



Mission Statement

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



Top Ten Perennials for Landscape Use



Common Name	Scientific Name	Exposure
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Sun
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis sp.</i>	Sun or Semi-Shade
Goldstrum Rudbeckia	<i>Rudbeckia X Goldstrum</i>	Sun
Perennial Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus X mosheutos</i>	Sun
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> (Rose Mallow, Mallow Rose, Swamp Mallow).	Full Sun
Purple Cone-flower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Sun
Garden Canna	<i>Canna X Generalis</i>	Sun or Shade
Turk's Cap	<i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i>	Sun or Shade
'Texas Gold' Columbine	<i>Aquilegia hinckleyana</i>	Shade
Firebush	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Sun
Perennial Verbena	<i>Verbena X hybrida</i>	Sun

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Do you love herb gardening for the perennial border appeal, for the mix of eye-pleasing color or the sensual fragrance of the leaves? You will like this article on page 6

From http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/publications/flowers_all_seasons/perennials.html

FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

"Time disappears while we are deciding what to do with it...." so use these cold days to plan and the cool days to do all the things we can do during a Texas winter. Don't let that time slip away, get started on those MG hours now, there are only 10 months left. If you spend 1 hour each day that would be 30 hours a month, WOW that's a thought, 30 a month in place of 30+ a year. OK, maybe that is a stretch but we could all do a few more hours in 2007 and what a difference it would make in our community.

All of the MG projects can use our help and if you can't make it on a scheduled workday talk to the project leader about what you can do other days. Get involved in one of the many committees that always need fresh ideas and an extra hand. Work some place that you have never worked before and meet more of this great group of MGs that make us the best in the state. There are so many options and so few hours in a day, what's a gardener to do?

—Ginger Bason

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes December 14, 2006

Due to the date of the 2006 Christmas Luncheon Celebration coming after publication deadline the minutes will appear in the next issue.



January 4, 2007 Monthly TCMGA Program

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We're going to kick it off with a speaker and topic that many of you have requested, namely, Butterflies. Not a very seasonal topic? Well, ask our speaker where they have gone, because this is her specialty. Gail Manning, PhD., the Education Horticulturist and Staff Entomologist at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens, has tracked and tagged monarchs for more than 14 years. Formerly with the Texas Discovery Gardens in Dallas, Dr. Manning stepped into the Tarrant County position as a well-known authority in the lepidopteron world and has since been a popular guest speaker in gardening and naturalists circles in our area. She will "wow" us with her knowledge and captivating pictures.

In the afternoon, we'll again have a smorgasbord of topics for your sampling pleasure. As last year, some of our "homegrown experts" will be presenting discussions, including:

"Cooking With Herbs"

Debbie Bollinger

(We're told there may be some mighty tasty pesto in the making . . .)

"Rocks and Fossils"

Bill Keller

(Bill is an expert on identifying age and origin of fossils. Have you dug up an interesting looking "something" in your backyard? Bring it – Bill will tell you if it's trash or treasure.)

"Pruning and Tool Sharpening"

Steve Chaney

(Steve won't sharpen or prune for you, but bring your tools and he'll show you how. He may even be willing to answer all of your gardening questions.)

"Bugs, Bugs, Bugs"

Eleanor Tuck

(Got a bug problem?? Just ask our resident bug lady.)

"Friendship Force International"

Dolores Geisel

(Find out how to visit the world's most famous gardens, establish life-long gardening friends in other countries, and become an ambassador of good will.)

- 9:00 Sign in and coffee
- 10:00 Dr. Gail Manning, "Where Have All the Butterflies Gone?"
- 11:00 Business meeting, lunch, socializing
- 12:00 Chose your topics of interest. Rotate about every 20 minutes.

See you in the new year!

Submitted by Joy Lease

LEADERSHIP

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gbason@hotmail.com

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<http://www.tcmga.org>

817-884-1944

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Definition of a scholar: one who has done advanced study in a special field. Scholarship funds help one to achieve such a status. So??? You may have noticed an item in our budget for Scholarship. What are they for? How can I access these funds?

For years, TCMGA has provided monies toward the education in horticulture at our local community college, Northwest Campus of Tarrant County College. We realized that we could see close to home results if we provided you the member some of the monies to attend Advanced Training—also known as Specialist training.

Texas A&M working with Texas Master Gardener Association is developing and offering courses in advanced horticultural subjects. These courses result in a designation of Specialist, and like our initial MG training, we “pay back” by conducting programs for the community in the area of our newly acquired knowledge.

The Specialist courses developed so far: Fire Wise, Propagation, Entomology, Oak Wilt, and Fire Ants. Several of us have taken Propagation, and I jumped off and took the first Entomology class—a week at A&M with nothing but bugs!! Most classes are not that long, however.

Both our local MG Association and the State MG Association recognize the initial cost of these courses and want to assist in defraying some of the cost. Both our local and the State organization require that you complete the required hours and have been officially recognized at the annual State MG meeting as a Specialist before any reimbursement.

The process is simple and the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee will be happy to meet with you to answer questions and to explore admission to these courses. Eleanor Tuck, outgoing Chair and Judy Butler, incoming Chair are the ladies to contact.

—by Eleanor Tuck



Things To Do In January

January is definitely the coldest month of the year. When I was growing up I spent the better part of winters in the mid-west trouncing through snow that was up to my knees, shoveling walks and driveways, with earmuffs, hooded parka, and thick gloves covering every inch of my body. Now, in Texas the most I ever see is +20 degree nights and one inch of snow one time during the winter. It is still enough to ice the windows. The furnace is working overtime to warm the house and extra covers are on the bed. The coffee maker faithfully makes the coffee as usual so who wants to go outside?

Planting and Transplanting. The winter season provides an excellent time to plant or transplant major trees and shrubs. The plants will adapt quickly and will be well established prior to spring growth and prior to summer heat. If you have a Japanese maple that was getting too much sun during the past summer it can be moved in January or February while it is fully dormant. Dig a large hole and get as much of the roots as you can. Be sure to fill in around the roots with soft soil to eliminate air pockets which can fill up with water.

Pruning: If you prune now, just remember hollies and other berry producing plants usually produce berries on two-year-old wood; thus, if you remove current or new growth, you also eliminate the berries. Do not prune azaleas as you will be removing potential spring blooms

Roses: It is too early to plant roses. Wait until March. You cannot get them now anyway. Hold off on pruning roses until February. Climbing roses should be trained but not pruned. Weave the long canes through openings in trellises or arbors and tie them with twine or plant ties.

Cultivate vegetable garden areas: You might as well start cultivating garden areas and removing weeds and grass roots. This will save time preparing for the mid-February planting. Turn the soil and amend some compost.

Prepare for February planting of cool season annuals: Loosen the ground and prepare the soil and add in peat moss or compost. Some choices include hollyhocks, coneflower, poppy, annual phlox, larkspur, gladiolus and dahlia. Some will come back on their own. There is something magical about plants that like your garden so well that they choose to come back each year for another visit. Larkspur prefers full sun to partial shade in very well drained soils.

Protect those tender plants: Be prepared to cover and protect those tender plants for a hard freeze. Have the materials on hand so you do not have to make a desperate run to the store at the last minute.

Soil test for pH and P,N,K: Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Potassium are the Big Three and you need to know your soil conditions. Get a soil test kit from the Extension Office.

Make Plans: Make flower and vegetable garden plans now. Work on your landscape changes and plan what you want to change, plant, and spend. January is a great time for dreaming and planning and preparing soil for a new year and a new season.

Trees & Shrubs: Remove mistletoe while it is still young. Clip small twigs down low on the tree where it is growing. That will kill the upper growth. There is no spray that will control it without harming the host tree. Be on the lookout for scale insects on camellias, euonymus, hollies, photinia, fruit and shade trees.

Evaluate winter damage: Even though you can see that foliage may be damaged, a recovery may occur come spring and the plant will leaf out. Stem areas may be damaged, yet the plant may respond from the root system, best wait until early spring to prune or eliminate.

You thought you were going to keep that large recliner chair warm all winter didn't you?

—from the Editor

Herb Gardening For The Senses

Few pastimes satisfy the senses as completely as gardening. In addition to fulfilling our basic need for food, plants provide us with magnificent beauty, delicious aroma and a wealth of tactile experiences ranging from sticky thorns to velvety-soft rose petals.

Interestingly, the sensual nature of gardening helps link us to our past. Certain moments, amid a lifetime of experiences, are more clearly recalled because they appeal to our senses — sitting on grandmother's porch for instance. Thinking back, it is easy to remember the scent of her gardenias, the flutter of hummingbirds at the nearby feeder and the "snap" of home-grown beans in your fingers.

Gardens are as individualistic as their owners, but they are frequently organized to appeal to the senses, such as a rose garden planted for fragrance or a perennial border designed for its mix of eye-pleasing color. But perhaps the most indulgent of the senses is the herb garden. The simple act of gathering aromatic leaves and flowers is almost reward enough for growing these plants, but herbs also satisfy the gardener's appetite for taste, touch and appearance.

Herbs have a number of virtues that should encourage even the most inexperienced gardener.

The Native Plant Society of Texas includes the following multi-sensual herbs:

Purple Coneflower (echinacea) — A perennial that sports beautiful dark pink to lavender flowers with yellow gold centers. Echinacea root, seed heads and flowers are used medicinally to ward off colds and fight infection.



Goldenrod (solidago) — A wide-spreading fragrant perennial with striking yellow pyramids of flowers on tall stalks. Its flowers are used in dried floral arrangements the leaves and flowers are used medicinally. It is fragrant and flavorful.

Sage (salvia greggii) — Showy flower spikes in red, pink and white. Also consider Cedar sage (salvia roemeriana), blue sage (salvia texana), and mealy sage (salvia farinacea) for their colorful flowers.



Purple horsemint (monarda citriodora) — Also known as lemon beebalm, this tough perennial wildflower is very showy in large plantings because of its purple flower spikes. The plant's leaves have a lemony fragrance when brushed.

Rosemary - Useful evergreen. Some types are shrub-like with small flowers; others are prostrate groundcovers. Very fragrant. Used to season cooked foods such as steaks, chicken and eggs. Also used to flavor oils and teas.



Mints - Rapidly spreading groundcover with scalloped leaves. Many fragrant and lovely varieties. Used to flavor baked goods such as cakes, cookies and meats. Also used to flavor fruit salad, casseroles, cheeses and drinks.

Garlic & Onion Chives - These plants provide white and lavender summer flowers. The foliage and flowers are used in cooking. Their strong scent makes them useful as companion plants

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(Continued from page 6)

for roses and vegetables because they deter harmful insects.

Lemon Balm/Lemon Verbena - These herbs offer lemony scents and flavor. Lemon balm has small white flower clusters along the stem and scalloped-edged leaves. It is useful as a medicinal tea, flavoring for desserts, oils and vinegars, dessert garnish, potpourri and in flower arrangements. Lemon verbena has loosely clustered fragrant, purple flowers on woody stems. It is used medicinally and also used to flavor teas, jellies and desserts.

Note: Be sure to properly identify plants before using them and consult reliable sources before using medicinal herbs. Be aware that any plant material may cause an allergic reaction. Do not eat plants treated with toxic products.

—by Phyllis Webster, Hood County Master Gardeners, Horticulture, Hood County News

Thanks

A special thanks goes to Devanie Fergus and Carole O'Connell, our proof readers, and also to Tammy Edwards who proof the newsletter copy and catch everything that escaped the editor before going to press. The editor would be reminded of the errors all month long without their contributions. This is another example of devotion to the MGs. Remember to thank them.



—the editor

WINTER PREPAREDNESS

Excerpts from Texas A & M, Texas Cooperative Extension Disaster Education Network

Here in Texas we really have pretty mild winter weather, usually. Severe winter weather can threaten your safety and the safety of your property. Heavy snow, freezing rain, ice, and freezing temperatures can cause major problems in parts of Texas.



Our plants need some type of protection. Most Texas native and adapted plants survive without aid after the first one or two years of growth. Cover your plants with a polyester mesh fabric material before a freeze, but only leave it on for a day or two because the plants need sunlight. NEVER use solid plastic. Water well before a freeze to keep their roots warm.

Also be concerned about your own needs in emergencies. Some causes of injury and death include hypothermia from prolonged exposure to the cold, carbon monoxide poisoning from defective heating units and auto accidents.

Get prepared. The main concerns related to winter weather are loss of heat, power, and telephone service, as well as a shortage of supplies if storm conditions are severe or continue for more than a day.

Check list

- Battery powered radio and emergency flashlights. Cordless phones don't work when power is out. Cell phones do.
- Bottled water, staple foods, extra cash, first aid kit, extra cash, backup of prescriptions.
- Dry fireplace wood and kerosene heaters are good "alternate" sources of heat. Never burn charcoal indoors! It releases carbon monoxide.

Driving: If road are icy avoid driving. You are not in control. Keep a tow rope, flashlight, flares, tool kit, booster cables, road map, blanket and extra clothing in the trunk.

Animals and pets: You may think animals are made to stay outside. They are not. Provide a warm haven for them.

Have a safe and warm winter!

December 2006 Master Gardener State Meeting

The Texas Master Gardeners quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was held December 6, 2006 at College Station, Texas.

Debbie Martin, state awards chairperson, outlined a new electronic format for submitting state award entries.

State Webmaster Doug Richards encouraged Master Gardeners statewide to send him event information and news of their associations and to use the web site as a communication tool. You can view month-by-month horticulture activities, learn what other counties are doing, and also learn what educational classes are being offered.

The state organization is still working on obtaining a 501c3 (non-profit) umbrella for MG chapters. (TCMGA has had a 501c3 designation for several years).

Kerrville has their web site up, and you can view all that they will offer for the State Convention they are hosting April 12-14. Registration can be made on-line, or you can print out a registration form and mail it to them.

Little Rock is hosting the International MG convention May 2-5, and they also have a web site you can view for information (Go to texasmastergardeners.com and click on calendar of events and look for State convention and International MG convention).

Doug Welsh reported that there are 5 or 6 rainwater harvesting specialist classes scheduled for next year. There is much academic interest in the subject, and Doug is hoping that Master Gardeners can help make this a mainstream project for the public.

More specialist training sessions will be listed as they become available. The programs will be streamlined to help lower the cost. Dr. Welsh noted that training of specialists is set up to train MG to teach and share their knowledge, which will enhance our public educational program.

Denton MGs want to start a demonstration garden, and they passed out a questionnaire requesting relevant information and advice from any of our county associations who have started this type of garden.

With the help of past and present TCMGA committee chairs, job descriptions were created. These were taken to the state meeting and were passed out to the delegates. The job descriptions were so well received that Doug Welsh, our state co-coordinator, asked if he could forward them to the 156 Texas agents. We graciously agreed.

The last order of business was the election of 2007 officers.

President	Karen Bitnar	Hood County
1 st Vice President	Garey Wylie	Johnson County
2 nd Vice President	Helen Quinn	Grimes County
Secretary	George Ammermann	Guadalupe County
Treasurer	Virginia Krebs	Wichita County

COMMUNITY AND DEMONSTRATION GARDEN UPDATE

Work is progressing at the garden site. Metal skirting for the barn has been donated by Metal Supermarket Store with a value of \$150. This skirting has been placed around the barn. A planned 2 ft. flower bed will be added in front of the skirting.

Beds: Instead of the 600 Pavestones that were expected, 800 were donated by Pavestone. These will be utilized for making six beds. Six of the landscape timber planting beds have been made and four have been filled with cool season plants.

There are a lot of remaining tasks that require Master Gardeners' assistance. Remember that the working days for the Garden are Tuesday and Friday mornings. These are some of the items on the list:

1. Build, paint and install decorative shutters on the barn.
2. Work on a design and fabrication of compost bins along with plans for a plant holding area.
3. Erect the patio deck at the front of the barn.
4. Erect the Retaining Stone plant beds.

There are items that are needed. They are as follows:

- Used (or new) garden tools
- Pegboard (4x8 ft.) for the interior walls of the barn
- Use of a small front end loader (plus operator) for leveling areas
- A garden tractor with a trailer.

Before the cold weather hit, the butterflies had found the site and were enjoying the snapdragons. See you in the Garden.

—Judy Butler

Reimbursements

Members are reminded that if you have any outstanding bills or reimbursements for this fiscal year (2006) they must be sent to me before the last day of December. For expenses incurred after January 1, 2007, please forward these to Tammy Edwards, your new treasurer.

It has been a pleasure to serve this wonderful organization as your treasurer for the past two years. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support. As I put away all the numbers and figures that have been dancing around in my head, I now look forward to getting my hands back into the earth and working beside you on other projects.

by Rita Hottel

Tool and Clothing Inventory Clearance

At the January Master Gardener meeting, we will have an inventory clearance sale of tools, logo clothing, and other MG items. Items for sale will include Vendor Samples, mislabeled sizes of clothing and discontinued Master Gardener items. Sales will be final and must be paid by cash or check at time of pickup.

Also, as a reminder, Gardeners who have ordered logo clothing or tools but have not yet picked them up can pick them up at the Extension Office-Kim's Desk. Items not picked up at the office will be available at the January meeting. Items not picked up by the end of the January meeting will be returned to inventory as undeliverable.

—James Nelson

Happy New Year to All.

Have you made a New Year's resolution to simplify your life by ridding yourself of garden accessories?



Did you get some Christmas presents that you cannot re-gift? The Raffle Committee wants them! We need to support our projects and their volunteers.

We will be taking applications for project funds in the fall. Be thinking of projects you need funding for in 2008 and how you can help the Raffle Committee raise the money.

We appreciate everyone who buys raffle tickets and all of you who bring items to raffle. We depend on you and your continued generosity for our success.

Our wish for you in 2007 is that is that you have your best Growing Season in every aspect of your life...Barb and Joyce

—by Joyce Colegrove

MG Directory Updates

Corrections:

Margaret - 4700 Oak Tr.
Anderson Ft. Worth, TX 76109

JoAnn Glenn - 2024 Tin Top Rd. #102
Weatherford, TX 76086-8103
817-596-4275

Nona Batiste - 817-318-0546 (home)/
817-371-2488 (cell)

Send updates to Pat Lovejoy
E-mail patlovejoy@att.net.



Birthdays for this month

- 1-1 Barbara Sides, Concha Jones
- 1-2 Nancy Bannow, Linda Winn
- 1-4 Joy Lease, Sally Allsup
- 1-5 Marlene Deaton, Beverly Adkins
- 1-8 John Hammack, Derald Freeman
- 1-9 Jerry Tuttle
- 1-11 Barbara Durnan
- 1-12 Sandy Flory
- 1-13 Paula Wilbanks
- 1-17 Lauris Meissner
- 1-18 Dave Wilson, Paula Sklar
- 1-19 Mary Ann Kleuser
- 1-20 Demetra Larremore
- 1-21 Nancy Dozier
- 1-22 Mary Edholm, Betty Floyd
- 1-23 Eleanor Tuck
- 1-24 Bob Steele
- 1-27 Rose Marie Mercado, Glenda Page,
Joy Perry, and Pat Wooddall
- 1-29 Traci Martin, Deidre Heir
- 1-31 Dolores Geisel

Email change to lavonnen@sbcglobal.net
—by LaVonne Nowlin

Membership Dues

Don't forget your 2007 dues are due by December 31. Dues are \$20 with an additional \$5 if you want the newsletter mailed.

Send dues to Pat Lovejoy, 125 William Wallace Dr., Burleson, TX 76028 or you can pay at the December luncheon.

—by Pat Lovejoy

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 Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
312 Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
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	Every Mon. 9 a.m.	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.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325 Weston Gardens Docent	Call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326 Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
327 Gardening with Dotty	Last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
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	Call chairman	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	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Jan 6, 9-12	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
	Tues Jan 9-30, 1-3 p.m.		
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	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603 Brewer	Call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Call chairman	Margaret Hare	817-763-5054
611 Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

01/09/07	Graduation for Fall 05 MG Interns
01/12	Arlington House & Organic Gardening Show
01/16	First day of Spring 07 MG Intern Class
01/16	Graduation for Spring 06 MG Interns
01/26 - 01/28	H&G show at Fort Worth Convention Center
02/23 - 02/25	Neil Sperry H&G Show



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