



Mission Statement

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



President's Notepad

TCMGA RECEIVES MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION of the YEAR AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TCMGA as you were selected MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION of the YEAR The award was presented at the TMG State Conference on May 6th at A&M.

1st Place in the poster division was ours for a tri-fold poster "constructed" on Fitzgerald School Learning Environment; Leeann Rosenthal is the project leader.

1st Place in the display division was also won by TCMGA. Emily Ward, Eleanor Tuck and many other members gathered a 20-year history of TCMGA for the tri-fold display.

2nd Place in the Project Division went to TCMGA-Liberty Garden lead by Wendi Carlucci.

2nd Place in the Mass Media Division was won by TCMGA for a video about water features in the garden filmed in Mimi Lyles garden.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the awards process; it is a big job and many hours were spent by many people on them.

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June Monthly TCMGA Program

Weren't **Maggie Ross McNeely's** plants, flowers and garden art pictures beautiful at our April meeting? And her method of incorporating garden design history into her warm, informal presentation was an invitation to enjoy and be creative in all of our gardening endeavors.

One technique of garden creativity suggested by Maggie was topiary, which will be the featured topic at our **June Social**. **Judy Cobb**, a Denton County Master Gardener, member of many area garden clubs, and winner of multiple design awards in flower shows will speak to us on "Learning the Basics of 'Centuries Old Clip Art of Topiary'" and "Modern Topiary for the Home". Following her demonstration, Judy will be more than willing to help those who wish to learn with hands on assistance. If you choose, please bring:

- A plant such as rosemary, boxwood, juniper (6" pots or larger are easiest to work with)
- Scissors and by-pass shears for pruning
- A small piece of plastic to work on

Following the program and a brief business meeting, we will have a brown bag picnic.

Bring your own lunch, and our social committee will furnish beverages. For this fun occasion, we will gather at **Ray and Sue Short's Henrietta Creek Orchard**.^{*} If you want to car pool and save gas money, meet at the Botanic Gardens Conservatory parking lot at 9:00 am.

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Monthly Program (cont.)

For excellent directions and a map go to www.henriettacreekorchard.com

- 9:00 Carpoolers meet at Botanic Gardens Conservatory parking lot
 10:00 At Henrietta Creek Orchard, Judy Cobb, "Topiary Designs and Techniques"
 11:00 Business Meeting and brown bag lunch. Continue with "topiary tutoring".

Contrary to the previous announcement, we will not have the plant exchange until a later date. We'll keep you posted. The June Social is always a fun, informal way to get to visit with friends, learn something new and celebrate gardening. Hope to see you on **June 1!**

*Sue reports that the peaches should be ready for sales by meeting time – have your \$ ready!

—Joy Lease

President's Notepad (cont.)

Our association competes with other large associations (141 members or more) across the state.

Thank you to all the TCMGA members who attended the conference. We learned many things and had a good time at A&M. Let's all plan to attend the 2007 Conference in Kerrville on April 12-14 and the International Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas on May 2-5. Put those dates on your calendar now.

Again, CONGRATULATIONS to a GREAT GROUP of MASTER GARDENERS!!!!!!

—From Ginger Bason

TCMGA Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the TMGA was held May 5th at Texas A&M. The State Association is working on acquiring a 501c3 (non-profit) umbrella for the Texas Master Gardener Association and a guideline booklet to accompany it. We already have a 501c3 at TCMGA.

Our state web site (texasmastergardeners.com) is a great tool for locating gardening events in the state. By clicking on the calendar of events you get a month-by-month account of what is happening. Links have been added so that you can access other MG websites in the state.

The Specialist program has been very successful; the Rainwater Harvesting class filled in just 4 days. An EarthKind class will be offered in October and more programs are in the works.

The background checks will be on-going. In Tarrant we will be checking all MG's and re-checking every 3 years. With an association as large as ours accurate tracking of contacts is difficult.

The hosting of the 2008 state conference was re-opened. Two counties gave presentation bids; Montgomery County was awarded the conference.

A proposal to grant a 4-H award of \$500.00 was made and approved

The 2005 Annual Report of Master Gardeners in Texas stated that 115 County extension MG programs trained a total of 1,243 TMG interns and there were 4,724 MG who provided 353,774 hours of their time to Extension educational projects. The Texas MG program continues to be the largest MG program in the United States.

--From JoAnn Hahn



Birthdays for this month

- 6-1 Tillie Ransom, Ione Stanley
- 6-2 Carol Tipton, Carol Turner
- 6-3 Jan Hicks, Ginger Bason
- 6-4 Harry Dehnisch
- 6-7 Marlys Karsh
- 6-8 Dixie Norwood, Janice Newbrand, and Bill Harris
- 6-9 Penny McCook, Johnnie Braddock
- 6-10 Nancy Jarrett
- 6-14 Mary Helen Young
- 6-15 Joyce Hammill, Karen Lang-Ferrel
- 6-18 Vera Beck
- 6-20 Susan Smith
- 6-22 Faye Dale
- 6-23 Blake Hardy
- 6-28 Donna Morris, Camille Thomason
- 6-29 Sharon Duquemin, Ann Phipps
- 6-30 Carolyn Mercer.

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because LaVonne Nowlin does not have it.

Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.

Logo Items

If you have ordered logo items that were backordered see Jim Nelson. The Visor (baseball) caps and shirts are in.

If you have any questions or problems with your purchased items please contact Jim Nelson

nelsonj2@swbell.net or 817-688-2842

—Jim Nelson



June 8 Field Trip to Dallas' Asian Community Gardens & Texas Discovery Gardens

Carpool from Botanic Gardens parking lot at 8:30 or meet at Asian Community Garden at 10:00 at Fitzhugh & Bryan, Dallas, TX
gardendallas.org - 214-823-6180

Box lunch is available at the garden from Jimmy's Food Store. There will be a choice of Italian Sub or Cheese Sub with drink, chips & cookie for \$5.

Place your order at the May field trip or the June meeting.

Plants will be for sale from the previous week-end plant sales.

Tour of Texas Discovery Gardens at 1:00,
 Fair Park, \$6, \$5 senior admission
texasdiscoverygardens.org,
 214-428-7476

—From Barbara Durnan

MG Directory Updates

Directory changes:

Phone number correction

Pam Jewell - 817-238-0303

Name correction

Marjie Nelson was Margie should be Marjie

E-mail changes

Toni Moorehead antonice@hughes.net

Steve Prenger izzy410@peoplepc.com

Paula Sklar PAK.Sklar@verizon.net

Camille Thomason camille@mindspring.com

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

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. 8 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
399	Gardening with Dotty	Last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
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, 10 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
		2 nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406	Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 8:30 - 12:00	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
		1 st Sat. 8:30 - 12:00		
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
606	South Davis	2 nd & 4 th Thurs 9 am	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611	Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

Hardy Hibiscus

(Including Confederate Rose, *Hibiscus Mutabilis*)

By Dr. William` C. Welch Professor and Landscape Horticulturist

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

The giant rose mallow has the largest flowers of any hardy perennial. Some of the hybrids may be one foot in diameter. Rich, moist soil and full sun bring the most vigorous growth, but mallows are very accommodating, and will tolerate light shade and less desirable soils. Giant rose mallows will flower from seed the first year if started very early in spring. Favorite cultivars may be rooted from cuttings during the growing season. Colors range from crimson, white, pink, rose, and in-between.

Giant rose mallows are relatives of the native hibiscus found in Louisiana and other Gulf South states. They are among the most spectacular and easily grown plants for use in the border. The plants freeze back to the ground each fall following the spring and summer growing season. Old stems should be cut back to a height several inches above the ground. New shoots emerge by mid-spring, and the plants quickly develop handsome mounds of foliage and flowers by early summer. Individual flowers last only a day, but each plant may flaunt several flowers at once. Numerous seedling selections, such as Southern Belle' and 'Frisbee' are offered in good seed catalogs. Few garden plants provide so much enjoyment for so little care.

Seeds of giant rose mallows are available from catalogs, while container-grown plants are usually in stock at Texas garden centers and nurseries. Color selection is possible when you purchase blooming-size plants. If growing giant rose mallows from seed, it is important to start them early in the season so that they will have adequate time to develop before freezing weather sets in.



Hibiscus Mutabilis is an old-fashioned perennial or shrub hibiscus better known as the **Confederate rose**. It tends to be shrubby or treelike in Zones 9 and 10, though it behaves more like a perennial further north. Flowers are double and are 4 to 6 inches in diameter; they open white or pink, and change to deep red by evening. The 'Rubra' variety has red flowers. Bloom season usually lasts from summer through fall. Propagation by cuttings root easiest in early spring, but cuttings can be taken at almost any time. When it does not freeze, the Confederate rose can reach heights of 12 to 15 feet with a woody trunk; however, a multi-trunk bush 6 to 8 feet tall is more typical. Once a very common plant throughout the South, Confederate rose is an interesting and attractive plant that grows in full sun or partial shade, and prefers rich, well-drained soil.

Hibiscus coccineus is better known as the Texas Star Hibiscus. It has large, single, red flowers about 3 to 4 inches in diameter that appear atop branches of palmate lobed leaves with three to seven segments. Culture is very easy, with well-drained soil, an annual application of fertilizer in spring or early summer, and a sunny location being most important. Texas Star Hibiscus may be propagated from seed or cuttings. Mulching the plants in wintertime prevents root injury during very cold weather. Old stems, if they freeze, should be pruned back to the ground in early spring. Even if frost damage has not occurred, it is still a good idea to prune back and shape the plants before growth begins.

Consider hardy types of hibiscus for the back of flower borders where their impressive flowers can appear over other summer flowering plants. Some gardeners and landscape professionals plant daylilies, lantana, gomphrena, zinnias, portulaca, purslane, celosias or other summer annuals and perennials in front of their hardy hibiscus groupings.

Several years ago, Dr. Jerry Parsons, Extension Horticulturist located in San Antonio, released a new giant rose mallow named 'Moy Grande' from the San Antonio Botanical Garden. 'Moy Grande' has huge flowers of dark rosy pink. Best availability is in the San Antonio area.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-5504



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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| June 8 | Dallas: Asian Community Garden
Lunch and Texas Discovery Garden |
| June 10-11 | Hidden Gardens Tour
(Kay Gunn 817-346-7261 or ledgestone@msn.com) |
| Sept 19 | Tour of member gardens in Northeast Tarrant county
Lunch at Liberty Garden |
| October (TBD) | Bus tour to Tyler: Rose Garden
Lunch and Blue Moon Nursery |

—Steve Chaney

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