

Sharecropper



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association



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ATTENTION

The March 4 TCMGA meeting
has been moved to Thursday,
March 11.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Project Highlight: Southwest Regional Library

The garden at the Southwest Regional Library off Hulen was designed by Jim Leavy, a professional landscaper and member of the Native Plant Society. It was installed in 1997 with over 400 perennial plants being used. This garden is unique in the fact that a partnership was formed with TCMGA and our own Evaline Woodrey has facilitated care for this garden since that time.



The garden is designed with a circular path and an off shoot which leads to a sheltered alcove with a bench. The circular bed is planted with Lindheimers muhly, Blackfoot daisies, Gaura, and Purple coneflower. The outside ring contains Possumhaw holly, Mexican plum, Redbud, Cenizo, Eve's necklace, Lantana, Pavonia, Coralberry and Salvia greggii.

This tranquil island setting provides an opportunity to influence visitors to consider using native plants to reduce water usage and provide habitat for birds and wildlife. The garden is also home to a Global GPS Cache Hunt site which is an interesting way to bring non-gardeners to this setting.

It also provides a calm and tranquil island of beauty in the middle of the hurly-burly and noisy Hulen Mall area. A place to sit and have lunch or read a book checked out from the nearby library. At three in the afternoon on a school day, it is flooded with a river of school children flowing briefly down the paths from school to library, adding their energy to the wildscape garden.

We tidy the garden on the third Wednesday of every month at 9AM. We'd love to have you come join us!

Devanie Fergus
Project Chair

Master Gardener's In Action

Photos by Nancy Curl



*Copper Rain Gauge Class
at
Union Gospel Mission*



MG's In Action

Photos by Steve Purdy and Nancy Curl



2010 Intern Field trips to BRIT and FW Botanic Japanese Garden



MG's at the Home & Garden Show



President's Message

March Newsletter



Hard to believe we are five months into our 'timekeeping' calendar year. Are you current on turning in your time? I know that 215 of us were at the last membership meeting in February so we at least have meeting time to turn in.

As good gardeners often turn the soil, consider 'turning' a 'new leaf' and get caught up on your timekeeping. One obvious benefit is it just makes you feel better (it does me – I hate being behind in anything!). Second, you will be a blessing to your timekeeper – our 'unsung' heroes. Third and the best, you will be eligible for the door prizes at the next monthly meeting.

In March, we will reinstate the eligibility requirement of time turned in for at least one month. A 'carrot' perhaps but a good and positive one. Nancy Curl, our 1st VP of Programs, has changed up the 'game' a bit. She is letting winners pick from an array of awesome prizes this year.



Oh and one more thing, we need you to be in your seat to win. I know it's just too much fun visiting with friends around the room, but we gotta start the meeting sometime!

Come early and visit and have coffee! Hope to see you at the March meeting on the **SECOND** Thursday, March 11th.

Susan Stanek,
President

LEADERSHIP

President: Susan Stanek
slstanek@verizon.net

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nl_curl@yahoo.com

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s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2010

The program for the meeting was presented by Pam Smith of the Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch.

President Susan Stanek called the business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with 215 members and interns present.

The 2010 Interns, who were honored at this meeting, were recognized and welcomed by President Stanek.

The January minutes were approved as published.

The Treasury Report was given by Pat Higgins, Treasurer.

Balance 12/31/09	\$ 18,190.09
January deposits	2,633.72
January checks written	(874.54)
Checks voided (2)	<u>400.07</u>
Balance	<u>\$ 20,349.34</u>

Dolores Geisel, Audit Chair, reported that she, Pat Higgins, and Jack Gerloff did an official audit of the books and found them to be in excellent order. Previous treasurer, Carl Trehus, was commended for his good work last year.

Pam Braak, Activities Chair, introduced her committee. She reported that on March 26 there will be a Field Trip to North Haven Gardens and to the City of Plano (composting location), and on May 13 there will be a Field trip to Farmers Branch Rose Gardens.

Lucurtis Williams, Speakers' Bureau Chair, made an appeal for new speakers and volunteers to help her committee in other ways as well. Her speakers were recognized and thanked.

President Stanek made a report for Kate Kilmurray, Webmaster. A new website opened on

the web this week, including a new calendar. Instructions for using the new website are on the web. Tammy Edwards and Susan Stanek are the only ones who can make changes to the calendar.

Taddie Hamilton reported on the Spring Plant Sale set for April 17. We will have a Rose sale as well. Roses can be pre-ordered at the meeting and online until March 12.

Rhett Cervantes reminded all members to continue to support the Raffle by contributing items for the raffle.

Announcements by President Susan Stanek:

- Caladiums can be pre-ordered today and at the March general meeting, as well as on line. The bulbs can be picked up at the April general meeting.
- Fertilizer can be pre-ordered in March and picked up at the April general meeting.
- Today there are yard signs, totes, and lanyards for sale.
- Bulletin board should be checked for new flyers and information on activities.
- The 2010 Membership Directories are available at today's meeting.
- The date of the March general meeting will be changed to March 11, the second Thursday of March, because the gym will not be available on the first Thursday.
- Docent training for the Japanese Gardens will be March 9. Contact Dolores Geisel for further information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am and the 2010 Interns were invited to go to the head of the lunch line for their free hot dog luncheon.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Secretary

TCMGA Announcements/General Information

March 11th Speakers

Morning Speaker 10 am – 11 am – “The Future of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden” by Henry Painter, Director of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, James Toal and Elaine Petrus

Henry, James and Elaine will share plans for the future of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, the oldest botanic garden in Texas. Come join us as we learn about the history of the Garden and where the vision for the Garden will take us next.

Henry Painter earned his undergraduate degree from LSU in 1970 and masters from Texas A&M in 1972. He came to the Garden in 1973 as Senior Horticulturist and became the current Garden Director in 1975. In the 34 years as the director, Henry has seen the Garden flourish with expanding garden areas, a conservatory, garden center, lecture hall and an educational and volunteer program which contributes 12,000 hours annually to reach over 46,000 people, of which 44,000 are students. Under his direction, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden was listed on the National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places and celebrated its 75th year in 2009.

In addition to over 25 years of teaching at TTC, **Henry** has also served for over 30 years on the Tarrant County AgriLife Extension Texas A&M System Horticulture Advisory Committee.

Afternoon Speaker-12 noon – 1 pm - - “Companion Plantings” by Steve Huddleston, Senior Horticulturist of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Steve will feature plants that complement each other and go well together in the landscape. Combinations are based on qualities of size, growth habit, color, and texture and include annuals, perennials, ground covers, vines, and shrubs.

Steve Huddleston earned his BS in Horticulture from Oklahoma State University and MA in Teaching ESL from the University of Arizona. He has been the Senior Horticulturist at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden since 1994. He is responsible for overseeing operations of the 109-acre garden, including coordinating landscape and construction projects, purchasing plant material, managing horticultural displays, coordinating special events, working with major

(Continued on page 7)

New Website !!!



By now we hope you've had a chance to look around the new website. The page that will probably be of most interest to you is the “Member Area and Announcements” page. Here you

will find links to:

- Newsletters (you will be able to find the current and archived newsletters here)
- Telephone calendar (with instructions for using this new calendar)
- Timekeeping (time reporting forms and guidelines relating to timekeeping)
- Other forms (expense reimbursement, background check, etc. forms)
- Projects and worksites (details about our projects with maps)
- Announcements for Master Gardeners (this will include information about such things as field trips and advanced training in surrounding counties – for information on advanced training held in other parts of the state please visit the Master Gardener State website, who's link is also found here).

Remember, you can always get back to the “Member Area and Announcements” page by selecting that tab in the navigation bar at the top of each page.

The “Events in the Community Page” will have information of interest to both ourselves and the community at large – such as announcements about home and garden shows, tours put on by other organizations, classes we're offering to the community, etc.

The “Services to the Community” page offers information about how to contact the MG helpline, Speakers Bureau, as well as a link to our Children's page.

Enjoy the new website!

Kate Kilmurray
Webmaster

TCMGA Announcements/General Information (cont'd)

Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Bill Vandever reports that the caladium sale is going well. Caladium bulbs will again be offered for sale at the March meeting.



Sales of MG canvas totes, metal MG signs and lanyards went very well. In addition to these items, we will have much-requested clothing items available at

the March meeting. What would you like to buy? Felco tools, window decals, bumper stickers, aprons??

Let our committee know and we'll see what is available.

Thanks for everyone's support!

Bill Vandever
2nd Vice-President

March 11th Speakers (cont'd)

support groups, supervising Garden staff, assisting with budget management, and promoting the Garden through speaking engagements and the media.

Steve has written articles for *Neil Sperry's GARDENS* magazine, *Dallas/Fort Worth House & Home*, and *Mansfield Magazine*. He is also the co-author of the book *Easy Gardens for North Central Texas*.

Steve is the President of Blooming Concepts, Inc., a landscape consultation, design, and installation company.

Nancy Curl
1st VPresident

Plant Sale Info



Last month we talked about logistics of the sale. This month I want to encourage you to divide or start plants from your garden or greenhouse. In addition to the cannas, iris, lirioppe, and amaryllis that you are dividing, please pot other plants such as:

- Oxalis,
- Carolina Jasmine,
- Purple Heart,
- Moses in a Boat,
- Antique or old roses,
- Ferns for patio plants,
- Wood ferns for the yard,
- Ruellia,
- Angel Wing begonias in baskets,
- Dragon Wing begonias in baskets,
- Hyacinth beans,
- Kalanchoe,
- Lamb's Ear,
- Larkspur,
- Aloe Vera,
- Hostas,
- Potato plants – all colors,
- Fall asters,
- Ajuga,
- Shasta daisies,
- Yellow Artemisia,
- Strawberry begonias,
- Creeping Jenny,
- Coralberry,
- Any shade loving ground covers, and anything else you want to share.

We do need them to look hardy and be full so people will want to purchase them. If you start now, they should be beautiful. **All pots must be labeled with the common name.**

Please add the botanical name, if you know it.



Also, don't forget the rose sale. You received a flyer and pictures via email. Please share this with your friends.

The deadline for ordering is March 12. Please print the flyer, attach a check and mail it to the Extension Office. Pick them up at the April meeting. We will have roses at the sale, but they will be \$12.00 each.

We will ask for volunteers to work the sale at the March 11 meeting. Look at your calendars and plan to sign up! It is lots of fun!

Taddie Hamilton

TCMGA Announcements/General Information (cont'd)

Newsletter Committee



As the 2010 newsletter editor, I have very big shoes to fill following Marilyn Sallee and Derald Freeman. I have been provided excellent footprints to guide me

through preparation of the newsletter for 2010. I do, however, plan to make some changes to the newsletter, both from the cosmetic, procedural and content perspective. As Marilyn so appropriately said; "determine your own style". As you can see from February's issue, I have already begun the evolution! I truly hope you enjoy and appreciate the changes.

I do want you to know that the responses from the newsletter survey will be considered and are very important. In summary, surveyed members indicated the length of the newsletter is adequate with the favorite features ranked below:

1. Upcoming Events
2. Field Trip Info
3. Calendar
4. Project Profiles
5. Announcements

The survey will assist in making changes for future newsletters. One of the areas I am looking to change is how we communicate calendar events. So I'll be asking your input and feedback.

Please do not hesitate to provide feedback and suggestions, I love good ideas!

Jackie Heidinger
Newsletter Editor



March Birthdays

- 1 Susan Haynes
- 4 Robert Lundin (I)
- 5 Jodi Morris, Charlotte Krystinik, Neal Estes (I)
- 6 Moira Brunken
- 7 Linda Mitchell
- 10 Susan Miller, Kay Lewis
- 12 Emily Ward
- 13 Pat Oliver, Angie Ward, Claudia Teague
- 17 Susanne Mills
- 19 Nancy Price (I)
- 21 Gerald Lovedahl (I)
- 22 Jeanette Berggren
- 25 Hala Shafik (I)
- 26 Sharon Nice
- 29 Susan Stanek, Carol Lally, Lori Maxwell
- 30 Dawn Hancock, Bernice Ramsbottom
- 31 Jo Poppelreiter, Kim Freeman

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it. Please contact Doris Hill, (817) 337-8484 or email ar-tanddorishill@verizon.net.

Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your membership directory:

Kit Sukup
1615 Harbor East Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76179-9453
817-236-6480
kitt11615@att.net

Remaining 2010 directories will be distributed at the March TCMGA meeting. After that, a stamped envelope must be provided to Carl Trehus so he can mail the directory to you.

Report any changes or corrections to Carl Trehus at c.trehus@gte.net or 817-481-3435.

TCMGA Announcements/General Information (cont'd)

TCMGA Awards Info

Did you know...



Did you know that Texas Master Gardener Association sponsors an award program every year? The purpose of the program is to recognize and present awards to MG associations for exemplary achievements. Any MG organization in good standing can participate. Part of being in good standing is paying state dues and submitting required forms before the deadline.

The state awards committee does a very good job of making sure everyone is treated fairly and has an equal chance of winning. First, the submissions are divided by association size based on number of paying members: Small – 1 to 50, Medium – 51 to 100, Medium Large – 101 to 199, and Large – 200 or more. Once the submissions are divided by size, they are sent to out-of-state judges. The judges score the submissions and return the scores to the state awards committee. The main criterion for judging is the educational value of the submission. The Technical Advisor (TCMGA member, Marilyn Sallee) for the committee calculates the scores. In addition to her many other jobs, Marilyn puts together a PowerPoint presentation to help announced award winners at the MG State Conference. First, Second, Third and Honorable mentions awards can be presented by association size for each award category.

There are eight award categories, a poster, and an exhibit. The poster is a display that presents one topic or program. The exhibit is a display that shows more than one topic or program. Of the eight categories, three are submitted as hard copies mailed/shipped to the state award chair and five are submitted electronically to the state award email (depending on award submission requirements.) The categories are:

Publication – this includes but is not limited to calendars, almanacs, magazines, brochures, short pamphlets, handbooks, and books.

Graphic Presentation – this includes Power Point presentations.

Mass Media – this includes but is not limited to newsletter or magazine articles, television, or radio broadcast, websites, and internet information.

Educational Program – is a teaching opportunity presented by Master Gardeners that involved two or more MGs.

Project – is a physical location where Master Gardeners display best horticultural practices for educational purpose.

Newsletter – the newsletter must contain educational information.

Individual – this award recognizes exemplary certified MGs.

Master Gardener Association – the association must accomplish one or more programs/ projects that affect the community and have two or more MGs involved.

The state award chair, our own Ginger Bason, proudly says there are more entries each year and the judges are always impressed. The judges often ask Ginger if they can use the material submitted in their own programs.

Helping educate others is of course one of Texas Master Gardener's goals.

“Did you know that our organization submits entries for all categories, a poster, and an exhibit?”

Each MG association can only submit one entry for each category; they do not have to submit entries in all categories but we like to. This year we submitted these entries:

Publication – *My Garden Book of Vegetables* – Coloring and Activity Book

Graphic Presentation – *Native Plants of the DFW Area*

Mass Media – *S.P.I.N. into Spring's Local Gardens* (News article about SPIN)

Educational Program – Educational Curriculum Tarrant County Community/Demonstration Garden

Project – STOP Garden (An educational garden at Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center)

Newsletter – *The Sharecropper*

Individual – Judy Ratzlaff

Master Gardener Association - Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Poster – Heritage School Outdoor Learning Environment

Exhibit – Tarrant County Master Gardeners New Projects/ Programs

The members of this year's award committee were Eleanor Tuck (chair), Ginger Bason, JoAnn Hahn, Susan Stanek, and Tammy Edwards. The committee would like to thank all those members that contributed to the entries.

If you would like to suggest someone or something for an award for next year, please contact Eleanor Tuck.

Tammy Edwards

March 2010 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	2 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a Randall Mill PK Greenhouse Intern Class: Fruit & Nut	3 9a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald 7p Ladies of Gar- den	4 8:30a Alice Carlson TCMGA MEETING MOVED TO 11TH! Intern Class: Meeting am, Field Trip pm	5	6 9a Wildscape Class: - "Native Plant Use by In- digenous Peoples and Pioneers" by Dawn Hancock NPSOT
7	8 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	9 8a Liberty Gdn. 9a Randall Mill PK Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie Intern Class: Rainwater Harvest- ing, Irrigation	10 9a Veterans Pk 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	11 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING Urban Solutions Center Course— Lawn 101 Intern Class: Trees & Shrubs	12 8:30a CG Veggie 8:30a JPS	13 9am SW Crthse 9am Compost Demo
14  Daylight Savings Time	15 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 2:45p Heritage Elm.	16 9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie Urban Solutions Center Course— Stream Restora- tion Intern Class: Native Plants	 17 9a Veterans Pk 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a FW Library 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	18 8:30a Alice Carlson	19 8:30a CG Veggie C&D Garden Class- Composting	20
21	22 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	23 9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie Intern Class: Pho- tography & Power- point	24 9a Veterans PK 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	25 8:30a Alice Carlson Intern Class: Field Trip	26 8:30a CG Veggie 8:30a JPS  MARCH FIELD TRIP!	27 C&D Garden Class-Rainwater Harvesting and How to Build a Rain Barrel
28	29 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	30 9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie Intern Class— Make-up day	31 9a Veteran PK 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9am SW Crthse 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald			

2010 Up-Coming Events



March Field Trip Friday, March 26, 2010

Lonely?
Got kids?
Gourmet?
Stressed out?
Hate your neighbor?

Get a chicken.
Get a chicken.
Get a chicken.
Get a chicken
Get a rooster.



Yes, backyard chickens have become the rage in the Metroplex. Join us for our first field trip of 2010 when we go to **NORTH HAVEN GARDENS** in Dallas to hear the details and see the equipment many of our fellow gardeners are using to house and raise backyard chickens.

- 30 minute presentation by staff members of North Haven Gardens
- Lunch – bring your own sack lunch, water provided
- Shopping



Then it's on to the **CITY OF PLANO MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING FACILITY**. The city began collecting yard waste in 1993 and started an on-site composting operation. Since then, they have expanded their collection to three other cities turning tree limbs, leaves and yard cuttings into wonderful compost so dear to our hearts. This has saved room in the landfill and provided \$1.8 million revenue last year. The employees are very enthusiastic and thrilled that we are coming to visit.

- Drive to City of Plano Municipal Building - park
- Pick up FREE shuttle buses provided by Plano
- Visit the two composting sites & return to the Municipal Building

More information on the carpool meeting spots in Fort Worth, NE Tarrant County & Arlington will be available soon.

Pam Braak and Donna Fry
Activities Committee



March/April Events

TCMGA Community & Demonstration Garden Classes

March (date TBD) — Spring Vegetable Garden
Friday, March 19 — Composting
Saturday, March 27 — Rainwater Harvesting and How to Build a Rain Barrel

To register for these educational classes, contact **Nancy Curl** at nl_curl@yahoo.com.

April Events

1 TCMGA MEETING

- 1 NCNPSOT Meeting—7p at FW Botanic Garden
<http://texasnativeplants.org>
- 2 Holiday - Good Friday
- 3 Wildscape Mini-class—"Landscaping with N Central Texas Native Plants" by Heather Dowell APRD
- 7 Free Organic Classes—5208 Hidden Oaks Lane, Arlington 817-572-0148
- 8 Urban Solutions Center Course—Saving from a Rainy Day—Making a Rain Barrel
<http://urbansolutionscenter.tamu.edu/courses>
- 10 Composting Class—9-11 am 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 817-459-6778
- 8-10 **Texas MG Conference - Dallas**
<http://www.2010tmgconference.org>
- 10 FW Botanic Garden Spring Plant Sale
- 17 2nd Annual MG Plant Sale
- 17 FW Botanic Garden Iris Society Show
- 20 Urban Solutions Center Course -Community Gardens
- 24-25 FW Botanic Garden Spring Festival in the Japanese Garden
- 24 FW Botanic Garden Flowercade



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

Thursday—MAY 13TH

- Field trip -

Farmers Branch rose gardens



Composting your Lawn

By Skip Richter, Travis County Extension Horticulture Agent



Even though it's winter time here in Texas, our warm season turf grasses are still fairly active. They may have slowed growth, but the leaves are continu-

ing to capture sunlight and build carbohydrates, and the roots are growing very actively during our warm Texas winters.

This is a good time to apply a thin layer of compost over the soil surface. If you apply about a third of an inch over your grass, it will fall in between the blades of grass, cover the soil, and then as spring rains come, begin to feed the turf a little bit of nutrient which will carry on into the growing season and well into the summer, in fact.

You only want to put it about a third of an inch deep because you don't want to smother the grass, but just a little bit. Another thing that will do is cover the bare soil areas, and help deter some of those weeds that will begin sprouting in the spring, creating summer weed problems in your lawn.

You want to use a finely screened compost product, nothing real chunky because you want it to settle on down in between the blades of grass and not smother the surface. Apply it evenly over the lawn, and then use a garden rake turned upside down to spread it out. By turning the rake upside down, it's a lot easier to spread it smoothly over the surface of the grass.

This finely screened compost is chock full of nutrients. Once you spread it out, you can just let

nature take care of it from there. It will feed your lawn on into the spring, summer, and even into the fall. And you'll have a beautiful lawn to show for it.



Take the EARTH-KIND Challenge!



Is your landscape contributing to a healthy and sustainable environment? There's one way to find out - take the Earth-Kind Challenge. It's easy. Just answer a series of on-line questions about the cultural principles and practices used in maintaining your landscape. The higher the score, the more you are doing to help preserve and protect the environment in which we live. The Earth-Kind Challenge link is <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/EARTHKIND/>

WANTED: ALIVE & KICKING



Extreme Caution—armed (with pruners and weeders) and dangerous (to chewing and biting insects). Has been known to ruthlessly kill noxious weeds without provocation.

Escaped: Suspect was in disbelief when apprehended. Very volatile! Wandered off when left unsupervised.

Wanted for multiple heinous crimes:

- Throwing away grass clippings!
- Eating freshly pulled carrot while in front of children!
- Likes insects that eat plants better than the plants!
- Carrying concealed insects!
- Wreaking death and destruction on aphid communities!

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact someone!!!!





Texas Superstar Feature: 'Texas Gold' Columbine: Spectacular Shade-Blooming Perennial For Texas

From Texas Superstar Website <http://www.texassuperstars.com>



Too much shade plagues tens of thousands of home landscapes all across Texas.

Why? Because the vast majority of

plants known for their striking blossoms prefer sunny locations, and they flower poorly, if at all, in shady areas. Horticultural help is on the way however, for after many years of testing and development, a new "Queen of the Shade-dappled Garden" is about to ascend her Texas throne.

This delicate, bold and beautiful perennial has been christened the 'Texas Gold' Columbine. This plant, whose scientific name is *Aquilegia chrysantha* 'Texas Gold,' is heaven-sent for partially shady areas of Texas landscapes. A Texas native, this new plant is a cultivated selection from a rare perennial wildflower found in moist, shady areas only along a few remote streams and waterfalls in the Big Bend area of west Texas.

World-Class Advantages

Years of field testing by horticulture specialists with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service have shown 'Texas Gold' to be a truly superior performer. Its advantages include:

- Being considered by many professionals to be our most spectacular shade-blooming perennial and one of the best new plants to be made available in years.
- Across much of the state, many commer-

cially available columbines weaken or die the very first summer! 'Texas Gold,' however, has the native toughness and ability to tolerate the heat of Texas summers, thus it is truly perennial and will give you years of enjoyment without the expense and hassle of replanting. This is true Texas value from a true Texas native.

- Its elegant, stately beauty is truly something to behold. Butter yellow blossoms, highlighted by graceful cups and long, dramatic spurs, are held well above the attractive foliage for maximum impact. Occurring on long, branching stems, these flowers also make good cut flower specimens. As an added bonus, the blossoms have a pleasing honeysuckle-like fragrance, and are attractive to hummingbirds.
- Long blooming for a perennial, 'Texas Gold' rewards the homeowner with bounteous blossoms from late March through early May. A grouping of several such plants can be breathtaking.
- Unlike some perennials which at times look rather weedy, the scalloped, bluish gray-green foliage and compact, rounded growth habit of 'Texas Gold' make it attractive year round.
- First perennial to achieve the coveted "Earth-Kind" designation from the Extension Service. Rarely will pesticide application be required. In fact, during four years of personal testing, I have not had to apply pesticides a single time.

'Texas Gold' should give excellent performance in all areas of Texas with the possible exception of the Rio Grande Valley and the Panhandle. Even in these two areas, 'Texas Gold' is most worthy of trial planting (Lubbock and northward, plant in semi-shade along the south wall of a building for winter protection).

"Earth-Kind" Growing Tips

Proper site selection and soil preparation are crucial factors in making 'Texas Gold' plants happy in your landscape.

- Site selection in this case means partial shade. An ideal site would be under a canopy of a deciduous tree (i.e. drops its leaves in the fall) as the columbine would then receive what it truly loves: sun-dappled or partial shade in the summer for heat protection, more sunlight in the winter when the plant is actively growing. Avoid areas of dense, heavy, continual shade.
- Provide well drained soils high in organic matter. It will not tolerate wet feet or standing water! If your soil is a sticky, poorly drained clay, raised beds are highly recommended.
- Prior to planting, incorporate an "Earth-Kind" slow-release fertilizer, one in which at least 50% of the nitrogen is in the slowly available form, at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet of planting area. Each year, reap-



ply a slow-release fertilizer high in nitrogen at this same rate in October, December and February to help stimulate foliage production.

- Space plants two feet apart at planting. At maturity, the foliar portion will reach a height of 18-24 inches. Also, 'Texas Gold' needs one inch of water every 7-10 days, either from a soaking rain or thorough irrigation.

If spider mites or leaf miners make the foliage unattractive by mid to late summer, use hedge shears or a string trimmer to completely remove all foliage down to a few inches above the crown of the plant. Gather and destroy this infested foliage to greatly reduce pest populations without having to resort to pesticides. When temperatures cool in the fall, new leaves should be produced and the plants will come on like gangbusters.

Landscaping Pointers

To maximize its landscape performance, arrange in easy, natural drifts, avoiding the regimentation of straight lines. Mass them in the perennial border, or tucked into unused corners of flower beds, or almost anywhere you need bold spring color.

Plants already blooming in one gallon containers are great for instant beauty. If covering a large area, consider plants in 4-inch pots which are less expensive and represent excellent value.

To learn more about Texas Superstars go to:
<http://www.texassuperstar.com>

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
303 Community Garden			
Community and Demo Garden Chair	Steve Chaney, s-chaney@tamu.edu		817-884-1945
Project Leads			
Barn	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.net		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting	Ron & Sue Ellen Schiltzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Community Vegetable Beds	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Pat Higgins, ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Enabling Garden	Jeanette Berggren, jberggren@sbcglobal.net		817-996-5112
Herb Garden , Wednesdays	Rita Hottel, aecom@charter.net		817-295-2883
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard & Demo Beds	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com		817-994-7055
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-817-838-7321/	817-923-9250
Plant Sales	Taddie Hamilton, taddieh@sbcglobal.net		817-534-3440
Potting Shed	Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Propagation	Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com		817-481-8861
Rain barrel construction	Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net		817-444-2247
Rose Garden, Tuesdays	Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com		817-477-2867
Topiary (children's garden)	Peg Surber, txsurber@aol.com		817-232-5035
Treasurer	Donna Morris, morrisd1@swbell.net		817-560-7767
Watering	Kim Freeman, bamagirIntx@sbcglobal.net		817-292-3775
304 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
304 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Friday 8:30 am	Kay Lewis	817-281-6600
304 Casa House	Call chairman	Rocky Deutscher	817-991-7171
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden			
Docents	Call chairman	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
Environmental Projects:			
305 Composting Demo	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Devanie Fergus	817-683-3332
		Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5281
305 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed. 9 a.m.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
305 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues. 9-12n Randall Mill Pk. Greenhouse		
	Wed. 9-12n, 1st Sat, 9-12 a.m.	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	Call chairman	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190
School Gardens:			
306 Alice Carlson	Mon/& Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 BG-Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
306 Heritage School OLE	2nd & 4th Monday 2:45p	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977

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



Important Websites to Know!



Our local TCMGA website:	http://www.tcmga.org/
State MG Website and TMG news:	http://www.texasmastergardeners.com
State Newsletter:	http://www.tmganewsletter.org
Our RC Demo Garden Website:	http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123
NCNPSOT:	http://texasnativeplants.org
Aggie Horticulture:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
Earthkind:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind
Texas Superstars:	http://texassuperstars.com
Fort Worth Botanic Garden:	http://fwbg.com
Wildscape:	http://thewildscape.org
Urban Solution Center:	http://urbansolutioncenter.tamu.edu
Botanical Research Institute of Texas:	http://www.brit.org