



Get ready for a busy spring!

Thoughts from JoAnn

What a great turnout at our February meeting! Approximately 160 members and interns were in attendance.

Our programs have been excellent! We start at 10 a.m., and you get an informative workshop (February's was on cutting back roses), then a short business meeting (20 minutes usually) followed by a light lunch. You still have time to meet, greet and get to know your fellow MG's, maybe pick up a new plant or some seeds, check out the raffle, pick up a magazine or purchase a MG logo item, then a program (rose selections and care this past month). You are ready to leave at 1 p.m., so little time to spend, so much to gain. Join us this next month!

We would like for you to share your news with us. Is there a new baby or grandbaby? Is someone in your family ill? Maybe one of our MG's has been under the weather and would like to hear from some of his or her friends. Post a note with the **Sunshine Committee** and let us know.

We have filled the tree identification class that Steve Chamblee will teach in April and have a good start on filling the Spanish class also for April. Are there other classes you would like to have? Let Ginger Bason or myself know, and if there is enough interest we will try to oblige.

Don't forget that in March we will have our projects 'on parade,' vendors coming and an informative program. April will bring our garage sale. Start collecting and pricing garden-related items you wish to donate. On May 6 we head down to Corpus Christi for the **MG State Convention**, so our regular meeting will be on May 13. Mark your calendars for a busy spring!

JoAnn

HOSPITALITY NOTES from Joyce Quam

What a spread of gorgeous food at the February MG meeting! Thank you to all who contributed! Food for the March 4th meeting will center around **Ben Oefinger's** savory hot dogs. **Ben** has ordered the dogs and chips. For all the folks who signed up for March, be thinking about veggies, desserts or chili for "**TCMGA's Famous Chili Dogs.**" I will call each of you to try to keep a balance of offerings. Our 'Prez' asked that we set up two tables for serving so it will go a little faster. We'll try to set it up as evenly as possible. Cost for lunch will be \$1.00 for "**Blue Taggers**" and **FREE** for **Interns**. Thanks, **Joyce Quam**

Master Gardener Program

Now that all the roses in Tarrant County have been properly pruned, we can sit back and wait for the masses of blooms! Thank you Dotty and Jim for last month's pruning workshop!

Now for our March 4th **MASTER GARDENER DAY!**

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee
- 10:00 See what Master Gardeners are doing in Tarrant County. There will be displays to see, and opportunities to ask questions and learn about projects in which you may want to get involved. There will also be vendor tables and caladiums bulbs to order.
- 11:00 Business Meeting and social time featuring **Ben's famous hotdogs!**
- 12:00 Pierre Bradshaw and friends will be with us. Pierre operates **ON THE WING AGAIN**, a rehabilitation sanctuary for birds of all sizes. **DON'T miss this!**

Intern Scoop

Classes are almost over for the 2004 Interns. They are chomping at the bit to get out and work on those 72 volunteer hours. (Remember how excited you were when class was over?) Many have signed up to work the upcoming Home and Garden shows and Pizza Ranch in May. They are anxious to tour the Botanic Gardens and take a field trip each month to learn more about the projects.

They will be training on the Master Gardener telephone during March and April. We hope those of you working in the office will let the Interns answer the phone and assist them in any way you can to make this a good learning experience.

We have been asked to pass along a "Thank You" to all the Master Gardeners for the warm welcome they gave the Interns at the February meeting and all the wonderful food. They are looking forward to hot dogs and vendor tables in March and talking to everyone they didn't get to meet in February. **Intern Advisors**

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes, February 5, 2004

The Tarrant County Master Gardener Association met February 5 at the Resource Connection. There were 159 members in attendance. President **JoAnn Hahn** called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The January minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Warren Tingley, treasurer, gave the financial report and it was approved. He advised that of the 247 certified members, 192 have paid dues. He asked that all members who are exempt from dues contact him in order to be sure they are included.

JoAnn Hahn welcomed the Intern class to their first association meeting. Also welcomed were two members who have transferred in from other counties. **Pat Durda** was welcomed back from her long illness. **JoAnn Hahn** introduced **Ann Couch**, Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee, and advised members to see Ann for the association merchandise. **JoAnn** also introduced the Chairperson of the Sunshine Committee, **LaVonne Nowlin**, and the Publication Committee, **Susan Stanek**. **Jo Ann Hahn** read the financial audit report from the Audit Committee and gave thanks to **Barbara Munn**, **LaVerne Henry**, and **Bob Ross** for their work on reviewing the financial reports for 2003. A motion to accept the report was made by **Ed Vaughn** and the report was accepted. **JoAnn** advised that a Wildflower Committee has been formed, to be chaired by **Lecann Rosenthal**. The committee will plan the planting of wildflower seeds around Tarrant County.

Ginger Bason, chairperson of the Educational Enrichment Committee announced the upcoming programs plans. For March the workshop will be recognition of the approved Master Gardener projects, and the project leaders will have displays and information available. The program, after the lunch break, will be by the *On The Wing* society, a group that helps to rescue and heal injured birds. The April meeting will be a garden related garage sale, and members should only bring things that are used to work with or decorate the garden. The May meeting has been rescheduled to the second Thursday, May 13, due to a conflict with the state Master Gardener meeting the first Thursday, May 6. **Ginger** advised that the state meeting will be very educational and fun and urged everyone to make plans to attend it in Corpus Christi.

JoAnn Hahn reminded everyone that there are new timekeepers for 2004 and some project numbers have changed. The new time sheet is available at the Extension Office and on the website.

No other business was brought before the members, and **JoAnn Hahn** adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by **Don Blanton**, Secretary

VENDOR TABLES

There will be *VENDOR TABLES* at the March 4th TCMGA meeting. Tables are available for \$15.00 and are only available to TCMGA members. Contact Ann Couch at **817-732-7103** to reserve your space.



BARGAINS! BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

The first TCMGA 'Garage Sale' is now only a month away! Mark your calendars for April 1st. The meeting will feature a members-only (plus interns of course!) garage sale. So while you are doing your spring cleaning, set aside all those once-loved, seldom used (?) garden goodies for our next meeting. Please price all items you bring. We are counting on you to help us turn all your unwanted garden items into 'treasures' for TCMGA. Items should be garden-related only, such as plants, seeds, pots, tools, and garden art. We are looking for a few bigger items which we might use for a silent auction also. If you have anything that may fit into that category, please contact **Ann Couch** at 817-732-7103. Ann will also be happy to answer any questions you may have about the sale. Gardeners, go forth and find 'stuff' to share!



What's a Master Gardener to Do?

COME TOUR WITH US submitted by 🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱🌱

The Activities and Events committee was asked by **President Hahn** to plan tours of TCMGA members' gardens this year. We decided to look not just for fabulous gardens, but also for gardens where we practice what we have learned by being a Master Gardener.

The first tour is set for Thursday, March 11. We will meet at 8:45 AM in the parking lot of a closed OLD NAVY department store at 8600 East Freeway. The parking lot is immediately west of the IHOP. Use Interstate 30 from either the east or west and exit at East Chase Parkway. The shopping center is south of the freeway. Directions/maps will be handed out at the TCMGA meeting March 4. Look for our table at the meeting and pick up your directions.

Because we will be going into neighborhoods where parking is limited, we ask that you car pool as much as possible. We have set one rain date for the tour - March 25. If it rains both days, the tour will not be held.

The March 11 tour will include three gardens. The first garden produced over a ton of compost each year for the past two years. This Master Gardener is also a Master Composter. This property was fully landscaped at one time, but was totally neglected from 1990-1996, when it was purchased by the owner, who is trying to restore it.

The second garden features a greenhouse that has some siding made from some Thistle Hill roofing tiles and a 100 year old door and window. This Master Gardener is struggling to add 'bones to the garden' (evergreen shrubs). The garden also features some 41-year-old nandinas.

The third garden belongs to a Master Gardener who moved in 8 years ago. For 6 years they used a landscape service - chemicals and all. Two years ago, when the owner became a Master Gardener, the formal landscape was put aside in favor of plants that do best in a particular area of the yard.

Come tour with us, Thursday, March 11 at 8:45 AM. Pre-sign up and pick up your directions at the Activities/Events Table at the March 4 TCMGA meeting. Call **Patsy Johnson** 817-292-5358 for answers to your questions.

WHOLESALE NURSERY AND A FEED STORE submitted by **Patsy Johnson**

On Tuesday, March 30 the TCMGA has been invited to tour R & E Plants. This is a wholesale nursery owned by Master Gardener, **Esther Proctor**. **Mary Margaret Halleck**, who set up the tour, also thought it would be good to educate ourselves about the difference between shopping at a nursery versus shopping at a feed store.

We will meet in the parking lot by the conservatory in the Botanic Gardens parking lot at 8:15 AM. We will leave promptly at 8:30 AM. We will drive to Dillard Feed & Seed at 319 N. Main, where we will be given a tour of the feed store. They will have organic products available at very low prices.

After the tour has ended, we will proceed to R & E Plants west of Weatherford. You will leave Weatherford on Highway 180 West. The tour of the wholesale nursery will start at 10:00 AM. After the tour, Esther, has graciously consented to allow TCMGA to purchase plants at 25% off on the day of the tour.

Mary Margaret highly recommends lunch at the Whitestone Restaurant at 104 S. Walnut St. in Weatherford.

Mission Statement Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

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

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

102	Perennial Shade Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Kim Snyder	817-732-1483
111	BRIT Activities	2nd & 3rd Tues.	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
121	Composting Demo	1st Saturday	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2nd Saturday	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
123	Liberty Garden	Mar. 24&27, 10 am	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
124	FW Nature Center	call chairperson	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
125	FW Library at Hulen St.	10 am, last Thurs	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126	TC SW Sub Courthouse	Mar. 13 & 30	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127	Veterans Park-Wildscape	Mar. 6, every Tues.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
129	Willow Park Demo Garden	call chairman	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
131	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1st Mon or 3rd Wed	Sue Short	817-439-3202
132	Teen Challenge	every Wed.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
133	Thistle Hill	3rd Wed.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
134	Union Gospel Mission	every Mon.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
135	Mansfield Main St. Proj.	March 17, 9 am	Lindsey Hannah	817-477-1696
161	CEMAP	call chairman	Benita Reese	817-483-5950
162	TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
171	School Garden Consultant	call chairman	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
172	School Garden	sign up at MG mtg.	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
172	Alice Carlson	Mon & Tues 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
301	Children's Garden	Mar.10 & Mar. 24	Judy Sargent	817-589-0221
303	Trial Garden Maintenance	1st, 3rd & 5th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
303	Trial Garden Data	2nd & 4th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713

WANNA HAVE SOME FUN FROM MAY 6-8, 2004

Come join us at the Texas Master Gardener Convention in Corpus Christi. TCMGA has been invited to share a bus with the Wichita Falls Master Gardeners and there are a few more spaces left. As far as we know now, the approximate fee will be \$54.00 round trip and the bus will pick us up at a convenient place on Hwy 35W. Please go to the website <http://nueces-co.tamu.edu/> for all the information about the convention—tours, activities, times, etc. Then click on “2004 TX MG Convention”. All of the details will be put on our website when all plans are finalized. If you are one of the fourteen that have signed up thus far, or if you are interested in reserving a space on the bus, please confirm your reservations with our Activity Director, **Patsy Johnson** at 817/292-5358 or pjrdh@sbcglobal.net.

Road Trip! Road Trip! Road Trip! Road Trip! Road Trip! Road Trip!

Submitted by **Mary Alice Renner**

Within the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens is a Trial Garden. It is located at the west end of the horseshoe, which is a grassy area surrounded by a walk and mature Live Oak trees. Ascend the formal stairs to see the Trial Garden. It is designed in a classic concentric pattern. In the center a gazebo, planted with climbing roses, provides a shady resting place. The majority of the beds in this garden are in full sun. In 1993, the Botanic Garden staff recognized the need to provide a perennial garden demonstrating plants that are suitable for sunny locations. The Tarrant County Master Gardener Association teamed with the Botanic Gardens and the result is the Perennial Trial Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. This project is the longest continually active Master Gardener project.

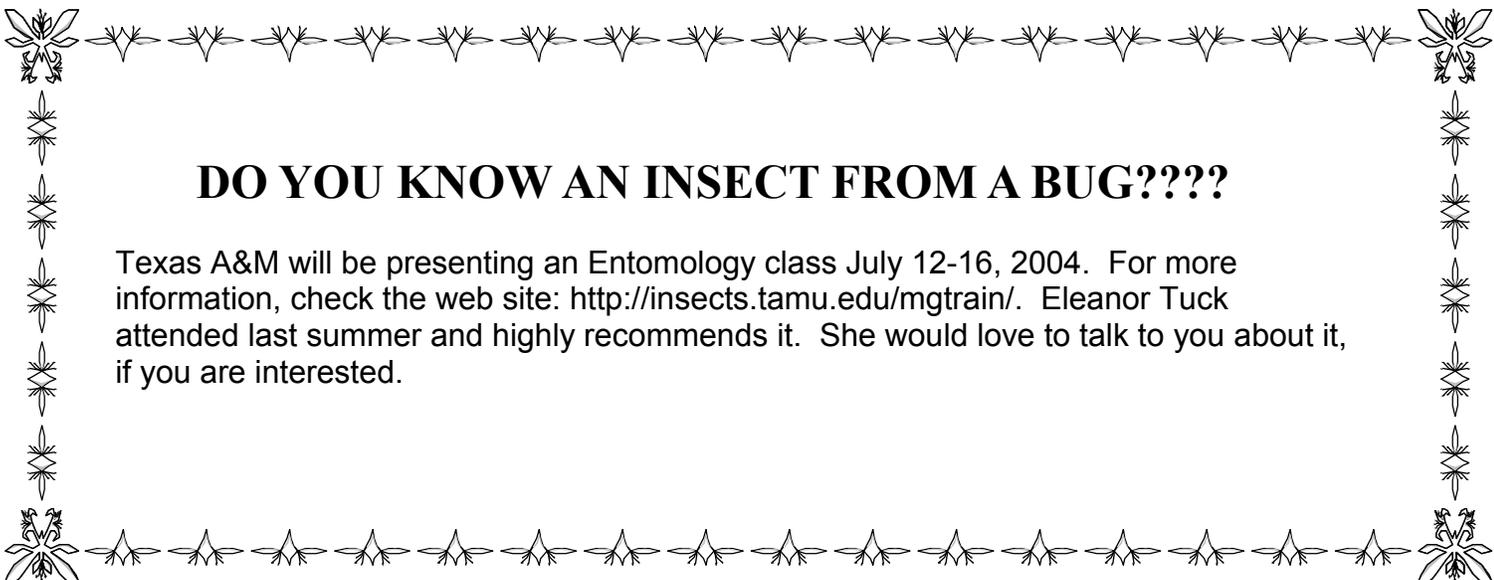
Kathleen Cook, Landscape Designer, of the Botanic Garden, selects the plant material. "The purpose of growing perennials in this garden over a three year period is to compare cultivars of the same species to determine which ones survive and perform best through the Texas summers". This explanation is printed on the sign located on the gazebo in the garden. The trial process begins with the initial planting. As in any garden, cultivation and maintenance are necessary to encourage vigorous plant development. Master Gardeners volunteer to maintain the garden on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from March to November. Because this is a trial garden, data collection is necessary. So on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from March to November data collection teams work. Plants are counted, measured and observed. The report provides information from dormancy, to peak, to end of season. It includes observations about climate stress, insect and disease problems. Plant characteristics, which make it desirable or undesirable, are also reported. The Master Gardeners' activity and efforts are supported by Kathleen Cook. Once a month at a potluck lunch the staff and Master Gardeners gather. Good food and fellowship is shared and Kathleen Cook speaks about garden related activities.

At this time 40 Master Gardeners are participating in the Trial Gardens. Their efforts provide information regarding the top perennials for our area. During the process of their work they also learn first hand about successes and failures in the perennial plant group.

Every year the information is compiled and distributed. This occurs in several ways. The yearly list of top perennial performers is provided to local nursery owners, to Master Gardener Speakers Bureau, and to Master Gardeners at the monthly meeting. It is available at the information desk in the Botanic Gardens Conservatory, at the Botanic Gardens Annual Plant Sale and at the Perennials on Parade event.

Master Gardeners appreciate and enjoy this project at the Botanic Gardens. In turn the Botanic Gardens staff has acknowledged their appreciation with a sign on the gazebo that designates Tarrant County Master Gardeners as the volunteers for the Perennial Trial Gardens.

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■ For more information on the Perennial Trial Garden, contact project chairperson **Carole O'Connell** at 817-921-0713. ■
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DO YOU KNOW AN INSECT FROM A BUG????

Texas A&M will be presenting an Entomology class July 12-16, 2004. For more information, check the web site: <http://insects.tamu.edu/mgtrain/>. Eleanor Tuck attended last summer and highly recommends it. She would love to talk to you about it, if you are interested.

White Prairie Rose

White prairie rose, also known as Leafy rose, is one of the few roses native to North Central Texas. Its scientific name, *Rosa foliolosa*, aptly describes its vegetative condition as “full of leaves”. Like all true roses, White prairie rose is a member of the family Rosaceae. Thus, the genus *Rosa* is the namesake of the family. There are perhaps thousands of cultivars of roses, but only about 100-150 native species growing mostly in temperate areas of the world. Many cultivars have their origins in Europe, Asia or Africa, and records of rose cultivation date back to the Romans. Roses probably have been cultivated not only because of their beautiful flowers, but also because many members of the rose family hybridize readily and can produce viable seeds without fertilization. Other familiar groups that hybridize are hawthorns (*Crataegus*) and serviceberry (*Amelanchier*). Roses, as well as other genera in the Rosaceae, are economically important. Ornamentals such as *Cotoneaster*, *Photinia*, *Pyracantha* and *Spiraea* are widely planted. Fruits such as cherries, plums, peaches, blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, apples and pears are among the most important temperate crops.

As its name implies, White prairie rose produces pure white, or rarely, pale pink flowers from May through July. The plants are low growing, up to a half a meter tall. Stems have few prickles or “thorns” and the foliage is dark green and shiny. White prairie rose will grow from Grand Prairie east to Blackland Prairie, thus tolerates a variety of soil conditions. Like most roses, White prairie rose likes sunny conditions, but will tolerate part shade. White prairie rose is rhizomatous, so it will form colonies where it is planted. This characteristic makes White prairie rose a nice landscape plant along fencerows or as erosion control, but not a logical choice for a proper rose garden. Propagating White prairie rose is the same as other roses, via cuttings, or by planting seeds. Did you know the fruit of all roses is called a hip? Hips are not only edible, but also high in vitamin C.

Source: Diggs, G. M., B. L. Lipscomb, and R. J. O’Kennon. 1999. Shinnery and Mahler’s Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas. Sida, Botanical Miscellany 16.

Membership Information—Any Changes?

Any changes to your personal information during the year should be communicated to either Becky Armstrong (beckdan@swbell.net) or Kim Snyder (dirtkicker6@aol.com), Membership Co-Chairs. This would include name, address, phone or email address. These changes will then be passed on to the Newsletter committee and others who need to know. One stop shop-

CALADIUM BULBS

It’s time to order Caladium Bulbs. Bulbs are #1 size, healthy, and are a great buy for Master Gardeners. Orders may be turned in at our March and April meetings, or mailed, with payments attached, to Ann Couch, 2906 Rivercove Court, Fort Worth, TX, 76116, 817-732-7103. Deadline for ordering by mail is March 30th. Payment must accompany order form.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| White Christmas (white) | Quantity _____ |
| Postman Joyner (red) | Quantity _____ |
| Rosebud (pink) | Quantity _____ |
| Special Orders available on request | Quantity _____ |

Total # of bulbs _____ X .40 each = \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Make all checks payable to TCMGA. Bulbs will be delivered at the MAY meeting.

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



Spring 2004 Calendar of Events

February 27-29	Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show – Arlington Convention Center
February 25, noon	BRIT Brown Bag “The Role of Tropical Forest Conservatories”
March 4, 7:00 PM	BRIT Lecture – Last Great Habitat-Biodiversity of S. Texas
March 9, 11, 16, 18 6:00-9:00 PM	Texas SmartScape Classes at the Extension Office (Note: this is a four session class.)
March 11, 8:45	First 2004 TCMGA Members Garden Tour
March 12-14	Home & Garden Show – Will Rodgers Coliseum, FW
March 24, 9:00-12:00	Speakers Bureau Training at Extension Office
March 24	Ellis County 2004 Spring Expo
March 24, noon	BRIT Brown Bag “The Lewis & Clark Expedition...”
March 25, 8:45	TCMGA Garden Tour rain day for March 11
March 26, 9:00-12:00	PowerPoint Class at the Extension Office
March 30, 8:15	Wholesale Nursery and Feed Store visits
April 2-4	Fort Worth Garden Show Horticulture Entries and Photo Contest
April 8, 8:45	Second 2004 TCMGA Members Garden Tour
April 25, 8:45	TCMGA Garden Tour rain day for April 8

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