel Mission.

through a photography class.

To begin this project, digital cameras were donated from Master Gardeners and friends. After acquiring about 15 cameras, Jerry Tuttle went through each one, making sure they were in working order, contained memory cards and cables. He made meticulous notes about each one and how they function.

Two weeks prior to our class with the kids, Marilyn Sallee came to UGM to provide a photography class to help us learn about photography in nature and also the in's and out's of each camera. Members of the group including, Gay Larson, Judi Martin, Susie Earnest, Carolyn Critz, Pat Higgins, Cathy Sabin, Lynn Hayes, Kim Freeman, Sue Ellen and Ron Schlitzer, and Mary Jane Goad took the challenge of learning about their camera and helping on the day of the class.



Photos on this page taken by the children at Union Gospel Mission Photography for Gardeners Class

1/18/1998

AUGUST 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3 8a Union Gospel 8:30a Alice Carlson	4 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	5 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald 7p Ladies Garden	6 8:30a Alice Carlson 7p NCNPSOT	7 8:30a CG Veggie	8 8am—Wildscape Composting Demo
9	10 8a Union Gospel 8:30a Alice Carlson	11 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	12 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	13 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING	14 8:30a CG Veggie TNLA Landscape Show -Dallas	15 9am SW Crthse 9a Hulen Library TNLA Landscape Show -Dallas
16 TNLA Landscape Show -Dallas	17 8a Union Gospel 8:30a Alice Carlson	18 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	19 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Hulen Library 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	20 8:30a Alice Carlson TCMGA Board	21 8:30a CG Veggie	22 Butterfly Docent Training—Texas Discovery Gardens
23	24 8a Union Gospel 8:30a Alice Carlson	25 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage 7p Organic GC	26 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9am SW Crthse 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	27 8:30a Alice Carlson Butterfly Docent Training—Texas Discovery Gardens	28 8:30a CG Veggie	29 FWBG Orchid Society Sale
30 FWBG Orchid Society Sale	31 8a Union Gospel 8:30a Alice Carlson					Saturday August 1 9a Veterans Park Class: Nifty Na- tive by Laura Miller Composting Demo

UP-COMING EVENTS

NOTE: for this month's events, see back cover

- Sept. 2 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Sept 3 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Sept. 11-13 FWBG Art in the Garden
- Sept 11-12 MG Rainwater Specialist Training - Conroe
- Sept. 12 Wildscape class - Cross Timbers Preservation by Steve Chaney
- Sept. 14 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Sept 15-19 MG Specialist Training Entomology- Austin
- Sept. 17-19 MG Specialist Greenhouse Management - Tarrant Co. Fort Worth
- Sept. 19 Iris & Daylily Sale FWBG
- Sept. 23 TCMGA Field Trip - Cedar Hill Area
- Sept. 28-Oct. 2 Entomology Specialist, - Conroe
- Sept. 28 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Oct. 1 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Oct. 3 Wildscape Class - Saving Water & Money by Dotty Woodson
- Oct. 5 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Oct. 7 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Oct. 10 FWBG Fall Plant Sale
- Oct. 11 Garden Conservancy Flower Tour
- Oct. 14 TCMGA Field Trip - Granbury
- Oct. 16-17 MG Specialist Training Vegetable Gardens Georgetown
- Oct. 24-26 FWBG Fall Festival Japanese Garden
- Oct. 26 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Nov. 4 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Nov. 5 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Nov. 7 Wildscape class - No Child Left Inside
- Nov. 9 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Nov. 30 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Dec. 2 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Dec. 5 FWBG Birds' Christmas Tree
- Dec. 5 Wildscape Class - Working with Children
- Dec. 14 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).



April 8-10, 2010

Texas Master Gardeners State Conference
hosted by Dallas MGs

<http://www.2010tmgconference.org>

Your Event Here - send info of an event or class for this column to tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Announcements/Going On

- Project Workdays** — contact the Project Chair - see page 11 for details
- Field Trips**—TCMGA Field Trip Chair is Kay Gunn. See schedule page 10 of this issue.
- FWBG Events**— See calendar at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens for more information.
- State, Regional & International MG Conferences, MG Specialist Training**—See State MG website for more information: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>
- Wildscape Classes**—each first Saturday at 9 am at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veteran's Park, Arlington, following Saturday volunteer workday. Also Composting demo/class.
- BRIT** (Botanical Research Center of Texas) phone 817-257-7132 or 817-871-7682
- Composting Classes**—2nd Saturday of each month 9-11 am 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 817-459-6778
- NCNPSOT**—native plant meeting at Ft W Botanic Garden 7 pm. See topic at their website
- Free Organic Classes**—1st Wednesday every month Ladies of the Garden, 5208 Hidden Oaks Lane, Arlington 817-572-0148
- Note:** This list of items of interest to MGs may not be automatically approved for hours. Please confirm approval with Steve Chaney.

Below are clickable links in the electronic version. Another reason to get this via email.

For more information and breaking news:
See our local TCMGA website
<http://www.tcmga.org/>

State MG Website and TMG news:
<http://www.texasmastergardeners.com>
Keep up to date on news from around the state and training opportunities

State Newsletter: <http://www.tmgnewsletter.org/2009/July09c.pdf>

Our RC Demo Garden Website:
<http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123>

CEDAR HILL FIELD TRIP SEPTEMBER 23rd

The first field trip of the fall, on September 23, takes us to an area many of us never get to see – Cedar Hill. Four very different gardens welcome us, two of them belonging to Ellis County Master Gardeners.

The first garden is beautifully designed with numerous areas, one opening into another. It includes a pond, a gazebo, raised vegetable beds, the beginnings of an orchard and the ultimate potting shed that doubles as an art studio. All of this was planned and built by this very knowledgeable and creative gardener.

All you rose lovers will enjoy the next garden. It has 150 roses, mostly old garden roses, David Austin roses, Buck roses and a nice collection of miniature roses. The design is a curving free form with raised beds placed randomly through the middle of the yard – a great stroll garden.

The next stop takes you back in time to a rural setting where roses, wild flowers and native plants are allowed to grow with abandon. Two rainwater harvesting systems, totaling over 5000 gallons provide much of its irrigation.

Then we visit a seven acre property the owners describe as a work in progress with plenty of space to grow. With drainage and flood control issues, they built rock terraces and planted extensive perennial gardens that include beautiful roses and lots of native plants. Mature trees lead down to a creek. The garden is designed to enjoy in all seasons with two outdoor fireplaces and a large deck, plus two Koi ponds.

BRING A SACK LUNCH (we furnish water), and plan to eat and shop because our final stop is at Petal Pushers, a nursery that has many of those hard-to-find plants! While we are eating, you are in for a treat because Vicky Thaxton, on their staff, will talk to us, and she is great on anything horticultural.



Get in on the fun and join us

There are three places to meet and CARPOOL:

- 9:00 – Leave parking lot of Linens ‘n’ Things (now closed) at Hulen and I-20.
- 9:20 – Leave Hobby Lobby parking lot at I-20 and Cooper
- 8:45 - Leave parking lot of Joanne’s Fabrics at 1250 William D. Tate in Grapevine. Take Highway 121 south. Exit at Highway 360 south and follow 360 to I-20 and turn east on I-20.

PLEASE CARPOOL and share in the gasoline expense because this tour involves quite a bit of driving. We should be back to the starting points by 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

SEEING DOUBLE



Photos by Sue Ellen Schitzer

An aberrant Purple Coneflower at the Southwest Sub-Courthouse Native Garden Project.

EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE AREA FIELD TRIP REPORT

Another big group of TCMGA members gathered for our field trip to the Eagle Mountain Lake area. Property owners go to a lot of work to get their gardens "show-ready" for our tours, and they are gratified when a lot of people show up.

We saw a spectacular garden that started with a much-needed 30 foot high retaining wall to stop lakeside erosion with loss of surface area and trees. What could have been a view of a very wide, tall, plain concrete wall, instead was artistically designed as a remarkable series of randomly set rock retaining walls all the way down the incline to the lake, with gorgeous blooming plants everywhere.

At the next garden we enjoyed a beautiful view of the lake with a sloping lawn and some unusual container plantings. The main feature was a man-made beach, obviously a family gathering spot.

Then on to a large park-like garden with oriental touches. To take care of terrain and drainage issues, the owners redirected water and laid river rock (doing all the work themselves), then used native plants to create a very private retreat.

The last stop was a picnic at Eagle Mountain Park. What a gem! Opened in April of 2008, it is a preservation area for the plant life and wildlife on this lovely natural site. Walking trails lead to overlooks down to the lake.

Our thanks to Joyce Colegrove for arranging this field trip to an area few of us ever get to see.

FALL FIELD TRIP October 14 – Granbury

An opportunity to see three outstanding private gardens belonging to Hood County Master Gardeners. Lots of variety, ranging from a five acre country garden to a tropical garden on the shores of Lake Granbury. Then enjoy lunch on your own, and shopping, on the square in Granbury.

(Mulch Continued from page 1)

A typical mulch should be kept at least three inches thick, but a depth of more than five inches could be potentially harmful!

The roots of plants do most of their growing for the year in fall months, and they need moisture to be healthy and aggressive. Many shrubs need a deep soaking in October to prevent undue winter damage (in the case of broadleaf shrubs mostly caused by drying winds and drought, not actual freezing unless there are severe cold spells). Mulches conserve moisture and keep the soil warm longer into the winter, helping roots stay active and vigorous. Use 3-4 inches over the soil and keep it moist especially if the plants are close to the house. Be sure to water the root zone in the soil, not just the mulch! There are lots of good mulches depending on your location, the shredded mulches tend to pack down nicely and last a good long time.

Mulching and drip irrigation should go together and work in tandem, yet so often we forget to put them together. When you're running drip in a flower bed or in the vegetable garden, always cover the drip tube under the mulch. This enables you to protect your expensive tubing from the sun's UV rays as well as to cover the droplets of water from the sun's heat while controlling evaporation.

Enjoy the benefits of mulching, as opposed to the detriments of not mulching: Reducing heat on the soil, controlling the germination of weeds, reducing the usage of irrigation water, warmer soil temp in the fall and the most important benefit is the slow release fertilizer you get from the mulch breaking down and becoming humus in the soil.



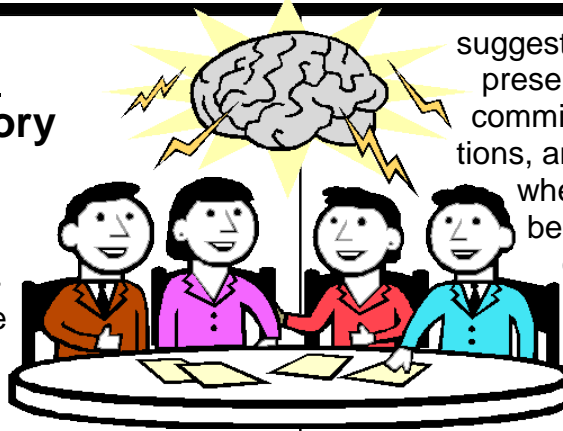
**“Remember:
Compost Once,
Mulch Forever!”**
— Steve Chaney

Committee Profile: Executive & Advisory Boards

Have you ever looked in your membership directory and noticed the second page lists the Executive Committee and Advisory Board? The By-Laws also mention these boards. But who's on them and what is their purpose?

The first part of the question is easy to answer. It is listed right there on page 2 of the TCMGA directory. The Executive Board consists of the elected officers of our organization: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Advisory Board is a committee of committee chairs and anyone else the Executive Board asks to provide additional input. Steve Chaney isn't listed as a member but he is a member of both boards in a non-voting capacity. The Advisory Board normally meets the third Thursday of the month and the Executive board meets after the Advisory meeting is finished. The Advisory meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. (Note: sometimes the meeting date, time, or place may change; so call the President if you plan to attend to get exact details.)

According to our By-Laws, the purpose of the Advisory Board is to develop 'long-range plans and goals, projects, and other management practices by working in conjunction with the Executive Board.' They discuss what is happening and give ideas to make our organization better. If someone



suggests something that needs to be presented to the membership, this committee hears it first, asks questions, and offers suggestions so that when it is presented to the membership most questions have been considered and can be given a well thought out answer.

The Executive Board does the same as the Advisory Board and MORE. Our By-Laws

state: 'The Executive Board shall serve as a screening body for special activities, including the addition of any education enrichment programs or seminars, and shall determine whether an activity should be presented to the general membership for approval.' The Executive Board is also authorized to approve unbudgeted expenditures up to \$50, appoint two directors and two alternates to the state Master Gardener Association, approve the yearly budget before it is presented to the membership for final approval, and appoint the chair of the Nominating Committee. The Executive Board has voting rights. Any votes taken that include the Advisory Board are to show opinion or support only.

It appears a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes for all of our benefit. Thanks Executive and Advisory Boards. If the attached picture is an example of their work, some serious stuff happens in those meetings.

Who knew? Now we all do. If you would like to discover more about these two boards, read your By-Laws or talk to one of the board members to hear about their role on the board.



Out and About

Although school is out, gardening is still going strong at our school projects with the weeding and upgrading needed before the fall term begins. All efforts are made specifically for the children's education; you are encouraged to get involved. 🌱 Project Leader **Mary McCoy** reports the development of a Monarch Habitat at the **FWBG Children's Garden** has specific sites identified and seeds planted, as specified by the "Monarch Watch Butterfly Gardening" organization. 🌱 After several years of fundraising, planning and postponements, the garden shed at the **Alice Carlson OLE** is completed, thanks to the PTA, Principal Jeannie Robinson, Project Leader, **Sharon Chastain**, "Specs and Building Master" **Jim Nelson**, and "Master Painters" **Karen Kologe, Ron Schlitzer, and Jack Gerloff**. Next up is an additional rainwater collection system. 🌱 **Emily Ward** tells us that **Thistle Hill** has received two rare "gems" from the trustees of the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House—two faux tree stumps, developed in 1889 and reflective of the home's Queen Ann Victorian architecture. These treasures now anchor the Teahouse garden, and add to the historical value and beauty of the property. 🌱 The heat is on, and we're not talking temperature folks! Project leaders are busily responding to the challenge of building, buying, or stealing (we aren't telling which) items to submit for auction at the August garage sale. Projects reap the benefits of these sales, so start saving your \$\$\$. Beginning bids will start at \$25, and the items, all garden related, promise stiff competition for your shopping dollars. See you there!

- Joy Lease



August Birthdays

- 1 Toni Morehead, Joanne McClendon, Penny Sambell
- 4 Ken Barham, Leeann Wilhelmi
- 7 Lisa Bratton
- 9 Janice Richardson, Gary Hames
- 10 Sue Short
- 12 Debbie Patriquin
- 15 Sandy Williams, Cindy Woelke
- 16 Johnna Reed, Connie Anderson
- 19 Margaret Hare, Francine Babrel
- 21 Nancy Curl
- 22 Sandy Landry
- 25 Mary Kay Hughes
- 26 Beverly Beazley and Susan Harper
- 31 Vickie Laughlin

Errors and Omissions: Penny Sambell has informed us that many of the 2008 class members' birthdays were never reported. Penny has corrected these omissions and, hopefully, future dates will be correctly reflected. We regret that this has happened.

In sympathy: Sincere condolences are sent to Bernice Ramsbottom on the death of her husband, July 3, 2009.

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact Joy Lease, (817) 795-5133 or email jlease@prodigy.net

— Joy Lease

Directory Updates

Please note the following directory updates :

Fry, Donna – 817-584-0842

Goad, Mary Jane - 817.881.5922

Gonzalez, Maureen - gwgonz@att.net

Hammill, Joyce – e-mail joycehammill@verizon.net

McCook, Penny – 3221 Rosehaven Dr., Unit 1510, Fort Worth, TX 76116-0996

Southerland, Janet – 7508 Circle Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180-6354

Carl Trehus - 3305 Ashmore Lane, Grapevine, TX 76051-6866

Weidler, Barbara – e-mail barbtw@sbcglobal.net

Report changes or corrections to Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net or 817-294-1329

NEW PROJECT

Steve Chaney has approved a new MG project, the Heritage Elementary Outdoor Learning Center (OLC). The school already has a vigorous JMG program with a number of JMG certified students. The Heritage OLC's Project Manager is Jackie Peel and she plans to have work days twice a month on Mondays from 2:45 - 4:00. Although there will probably be some work days between now and the start of school, published workdays start in September since it requires coordination with the Heritage Elementary school staff.

(See the calendar for work schedule days.)

— Steve Purdy

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

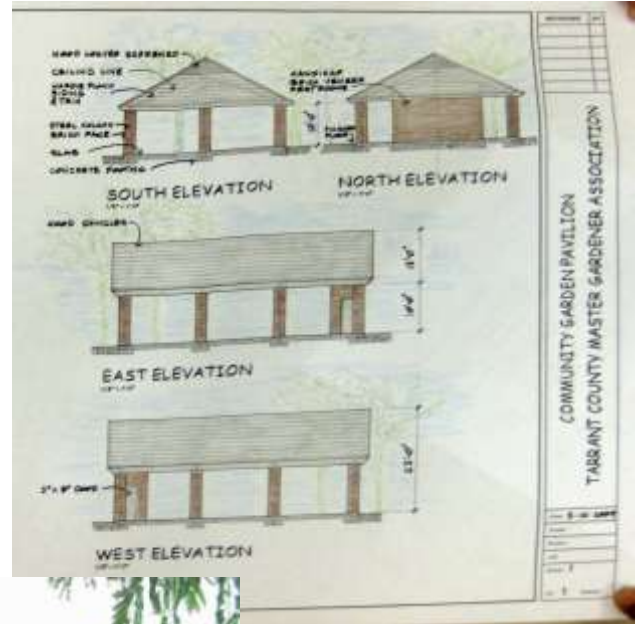
Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
312 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
313 BG Cottage Garden	Tues. 9-11:30 a.m.	Janet Riley	817-732-7837
321 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 8 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
326 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact area coordinators below)		
Project Co-chairs:	Pat Higgins, Nancy Curl and Tom Scott		
	817-946-6278 817-319-1795 817-427-9009		
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Compost:	position open		
Education:	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Enabling beds:	Jeanette Berggren, jberggren@sbcglobal.net		817-249-6815
Greenhouse:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net - Wednesdays		817-295-2883
Mowing/Edging:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Orchard and Berry	Renee Beckum jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		214-914-6597
Perennial beds: (developing)	Joann Hahn, joannhahn@att.net		817-923-9250
	Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-838-7321
Propagation	Claire Alford, Joy Lease, and Donna Morris		
Roses:	Karen Kologe, kpk@charter.net - Fridays		817-924-6449
TCU students &	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Vegetable garden	Tues, & Fri. 8:30 a.m.		
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
	3 rd Sat, 9:00 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed. 9 a.m.	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	Tues. 8-11 am Randolmill Pk. Greenhouse		
	Wed. 8-11 p.m., 2nd Sat, 8-11 a.m. Nancy Swan		817-535-9991
<u>School Gardens</u>			
601 Alice Carlson	Mon/& Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
611 BG-Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
NEW Heritage School OLE	2nd & 4th Mon. 2:45 p.m	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977

Growth, Changes and Construction at the Community / Demo Garden Area

Photos by Nancy Curl



Renee Beckum with kids from Rosemont ES at the TCMGA Garden Day Camp



COMMUNITY GARDEN PAVILION
TARRANT COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Interns Ron Schiltzer and Linda Hawkins working on their intern project



New Pergola



Herb Garden Wheel

Possible plans for a future new pavilion, with restroom facilities

Photos by Nancy Curl



Charlotte Berck - lead for the barn beds at the TCMGA CG

Rainwater Harvesting



Espalier

Photos by Marilyn Sallee



Orchard Trees



Orchard Structure—vines just put in

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



Calendar of This Month's Events



- Aug. 1 Wildscape class—Native Perennials
- Aug. 5 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Aug. 8 Gardening with the Pros—Cancelled
- Aug 13 **TCMGA MEETING—GARAGE SALE**
- Aug 14-16 TNLA Landscapers Show—Dallas
- Aug. 22 & 27—Butterfly Docent Training—Texas Discovery Gardens
- Aug 29-30 Ft W Orchid Society Sale, FWBG

Aug. 26-Dec. 9—**MG Training Class thru TCU** Wed. 5-7 pm plus Saturday field trips. This is a regular MG certification class open to the public, with all requirements and benefits of Master Gardener training.

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



More state news:
www.texasmastergardeners.com