

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

January 2009

Mission Statement

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

SELECTING AN INTERIOR WINTER PLANT

Choosing plants to enjoy in your house can result in pleasure or an endless chore. You should select only those foliage plants that appear to be insect and disease free. Remember that it is easier to purchase a plant with requirements that are the same as your residence than to alter the environment of your home or office to suit the plants.

LIGHT

When examining light levels for plants, consider 3 aspects of light: (1) intensity, (2) duration and (3) quality. Light intensity influences the manufacture of plant food, stem length, leaf color, and flowering. House plants can be classified according to their light needs, such as high, medium and low light requirements.

WATER

Over- and under-watering account for a large percentage of plant losses. The most common question home gardeners ask is, "How often should I water my plants?". There is not a good answer to this question. Differences in soil or potting medium and environment influence water needs. Watering as soon as the soil crust dries, results in over-watering. House plant roots are usually in the bottom two-thirds of the pot, so do not water until the bottom two-thirds starts to dry out. Water the pot until water runs out of the bottom which also washes out all the excess salts.

TEMPERATURE

Most house plants tolerate normal temperature fluctuations. In general, foliage house plants grow best between 70° and 80° F. during the day and from 60° to 68° F. at night. A cooler temperature at night is actually more desirable.

FERTILIZING

The majority of plant fertilizers are about 20-20-20. As a general rule, use a fertilizer recommended every 2 weeks from March to September. During the winter months fertilizer may not be added at all because reduced light and temperature

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This issue discusses how to select an interior winter plant. Read pages 1 and 4 to learn all about this.

FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

Happy New Year! I love to say that because it means the beginning of another of gardening and community service with all of you dear friends!

I would again like to say thanks to all those amazing folks from the Awards, Hospitality, Raffle, and Photography committees and the ad hoc 'reservations' committee for making our Holiday Luncheon so much fun. It was just a nice relaxed event this year with plenty of time to recognize lots of you and your generous gift of time to our community. I'll say it again, each of you is a blessing to our association and our community, truly.

One piece of business – at our January meeting we will present and vote on our association's budget for 2009. Keep in mind that although it may appear that there are idle funds built up, it is just that we collect our dues and raffle funds.

in the previous year (08) that serve as our operating funds for the next year (09). The true additional funds that had recently accumulated have, for the most part, been used to fund new laptops and projectors for Speakers Bureau.

And so, now, on with another year of fun and hard work with people who we CHOOSE to hang out with, doing what we LOVE to do – volunteer work.

—Susan Stanek



January 8, 2009 Monthly Program

The December Holiday Luncheon was a wonderful event—not just the food—but the fellowship and the AWARDS. Wow what a bunch of workers we are and Nancy Dozier along with her committee, did an outstanding job of recognizing so many of you.

Onward to 2009, and in your spare time after the Holidays, go to American Forests Magazine.com and get excited about trees. Trees have been special to me for many years and just looking at this wonderful magazine reminded me of the beauty of forests.

On Thursday, January 8th, we will have Jeff Sherman, Land Landscape Horticulturist for North Richland Hills speak to us. His love is TREES and he has located and achieved the registration of State Tree and recently the National Tree Certification for a Hercules tree in the Cross Timber Park.

Our schedule will be:

9:30–10:00 Sign In and Coffee

10:00–11:00 Jeff Sherman, Landscape Hrt, NRH

11:00–12:00 Business Meeting and Snacks

12:00–1:00 Jeff continues with TREES

—Eleanor Tuck, 1st VP - Programs

Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting December 4, 2008 Minutes

1. Susan Stanek, VP Programs, welcomed members (133 present) and guests Judy Ketchem and Steve Chaney.
 2. President Tammy Edwards called the business meeting to order at 12:10.
 3. 2008 TCMGA Awards
 - Nancy Dozier reported that 120 members volunteered over 100 hours in 2008; 45 members over 200 hours; 11 members over 400 hours; and 8 members over 500 hours. Nancy announced that the names of the 8 "500+" members has been placed on a plaque to be displayed in the Master Gardener office.
 - Judy Ratzlaff presented the following "Dirty Glove Award" to a volunteer in each of the MG Projects: Perennial Garden: Claudia Cimma; Trial Garden: Claire Alford; Thistle Hill: Linda Winn; Union Gospel Mission: Nancy Bannow; Teen Challenge: Ginger Bason; Southwest Courthouse: Jim Woodlief; Southlake Liberty Garden: Suzi Guckel; Wildscape: Jo Poppelreiter; Alice Carlson: John Stanley; Fitzgerald Elementary: Brinda Briscoe; Little Hand on the Farm: Betty Floyd; Intern Advisor: Jody Puente; Hulen Library Garden: Evaline Woodrey; Children's Garden: Terri Mann.
 - Joe Sanders presented Intern Awards.
 - Nancy Dozier presented the following TCMGA Awards: Above and Beyond: Nancy Curl; Extra Mile: Bill Hall; Education Super Star: Sharon Chastain; Educator of the Year: Marilyn Sallee; Special Merit: Judy Ratzlaff; Project Super Star: Tom Scott; Project Person of the Year: Susan Miller; Master Gardener of the Year: Pat Higgins.
 4. Minutes from the November 6 meeting were approved as printed in the *Sharecropper*.
 5. Treasurer, Carl Trehus reported that as of November 30, 2008:

a. Checking account balance:	\$ 6,314.65
b. Money Market balance:	\$22,507.91
c. Totaling:	\$28,822.56

 - Budget requests are now due.
 - Project funds must be paid out by December 31, 2008.
 - All Raffle funds go to Projects and are not on the TCMGA Budget. Requests for Raffle funds are to be made by Project Chairs to Sandra Johnson, Raffle Chair, by December 11, 2008.
 6. Announcements:
 - The January TCMGA meeting will be January 8, 2009.
 - Tammy recognized and thanked the Intern Class of 2008 for building the Enabling Garden at the Resource Connection Community Garden.
 - Judy Ketchem, Director of the Resource Connection, was thanked for providing a monthly meeting space for our organization and the space and assistance with the Community Garden.
 - Tom Scott was thanked for leading the Intern Class in creating the Enabling Garden.
 - Tammy Edwards reminded the membership of the 3 members who passed away in 2008: Julie Florence, Bill Harris & Pat Durda.
 - LaVonne Nowlin was recognized for her caring work as the Sunshine Chair.
 7. Outgoing Executive Board members were recognized.
 8. 2009 Executive Board members were installed: President: Susan Stanek, 1st Vice President: Eleanor Tuck, 2nd Vice President: Bill Hall, Treasurer: Carl Trehus, Secretary: Dottie Bucy.
 9. Meeting adjourned at 12:55.
- Submitted by Joyce Quam, Secretary.

LEADERSHIP

President—Susan Stanek
slstanek@charter.net

1st VPresident—Eleanor Tuck
etuck@sbcglobal.net

2nd VPresident—Bill Hall

Secretary—Dottie Bucy
dbucy2@yahoo.com

Treasurer—Carl Trehus
c.trehus@gte.net

Activities—Kay Gunn
kaygunn2138@sbcglobal.net

Birthdays/Sunshine—Joy Lease
jlease@prodigy.net

Directory/Membership—Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality—Johnna Reed
rlreed@sbcglobal.net

Photography/Publicity—Derald Freeman
grreatideas@sbcglobal.net

Raffle—Sandra Johnson
Sjohnson1220@hotmail.com

Sharecropper Editor/Chairperson
Marilyn Sallee
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Steve Chaney s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA office 817-884-1944
TCMGA Web site www.tcmga.org

result in reduced growth. Soluble salts will accumulate on top of the soil and around the pot at the soil line forming a yellow to white crust. Soluble salts result from fertilizer dissolved in water that will cause root tips to die. Be sure to wash it out.

LEAF DROP

The cause may be one or a combination of factors. In all, there are about 10 common causes of leaf drop.

1. Insufficient natural light.
2. Shock at transplanting.
3. Sudden change in temperature or light.
4. Too much fertilizer.
5. Drafty locations from placing them under or around air conditioning and heating vents.
6. Leaky space heaters or stoves using natural gas, butane or propane and carbon monoxide.
7. Infestations of insects and diseases
8. Packed soil due to infrequent repotting.
9. Moisture fluxuations from watering frequency.

PLANTS POISONOUS TO PETS.

Click on "Toxic Plants" on <http://www.grreatideas.com> and also check the list at <http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants>.

Keep in mind that sources disagree on some plants. Do not rely on this list if you have pets. Always do your research and check with your veterinarian.

Plants poisonous to cats and dogs must be avoided if there are pets in your home. While in some cases, just parts of a plant (bark, leaves, seeds, berries, roots, tubers, spouts, green shells) might be poisonous, this list rules out the whole plant. If you must have any of them, keep them safely out of reach. Should your feline or canine friend eat part of a poisonous plant, rush the pet to your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you can, take the plant with you for ease of identification.

Pet Friendly Plants:

African Violet, Alyssum, Basil, Bamboo, Begonia, Buddleia (Butterfly Bush), Calendula, Canna, Cast Iron Plant, Catmint (Nepeta faassenii), Chamomile, Coriander, Cosmos, Cress, Dahlia, Dianthus (Pinks), Dill, Dorotheanthus (Ice plant), Fern (Boston, Ball, Feather, Sword), Forget-me-not, Heliotrope, Hens and chickens, Hollyhock, Hyssop, Impatiens, Jasmine, Lavender, Lettuce, Marum (Cat-Thyme), Miniature Rose, Mint, Pansy, Parsley, Rose, Rosemary, Shasta Daisy, Snapdragon, Spearmint, Spider plant, Sunflower, Tarragon, Thyme, Umbrella plant, Verbascum, Violet.

--by Derald Freeman

2009 COMMITTEES / ADVISORY BOARD



Acknowledgements - Pat Lovejoy

Activities - Kay Gunn

Audit – John Tinsley

Awards – Sharon Chastain

Bulletin Board – Donna Turner

Garden Resource - Dave Wilson

Historical - Debbie Bollinger

Hospitality - Johnna Reed

Immediate Past President – Tammy Edwards

Members at Large – Carla Pickens and Steven Purdy

Membership - Sue Ellen Schlitzer

Newsletter – Marilyn Sallee

Nominating – Joyce Quam

Parliamentarian – Nancy Curl

Photography – Derald Freeman

Publicity / Public Relations – Derald Freeman

Raffle - Sandra Johnson

Scholarship - Judy Butler

Sunshine – Joy Lease

State Awards – Eleanor Tuck

State Delegates – Tammy Edwards and Susan Stanek

State Alternates – JoAnn Hahn and Carl Trehus

Website – Kate Kilmurray

Notes from Texas Master Gardener Association Director's Meeting, December 6, 2008

Homer Babbitt, TMGA Treasurer, requested that we change the way state dues are paid. In the past, the county Treasurer would fill out a form that told the total number of members and total \$ paid and another form that listed the county officers. Homer requested that starting now, dues and the total number of members and \$ be mailed to the TMGA Treasurer BUT the form listing the county officers be emailed to the TMGA Secretary. The new forms are available at www.texasmastergardeners.com.

Dr Joe Masabni was introduced. He is the new Vegetable Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service and an assistant professor at A&M. Dr Masabni is currently looking for trial gardens to test new varieties and pesticides. Dr Masabni will be presenting a Vegetable Specialist class in 2009. For more information his email is jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu.

Bunny Williams with Dallas County is the chair for the Mentoring Committee. Her committee will be sending surveys to the county directors. They would like to divide the state into Southern, Eastern and Western regions. They are currently looking of volunteers to serve on the committee. If you are interested contact Bunny at: Bunny-Williams@sbcglobal.net.



Jayla Fry announced the JMG specialist training will be held in San Antonio on February 25 through the 27th. Early registration is \$275 and will be \$300 after February 6. For more information go to: JMGkids.us/tx.

There will be a new EarthKind website up around January 1st. It will be a clearing house for EarthKind Roses and EarthKind Perennials. For more information email: earthkindforum@gmail.com.

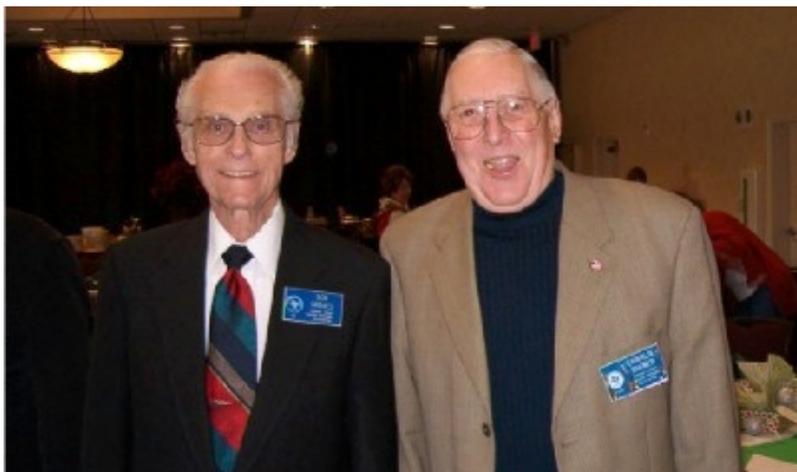
Dallas County will host the 2010 State Conference. Bunny Williams announced that the host hotel will be the Omni hotel in Irving. It is a 4 star hotel and they have negotiated a rate of \$126/night.

You will not be able to book your rooms for the 2010 conference until after the 2009 conference which is being held in Marshall on April 23 – 25, 2009. Don't forget to register for the 2009 conference. For more details go to: <http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>.

Hood and Somervell County are preparing a bid to host the 2011 conference in Glen Rose. A website has been setup: <http://www.2011conference.org>.

—Tammy Edwards

Master Gardener December Luncheon



LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATED PEOPLE

The Tarrant County Master Gardener holiday luncheon and awards event was held at the Texas Star Golf and Conference Center in Euless on December 4. If you were not there, you were missed and also missed out on a good time of festivities. Everyone was in a cheerful mind and spread the holiday cheer thick and heavy.

We had two photographers, Nancy Curl and Warren Tingley, who were fantastic at taking photos of groups of people, board members, people who received awards and many individuals. Warren and Nancy have immortalized the moment on digital images.

Captured on photo in a perfect moment we have Past, Present, and Future.

Ginger Bason (left) served as our past TCMGA President from 2005-2007.

Tammy Edwards (center) is the current president for 2008.

Susan Stanek (right) will be our new president for 2009.



We plan to create a looping PowerPoint program from all of these photos taken at the lunch to run on a laptop at the next MG meeting. If possible we might be able to put this on the web site. Hopefully there will be photos laying on the table for your taking at the meeting.

TCMGA is the most energetic, knowledgeable, happy, and talented group of people ever to take on the job of beautifying Tarrant County or any other group that I can think of. We have 17 work opportunities, plus ten areas in the community garden which log thousands of man hours every year.

normally handle around 5,000 phone calls during the year, far exceeding the efforts of most other counties. In addition, the speaker's bureau engaged around 4,300 people in 180 speaking engagements. Steve reported to me that there were 43,364 volunteer man-hours reported by MGs in 2006 and for 2007 it was 47,105. Impressed?

As chairperson of the Photography Committee I hope to make available all plant, landscape, and event photos to all MGs and to have people with cameras covering future events.

—Derald Freeman

People who work on the phones in the office

LITTLE HANDS ON THE FARM

Another year, and another Little Paws on the Prairie successfully completed! This year we had 72 Master Gardeners involved in what has evolved into a multiplicity of tasks. Ever think about the planning, sketching out and growing of the plants for our little garden? We can document 88.5 hours in those tasks, but I can promise you there were many more hours.

Actually, working the site when the State Fair is open accounts for 378 Master Gardener hours plus travel time. Fifty five MGs worked those hours, and many worked both the AM and PM shifts, and came back on Sunday 10/19!! Total hours for 72 Master Gardeners was 744 hours plus 226 hours traveling.

I mentioned the planning of the garden as the initial part of the process, but then we tied “teepees” together for the hyacinth bean vines to climb. Several of us then went to the Fair site to install the arbors for the plants to be placed around. Plus, let us not forget the stalwart few who arrived at 7:30 AM at the Community Demonstration Garden to load the plants into the truck to be transported for installation on Planting Day.

Perhaps this sounds like an endless string of tasks, and for what?? The pleasures: seeing youngsters approach the arbors, stare furtively through them and become entranced with the plants and demonstrate a feeling of being in wonderland. And then: parents say, “this is wonderful—we are city people and Little Hands gives us an opportunity to teach our children a little about where their food comes from”.

But the prize goes to those of us who were told by a little 4-5 year old girl in the cow barn - “you don’t have to show me—I’ve been doing this for years”. (Move over Hillary or Sarah.)

Yep, fellow Master Gardeners, we’ve been doing this for six years and many of these children (and parents) are repeat customers. For all of them and so many others, thank you, thank you.

—Eleanor Tuck

SHARECROPPER REPORT

During the last three years the TCMGA Sharecropper has forged rivers, excavated web sites, and climbed mountains to publish a newsletter filled with interesting facts, articles and news and to make the lives of the readers better than the month before.



This service has had its rewards. The Sharecropper walked away with 3rd place awards twice at the state Texas Master Gardener Association during the last three years. The issues are published in both hard-copy and web format and reach an estimated 350 people each month.

I have enjoyed being the editor for the past three years and wish the incoming editor, Marilyn Sallee, the best.

—Derald Freeman, Editor

SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT

The Speakers Bureau has been busy this past year. The final tally is in and here is the report.

Speaking engagements	187
Total contacts	4,285
Speakers participating	26
Topics covered	54
Different groups addressed	101

This is a very ambitious group of people who traveled many miles to address the needs of people in and around Tarrant County. Thanks goes out to these people and all other MGs in various other areas who all contribute so much of their time.

—Derald Freeman, SB record keeper

In Remembrance

It is with great pleasure that I turn this Sunshine Committee over to Joy Lease. As you all know, if you all hear of illness and/or deaths among our Master Gardener family, please call Joy Lease at 817-795-5133 or email her at jlease@prodigy.net. She will send a card from TCMGA to the pertinent people.

As my final honor in this volunteer job, I would like to remind you of the Master Gardeners that have passed away since 2004. They are as follows:

Tom Ward in September 2004
 Matt Mulhern on November 11, 2005
 Neil Collins on December 22, 2005
 Mary Fuller in August 2006
 Wayne Livingston in March, 2007
 Julie Florence in July, 2008
 Bill Harris in August, 2008
 Pat Durda in October, 2008

I know that many of you were privileged to work beside, laugh, and experience the Master Gardener classes, meetings, and field trips with these Master Gardener friends. They all gave us many nice remembrances.

—LaVonne Nowlin



Birthdays for this month

- 1-1 Callie Mitchell, Patti Gordon, and Concha Jones
- 1-2 Nancy Bannow and Linda Winn
- 1-4 Joy Lease
- 1-5 Beverly Adkins
- 1-8 Derald Freeman and John Hammack
- 1-9 Jerry Tuttle
- 1-11 Barbara Durnan
- 1-12 Sandy Flory
- 1-13 Paula Wilbanks
- 1-14 Tom Scott
- 1-18 Dave Wilson
- 1-20 Demetra Larremore
- 1-21 Nancy Dozier
- 1-22 Mary Edholm and Betty Floyd
- 1-23 Eleanor Tuck
- 1-27 Glenda Page, Joy Perry, and Pat Woodall
- 1-31 Dolores Geisel.

—by LaVonne Nowlin, Sunshine Committee

MONTHLY BULLETIN BOARD

Donna Turner is now overseeing the bulletin board at the MG monthly meetings. Please bring and post to the board any announcements you have about educational opportunities or fun gardening events taking place in Tarrant and surrounding counties. Feel free to contact Donna at 817-473-8253 or ddtturner@flash.net if you have any questions or suggestions for the board.

—Judy Butler

JANUARY MEETING DATE

Don't forget our **January monthly Master Gardener meeting will be on January 8**, not January 1, the first Thursday of the month. It is not likely that anyone wants to come to a meeting on New Years Day.

Remember, The January meeting will be January 8.

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 BG Perennial Garden	9:00 a.m., Weds.	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	10 a.m., 2nd-4th Mon.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
326 Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact project leaders below)		
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Enabling beds:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com		940-433-2601
Greenhouse:	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net		817-295-2883
Mowing/Edging:	Jerry Sorenson, jerryasorenson@charter.net		817-427-9009
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
Roses:	Karen Kologe, kpk@charter.net		817-924-6449
TCU students:	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpath@sbcglobal.net		817-294-2414
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat. Charlie Shiner mcshiner@verizon.net		817-488-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 10:00 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
	3 rd Sat, 10:00 a.m.	ewoodrey@sbcglobal.net	
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	Tues 9-12 p.m.	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
	1st Sat, 9-12 p.m.		
<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

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

UPDATE ON WEB SITE OFFICE SCHEDULE

There are instructions for how to use the online calendar posted on the website (right next to the calendar) <http://tcmga.org/Docs/TelephoneSchedule.pdf>. Also there are a number of other people who can be contacted if folks need to be removed from the office calendar - their names are on the bottom of the calendar page on the web. It would be helpful to Clarissa and we can remove her as a contact point for this task.

If a person is scheduled to work within 48 hours of needing to make the change that person is responsible for finding a replacement.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 8	Monthly MG meeting (not January 1st)
January 10	Gardening with the Pro: Garden Design
January 16-18	Fort Worth Home & Garden Show
January 24	Neil Sperry Landscape School
February 7	Neil Sperry Landscape School
February 18	Earth-Kind Rose Symposium Ft W Botanic Garden
February 21	Gardening with the Pros: Pruning
February 27, 28, March 1	Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show
March 7	Gardening with the Pros: Vegetable Gardening



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



More state news:
www.texasmastergardeners.com