



Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Mission Statement

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



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Articles welcome and encouraged.
Send submissions to
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Thief of Trees by Laura M. Miller

Tarrant Co. Extension Agent, Commercial Horticulture

Ho, Ho, The Mistletoe-- Beloved symbol of Christmas, floral emblem of Oklahoma, or nasty parasite? It's all of the above, and as deciduous trees shed their leaves, leafy mistletoe stands out on otherwise good looking trees.

Mistletoe, a common name used to describe several species of *Phoradendron*, is widely distributed and lives on a variety of woody hosts. The scientific name comes from the Greek to Latin 'phor' which means to carry or carry



Photos by Marilyn Sallee



off (like a thief) and 'dendron' which refers to trees. Mistletoe extracts water and nutrients from the tree.

At the 2008 Southern Nursery Association Research Conference, Dr. Raul Cabrera, Associate Professor and Project Leader in Woody Ornamental Horticulture at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Urban Solutions Center in Dallas, told the story of how he decided to start studying the thief of trees. During his usual lunch break, he noticed that the mistletoe was much greener than the leaves of the trees themselves. He wondered if the mistletoe was somehow using proportionally more water and nutrients than the tree. Could controlling mistletoe be a water conservation tool?

(Continued on page 14)

President's Message

TIMELY INFORMATION



As we are now finished with the budget process and have passed our 2009 budget, I was thinking about resuming the door prizes at our monthly meetings. You may recall we added a little 'kicker' last year in that you 1) had to be in your seat (or at your assigned post) to win and 2) you had to be current on your timesheets.

So, I requested a time keeping report from our head timekeeper, Raelene Darling and was surprised to see that it was over one month behind. I asked her if she could send me a 'new' one and I didn't really understand her answer. Smart lady that she is, she took the time to type up the information that you see this month on page 10. Crystal clear!

And, boy did I learn a lot from reading it. So, we are sharing it this month with everyone. It will sure give you a new appreciation for the detailed work our timekeepers do! And, it made me realize even more the need to get our time in on a 'timely' basis.

Kudos this month to all our timekeepers! You do heroic work behind the scenes and I salute each and every one of you!

Members – door prizes will resume at our March meeting, so get those timesheets in now. And, just think how good you will feel when it's done and you can check one more thing off of your 'to do list'. I'm feeling better myself!

See you on March 5th with door prizes in hand!

— Susan Stanek, President

February 2009 Monthly Program



Thank you, thank you to Emily Ward, Tammy Edwards, Nancy Curl and Marilyn Sallee for assembling such an informative program about our Association. Our thought in doing this type of presentation is to help our growing numbers understand how we got to where we are. Thank you ladies.

In March, we will have Geoff Sherman, Landscape Horticulturist of North Richland Hills, bring us up to date on the **Dutch Elm Disease** which is beginning to invade our part of the country. (It is no longer just a Yankee disease).

For the afternoon program, I am pleased to present Bobby Spence of Harvest Supply Company. Mr. Spence will be presenting "**Organics: What's New? What's Happening Today?**" He has specifically asked that you come prepared with questions and concerns--he does not want this to be a "dry lecture" so come with your questions.

9:30 AM Coffee and friendship

10:00 AM Geoff Sherman,
Dutch Elm Disease

11:00 Business meeting and
Hot Dog Luncheon to
welcome the Intern Class of 2009
(remember: our Interns are our
guests for this lunch and members
pay \$1.00 per hot dog)

12:00 Noon Bobby Spence, Harvest
Supply Company

— Eleanor Tuck, 1st VP - Programs



2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 23-24 & 25, 2009

For more information: Harrison County Master Gardener Association
c/o Extension Office, 102 West Houston, Marshall, TX. 75670
(903) 935-8413 See this link for more information:

<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

TCMGA Meeting Minutes February 5, 2009

The program was "Low Maintenance Landscaping" presented by Bonnie Reese and a review of the TMG Awards history and requirements by several of our own Master Gardeners.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Susan Stanek at 11:00 a.m. with 216 certified members and interns in attendance. It was determined that there was a quorum of voting members in attendance.

President Stanek welcomed the 2009 Intern Class to the meeting.

The Minutes of the January 2009 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

Treasurer Carl Trehus was not in attendance, so President Stanek gave the Treasurer's Report:

Compass checking account 12/31/08 balance:	\$ 1,380.47
Compass Money Market account 12/31/08 bal.:	20,615.06
Net Income for January	107.05
Expenses in January	-0-
Balance 1/31/09	\$ 22,102.58

Lucurtis Williams gave the Raffle Committee Report. She advised the membership that project funding requests exceeded available funds by \$3,069 dollars. The Raffle Committee is planning to add some big ticket items for special auctions as one way to raise additional funds, and asked for support.

Jack Gerloff spoke for the Audit Committee. Jack, John Tinsley, and Joanne McClendon met January 16, 2009, with Treasurer Carl Trehus for an audit of the books. All agreed the books were in excellent order and commended Carl on the good job he has done.

President Stanek gave the President's report. At the January General Meeting approval of the proposed budget was deferred to allow for more information to be gathered regarding the proposed purchase of insurance for the association. A two page Question and Answer document was prepared to cover questions regarding liability insurance questions and was presented to the Advisory Board. After much discussion

and three small changes, the Advisory Board took a non-binding vote to approve the budget. Copies of the Q & A document and the Budget were available to the entire membership at today's meeting.

A motion to approve the Budget was made by Joyce Hammill and seconded by Judy Butler. President Stanek asked for any discussion and there was none. The vote was 154 for and 3 against approving the Budget.

New Business and Announcements:

- ▶ Caladium bulbs can be still be ordered at the March meeting.
- ▶ The Neil Sperry Show will be February 27 thru March 1, 2009. Those interested in volunteering, contact Judy Sargent.
- ▶ There is a list of upcoming Field Trips available today on the display tables.
- ▶ Southlake spring tour is in April. Contact Wendi Carlucci to volunteer.
- ▶ The Fort Worth Rose Society meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden building. They offer half price memberships to Master Gardeners.
- ▶ The Botanic Garden has many opportunities for volunteers. They are having an Orientation Session on February 14 from 9-12:00 p.m.
- ▶ Contact Susan Harper for Larkspur seed.

Steve Chaney announced:

- ▶ Member service pins for 3, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service available to be picked up at the sign-in table. Shovel pins are available at the office or at next month's General Meeting.
- ▶ On February 24, 2009, Dr. Bill Welch will be speaking to the Intern Class from 10:am-2:pm. There are seats available for those interested.
- ▶ Pizza Ranch, May 5 & 6,. Needs volunteers
- ▶ Ken Johnson, Ag Agent, has asked for volunteers for Horsearama on March 13-15.

There being no additional new business, the Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Dottie Bucy

LEADERSHIP

President: Susan Stanek
slstanek@verizon.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

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Sallee
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Website: Kate Kilmurray
webmaster@tcmga.org

Activities: Kay Gunn
kaygunn2138@sbcglobal.net

Birthdays/Sunshine: Joy Lease
jlease@prodigy.net

Directory: Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Johnna Reed
rlreed@sbcglobal.net

Bulletin Board: Donna Turner
dturnerx@flash.net

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dbollinger@sbcglobal.net

Acknowledgements: Pat Lovejoy
patlovejoy@att.net

Garden Resource: Dave Wilson
ldwilson98@yahoo.com

Photo/Publicity: Derald Freeman
ggreatideas@sbcglobal.net

Raffle: Sandra Johnson
Sjohnson1220@hotmail.com

Advisor: Steve Chaney
s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>
TCMGA office 817-884-1944

Project Profile: SW Sub-Courthouse Nativescape by Helena von Heiningen

LOCATION: Southwest Sub-Courthouse, 6551 Granbury Road
Fort Worth, 2.5 miles south of I- 20 on Granbury Road, past South Hulen.



Mission: To demonstrate to the public the benefits of native plants

This half-acre public garden sits in the harshest environment of concrete, parking lot and roadway, yet thrives and blooms through summer scorch and winter freeze.

In 1998, Jim Leavy, Roberta Wilcox and Maribeth Ashley convinced Commissioner Dianne Bagsby to allow installation of a demonstration garden at the entrance of the Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse complex. Initiated as a Native Plant Society "Project of the Year", it was designed by Jim Leavy. Volunteers continued to maintain and support this beautiful demonstration site since 1998 with donated plants, as well as many, many volunteer hours from the Tarrant County Master Gardeners, Cross Timbers Master Naturalists and members of the North Central Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas. Grants were received from the Native Plant Society of Texas and Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association for plant labels, replacement plants, decomposed granite, and an informational mailbox.

An estimated 144,000 people visit the sub-courthouse annually (an additional 11,000 during various elections). And with our existing water shortages/restrictions, this is the way we need to garden so our children/grandchildren will still have water in the future

Workdays: 2nd Saturday & last Wednesday
Winter: 9 am Summer: 8 am
Contact: Gailon Hardin 817-475-0923

SuperStar MG Profile

SUSAN MILLER

Project Person of the Year 2008



Susan Miller

In Her Own Words:

I have been a certified Master Gardener since 2006. I applied, after my sister's prompting, to learn more about gardening in the DFW area. My time has been spent mostly as Chairman at the Trial Garden. Before that, I split my time between the Trial Garden, The Wildscape at Veterans Park, and the greenhouse. I like the Trial Garden because I learn so much about the plants and which ones do well in our area. It has also given me the opportunity to know the wonderful Botanic Garden people. Also, when the best performing perennials outgrow their space, we sometimes adopt them! I liked the Wildscape because I learned a lot about native plants and I liked the greenhouse because I learned a lot about technique for propagation. I work at the office because it is a requirement, but I enjoy it and learn something every time I participate!

I have a number of favorite plants...mostly low maintenance/native types. I love my bluebonnets because they are so tenacious as young plants in the cold of winter; I love the Turks cap that grows in sun and shade; and I love the Salvias, cone-flowers, and lantana that do such a great job attracting butterflies and hummingbirds in the summer. I think the best garden tip is to enjoy it. Gardening to me is therapy.

Besides the wonderful people I have met, my favorite part of MG is the field trips, especially when we get the royal treatment at places that otherwise are usually inaccessible.

I'm an empty nester, so being a MG does not affect my family. It has enriched my life by allowing me to share it with wonderful people! My husband enjoys photographing the insects and hummingbirds that the plants attract. I am also passionate about the environment and being a good steward of the Earth.

I come from a family of gardeners. My maternal grandmother always had amazing vegetable gardens. She lived on a ranch and had lots of manure and leaf mold readily available. I would love to have her success with vegetable gardening! I was born in Houston, TX, but when I was 11, we moved to a ranch in Menard County, TX. I loved living in the country. When I graduated from high school, I went to The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a degree in Medical Technology. It was at UT that I met my husband, Jay. He was teaching an aviation history class that I took to get access to an instrument simulator (I was taking flying lessons at the time and free instrument time was a big attraction!). We married and were blessed with two daughters that were born in Austin. We moved to north Texas in December, 1983. Our older daughter, Anna, is married and in her 4th year of orthopedic surgical residency in New York City. Our younger daughter, Missy, is single and is a manager in the garden department of the Home Depot in Cedar Park, TX.

I have been working in clinical laboratories most of my adult life. Currently, I work in the Reference and Transfusion facility at Carter BloodCare. We work with hospital blood banks to provide blood for patients with antibody problems. Also, we are the blood bank service for many smaller hospitals that do not have a blood bank of their own. It is very interesting and rewarding work.

— Susan Miller

It is the dedicated Master Gardeners, such as Susan, who inspire us all and make this organization the outstanding chapter it is. Watch for future profiles of our SuperStar Master Gardeners in coming months.

March 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	3 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage 9a Veterans Park Intern Class	4 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	5 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING Intern Class NCNPSOT	6	7 9a Veterans Park Composting Demo Garden Pros Vegetables Orchid Sale
8 Orchid Sale	9 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	10 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage 9a Veterans Park Intern Class	11 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	12 8:30a Alice Carlson Intern Class	13 H&G Show	14 8a SW Crthse Composting Demo H&G Show
15 H&G Show	16 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	17 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage 9a Veterans Park Intern Class (make-up only)	18 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Hulen 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald BRIT class	19 8:30a Alice Carlson TCMGA Board	20 Rainwater Conf	21 10a Hulen YardSmart FWBG Herb Society Rainwater Conf
22 Int'l MG Conf.	23 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel Int'l MG Conf.	24 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage 9a Veterans Park Int'l MG Conf.	25 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a SW Cr Hse 3:15p Fitzgerald JMG Specialists	26 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a Hulen* Field Trip Dallas Int'l MG Conf. JMG Specialists	27 NS H&G Show JMG Specialists	28 Southlake Green Day FWBG Plant Sale Johnson Co Plant Sale Green Mama's "Trees"

UP-COMING EVENTS

NOTE: for this month's events, see back cover

- Apr. 2 **TCMGA MEETING**
 Apr. 2 BRIT Lecture FWBG Master Plan
 Apr. 2 NCNPSOT 7 pm FWBG
 Apr. 4 **TCMGA Plant Sale 9a-2p Comm. Garden**
 Apr. 4 Gardening with the Pros: Turf
 Apr. 4-5 Chandor Gardens Spring Fling
 Apr. 7 BRIT class "Mounting Specimens"
 Apr. 8 BRIT Brown Bag—Bioinformatics
 Apr. 16 EarthKind Lawn Care—Brazos Co. MG
 Apr. 17 State of the Prairie Conf. Houston
 Apr. 18 Grapevine Garden Club Plant Sale
 Apr. 18 Ft. Worth Herb Society meets 10 am FWBG
 Apr. 18-19 Ft W Orchid Society Show & Sale
 Apr. 18-19 FWBG Spring Festival in Japanese Garden
 Apr. 19 Garden Tour—Keep Southlake Beautiful
 Apr. 21-25 Texas Garden Club Convention, Midland TX
 Apr. 23-25 **State MG Conf** Marshall, TX
 Apr. 25 4th Annual Prairie Fest—Tandy Hills Park
 Apr. 25 Ft W Iris Society Show, FWBG
 Apr. 25-26 "Flowercade" Flower Show FWBG
 Apr. 28 Organic Garden Club 7pm FWBG
 Apr. 29 TCMGA Field Trip—Southlake Area
 Apr. 30-May 3 Mayfest—Along Trinity
 May 3 Colleyville Garden Club Promenade Tour
 May 5 Tarrant Co Appreciation Day 9-12 —County Admin. Bldg
 May 5 Herb Sale 9-12 Tarrant Co. Admin Bldg.
 May 5 BRIT class "Abandoned Plants"
 May 5-6 **Pizza Ranch**
 May 7 **TCMGA MEETING**
 May 7 BRIT Lecture Green Future
 May 7 NCNPSOT 7 pm FWBG
 May 8 Resource Connect Fun Kids Day (see pg 8)
 May 9-10 Ft W Cactus & Succulent Soc. Show & Sale
 May 13 TCMGA Field Trip—Eagle Mountain Lake
 May 13 BRIT Brown Bag—Greenest Greens
 May 16 Greater Ft W Herb Society Festival FWBG
 May 16 Gardening with the Pros: Rainwater Harvesting 9-12 Agri-Life Office
 May 26 Organic Garden Club "Roses" 7 pm FWBG
 June—Concerts in the Garden, FWBG weekends
 June 4 **TCMGA MEETING**
 June 5-7 FWBG Concerts in the Garden

Announcements/Going On

Home & Garden Shows—NEED YOU!!

Spring means **volunteer opportunities**. We always have a booth at H&G shows. If you would like to work the booth, contact Judy Sargent, 817-589-0221, srgntjud@msn.com

Project Workdays.—contact the Project Chair - see page 7 for details

Intern Class—Training for new MGs—current MGs are welcome to attend to brush up on the topic. Please sign in at the desk.

Field Trips—TCMGA Field Trip Chair is Kay Gunn. See schedule page 9 this issue.

FWBG events— See calendar at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens for more information.

State, Regional & International MG Conferences, MG Specialist Training—See State MG website for more information: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>

Gardening with the Pros—Homeowner Education classes offered by Agri-Life Extension on the second Saturday of each month. Cost \$10 each. For more info or sign up with Claressa Reyes, Extension Secretary.

BRIT (Botanical Research Center of Texas) phone 817-257-7132 or 817-871-7682

Composting Classes—2nd Saturday of each month 9-11 am 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 817-459-6778

NCNPSOT—native plant meeting at Ft W Botanic Garden 7 pm. See topic at their website

Free Organic Classes—1st Wednesday every month Ladies of the Garden, 5208 Hidden Oaks Lane, Arlington 817-572-0148

Note: This is a list of items of interest to MGs. Items on this list outside the MG program may not be automatically approved for hours. Please confirm approval with Steve Chaney on these events.

MGs in ACTION



2009 INTERNS

Extension Agent Steve Chaney demonstrates tool use for the 2009 Intern Class after they attended the February 5th TCMGA meeting.

The interns then had a hands-on session learning to prune trees and shrubs at the Resource Connection.

Remember that certified Master Gardeners are invited to audit any of the intern classes.

Apr. 4th TCMGA PLANT SALE

The first organizational meeting for the TCMGA Plant Sale was held on Feb. 5th at the Resource Connection. It will be Apr. 4th 9 am - 2 pm at the Community Garden area.

For more information and to volunteer, contact committee chair Taddie Hamilton at 817-534-3440 taddieh@sbcglobal.net.



MG Floral Paintings on Display

TCMGA member Mary Nell Hubbard has been invited by the Botanic Garden's Restaurant to hang her art there from March 20 to May 20, 2009.

Mary Nell paints the flowers she has growing in her own garden. Next time you are lunching at the FWBG, take a moment to admire her work on display.



Get in on the fun and join us for the 2009 FIELD TRIPS

SPRING

March 26 – Dallas Arboretum — A trip to the Dallas Arboretum for Dallas Blooms, followed by lunch on your own at the Arboretum café.

April 29 - Northeast Tarrant County — A tour of the remarkable demonstration garden belonging to the owner of Walk About Landscapes, followed by a visit to gardens he has designed. A great learning opportunity for both plant choices and design.

May 13 – Eagle Mountain Lake Area — See three lovely private gardens on lakefront properties. Bring a sack lunch (we provide water) for a picnic at the recently opened Eagle Mountain Park. Wear comfy shoes so you can take advantage of the walking trails.

FALL

September 23 – Decatur—A visit to the garden of a professional garden designer, plus another private garden. Then on to a wonderful garden at the City Park. Finish the tour at a special garden center where box lunches (preordered) will be waiting for you.

October 13 – Granbury—An opportunity to see three outstanding private gardens belonging to Hood County Master Gardeners. Lots of variety, ranging from a five acre country garden to a tropical garden on the shores of Lake Granbury. Then enjoy lunch on your own, and shopping, on the square in Granbury.

MARCH 26th FIELD TRIP DALLAS BLOOMS

Get a group of your Master Gardener friends together and join other Tarrant County Master Gardeners for a day at the Arboretum during Dallas Blooms on Thursday, March 26. Since there is no organized tour planned, you will be able to tour the garden on your own, so feel free to wander wherever you like.

The group rate is \$ 6.50 per person (\$ 3.00 off the regular admission charge). To take advantage of this price, you will need to pre-pay at the March 5th meeting. Check in at the admissions window where they will have a list of all those who have pre-paid for the group rate. If you are a member of a major garden club – Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Dallas Arboretum, etc. – you can be admitted free with your garden membership card and will not have to sign up/pre-pay at the March meeting.

The cost for parking is \$ 5.00 per vehicle. Great lunches are available at the Arboretum café.

The Dallas Arboretum is located at 8625 Garland Road. (Take the Grand Avenue exit off I-30 and turn left. Grand Avenue becomes Garland Road.) We should all try to arrive by 10:00 a.m. when the garden opens.

Come enjoy Dallas Blooms with Master Gardener friends!

PRE-PAY AT MARCH 5th MEETING

Bonnie Reese's Speaker's Schedule

Our March Speaker, Bonnie Reese, was so interesting, several people asked for her speaking schedule to be able to see her again. To the right is Bonnie's Spring schedule.

Please note that City of Dallas has the larger auditorium and will be most open to having people from outside the city attend. The seminars are free, but handouts may be limited to citizens. Pre-registration is highly recommended.

3/7/09 **City of Irving** 972-721-2772, Valley View Municipal Center, 333 Valley View Lane, Irving

3/14/09 **City of Plano**, Registration: livegreeninplano.com, Plano Municipal Center, 1520 Ave K, Plano

3/21/09 **City of Dallas**, 214-670-3155, Brookhaven College – Performance Hall, 3939 Valley View Ln, Farmer's Branch

4/11/09 **City of Denton**, 940-349-8172, Denton Civic Center Community Rm, 321 E. McKinney

COMMITTEE PROFILE: TIMEKEEPERS

How Does the Timekeeping Process Work?

1. Master Gardener members and interns are requested to report activity hours so that the Timekeeper receives it by the 5th of the month for the previous month; e.g. February 5th for January activity.

2. Timekeepers transfer the hours for each member and intern into an Excel spreadsheet and forward the information to the Head Timekeeper by the 10th of the month.

3. The Head Timekeeper uploads the spreadsheet into the database by the 15th of every month.

4. The Head Timekeeper generates reports to identify data integrity problems and forwards this information back to each Timekeeper as necessary. The Timekeeper verifies the problem and informs the member or intern as necessary of any changes. All questions and problems are to be resolved by the 20th of the month.

5. Any activity reports that the Timekeepers receive after the due date will be included in the following month's report. For example: A Timekeeper receives January activity on the 5th of February, those activity hours will be reported with the February data.

For additional information or if you have questions, please contact your Timekeeper.

Submitted by Raelene Darling, Head Timekeeper, Raelene@rkdarling.net or 817-358-4517

Who's YOUR Timekeeper?

A-B Camille Thomason 817-738-3459
 C-F Diane Carlisle 817-488-6668
 G-I Pam Jewell 817 237-6007
 J-Ma Donna Morris 817 560-7767
 Mc-P Judy Childers 817 860-3544
 Q-S LaVerne Henry 817 924-5505
 T-Z Debbie Rasmussen 817 246-7876
 Master Timekeeper; Raelene Darling 817-358-4517



Photo by Joann Hahn

Back in Time—TCMGA History The Move to the Resource Center

In 2000 our Master Gardener program was reaching approximately 134 members. We met at the Botanic Gardens, but were running out of room. We outgrew two rooms that were opened and needed more space. My daughter is Community Development Director for the County so I called her. She gave me the number of Resource Connection and at that time Carlilla was director. She received permission from the County to let us meet there for free, as we were Master Gardeners. Judy Ketchum became the new director and has continued to make us very comfortable. The County has saved us hundreds of dollars in the past 9 years.

— Emily Ward

TCMGA PLANT SALE NEEDS YOU

The Tarrant County Master Gardeners Plant Sale is Sat., April 4, 9 am - 2 pm at the Community Garden. A pre-sale to MGs is after the April 2nd TCMGA meeting.



We have lots of opportunities for you. Can you help a patron rid a beloved plant of insects? Can you give advice to the homeowner who wants a nice lawn? Can you tell why a plant is in distress? Then we need you at the **Ask a Master Gardener** table.

Do you hate to discard cuttings as you groom your plants and have lots of extra plants rooting? Then we need your **MG Heritage Plants** in 4 inch or larger pots labeled with its common or botanical name.

Do you enjoy being around other Master Gardeners? We need strong arms to set up and move plants, sellers to help people choose plants, cashiers to collect money and sackers to get plants to cars. This will be a Master Gardener Day you will not want to miss!

To help, please call Taddie Hamilton at 817-534-3440 or email taddieh@sbcglobal.net.

TCU STUDENTS MAKE PROGRESS AT THE GARDEN by Pat Higgins



Photos by Nancy Curl

Saturday January 31st was a beautiful day for a group of TCU students to work in the Community/Demonstration Garden. Dr. David Aftandilian, who instructs them in Environmental Justice,

Human Rights & Agriculture, accompanied them to the garden. The work was directed and overseen by Master Gardeners Nancy Curl, Tom Scott, Kim Freeman, Donna Morris, Jeanette Bergren, Mary and Larry Matl and Pat Higgins. The MGs worked with the students preparing the ground outside the front and back door of the greenhouse for a layer of flagstone. The flagstone will not only add beauty to the garden but will provide a more appealing entrance into the greenhouse.

Tom, with some of the students, worked on the hoop house that will be used as a plant holding area for seedlings after they reach gallon size. Donna Morris supervised a group that prepared three mounds of soil for a "Three Sisters" garden. This will demonstrate methods of planting corn, pole beans and squash.

The TCU students are working at various gardens and projects in the city this semester to complete their internships. Student Carolyn Couch chose the H.O.P.E. Farm produce garden for her internship and invited Master Gardeners for a field trip on January 21st to provide advice and suggestions for the garden. MGs Kim Freeman, Donna Morris, Nancy Curl, Tom



Scott, Nancy Bannow and Pat Higgins accepted the invitation. The garden, which is located on Atlanta Street just east of I-35, was designed, built, and planted by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Project. The garden is enclosed in a split-rail fence with gravel walks separating vegetable beds marked by landscape timbers. The focal point of the garden is a pergola at the entrance of the garden. H.O.P.E Farm is a unique Christian based school for boys age five years through high school that are being raised by single mothers. The boys attend the school three days a week and after school the other days. Mr. Noble Crawford manages the school where he is a father figure for the boys.

Senior nutrition students from TCU began fur-

thering their gardening education with Master Gardeners on February 3rd at the Community/Demonstration Garden. Master Gardeners Nancy Bannow, Jeanette Bergren, Tom Scott, Donna Morris, Kim Freeman, Jeanie Browning, Claudia Teague, Beverly Beasley, Frank Durda, Kathy Sabin and Pat Higgins supervised the group.

These students worked at the garden during the 2007 fall semester when they began their training to become Community Gardeners. Along with their work in the garden, they will prepare brochures about the garden and write curriculum for the Community Gardener education. The students will complete their garden work on March 3rd and will be graduating from TCU in May.

Thank you Master Gardeners for sharing your time and garden knowledge with all these great young adults.



MGs NEEDED

April 19 Garden Tour - Southlake

The 3rd Annual Keep Southlake Beautiful Garden Tour is approved for hours for MGs. Master Gardeners will answer questions for visitors...no manual labor. We will be at one home and possibly more depending on the number of people who volunteer. It is a great way to get a lot of hours in at one time. If MGs work the entire 6 hours, 10 am to 4 pm, they are invited to a luncheon the day before and a private garden tour with the homeowners to see each other's gardens. For more information call Wendi Carlucci, 817 504-8488.

Change at Hulen Library Project

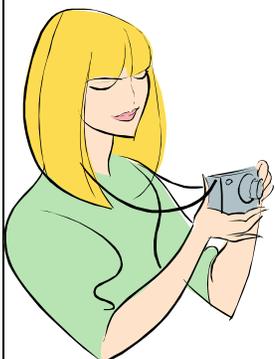
Devanie Ferguson has joined Evaline Woodrey at the Hulen Library Project, located just north of I-20 on Hulen.

New work days are:
3rd Wed. 9:30 Devanie Fergus
3rd Sat. 10:00 Evaline Woodrey

Photography Resources

The photography committee was created as a resource for MG related photos, to cover events for news and publicity, and to be a library available to all MGs.

The library contains about 150 PowerPoint programs, 2800 JPG and GIF photos, and 750 clip art images. These are available to any MG for a story, PPT program or other project. Just contact Derald Freeman with your needs.

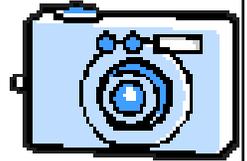


The photography committee needs people with digital cameras to take photos at field trips and MG events to add to the library. If you have a camera, and enjoy taking photos, please contact me. 817-426-3639
derald@greatideas.com.

— Derald Freeman

Old Digital Cameras Needed

Do you have an old digital camera (maybe with low pixel count) that you no longer use? The Master Gardeners at the Union Gospel Mission in Fort Worth are planning a nature photography class with the children at the mission. The project includes instructing the students about taking pictures in the garden. Then, with cameras in tow, each child will be tutored by a Master Gardener and encouraged to take photos in the gardens at the mission. Their completed pictures will be downloaded and burned to a CD. Each student will select their favorite photo to be printed and matted. The photos will then be entered into a photography contest with the winners receiving a prize. All participants will receive a copy of the CD with their pictures and the print they selected. There are plans to make a calendar for 2010 with pictures the kids take in our garden.



Please consider donating your older digital camera to the TCMGA gardeners at UGM. If possible bring cables and directions with the camera. **Your donation will allow us to use the cameras for photography classes for the children at UGM and other TCMGA projects.** If you request, the mission can supply a donation receipt for tax purposes.

Please bring cameras to Union Gospel Mission, 1321 East Lancaster in Fort Worth, on Mondays between 10 and 11:30 a.m. or to the March TCMGA meeting. We will be near the front sign-in desk at the meeting.

For more information contact:

Gay Larson, gaylarson@juno.com
817 441-6560

Pat Higgins, ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net
817-946-6278

Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com

Ft Worth Rose Society Offer

The Fort Worth Rose Society has a special half-price deal on membership for MGs - 1 for \$15 or 2 for \$18. Contact Jim Suggs 972-617-7907. Ft W. Rose Society meets the first Tues. at FWBG.

Out and About

Jim Nelson is completing plans, suggested by a 5th grader, for a “Dino Dig” at the **Alice Carlson OLE**. Students will be able to excavate fossils provided by **Bill Keller**. Also included will be the OLE’s second water harvesting system designed to irrigate the butterfly garden, and made possible by TCMGA project funds.

🌱 **Leeann Rosenthal, Sharon Chastain and Judy Butler** attended the regional **Real Schools** staff development at **Fitzgerald Elementary** where **Chastain** was a guest speaker on “Water in the OLE”. . . Fitzgerald’s school garden also boasts a new butterfly-shaped pond built by **Leann, Judy**, and several members of the Fitzgerald parents garden club 🌱 Did you know that you can find maps to all of the TCMGA projects just by going to our website, hitting the Member Hot Key and then hit Project Locations? A big thanks to **Judy Ratzlaff, Stephen Purdy and Kate Kilmurray** for this helpful information. 🌱 **Pat Higgins** tells us preparations are being made for the **Resource Connection Community Garden’s** Open House. A new group of TCU Environmental Justice and Anthropology student volunteers will be helping to complete some unfinished projects and tidy up. (We’re wondering what “Environmental Justice” is: Equal Rights for Rodents? Save the Slugs? Protect the Polecats? We’ll let you know next month!)

- by Joy Lease



March Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Mims, Susan Haynes
- 5 Jodi Morris, Charlotte Krystinik
- 6 Moira Brunken
- 7 Linda Mitchell (I)
- 10 Susan Miller, Kay Lewis
- 12 Bob Ross, Emily Ward
- 13 Pat Oliver, Angie Ward (I)
- 16 Peg Surber
- 17 Susanne Mills
- 26 Sharon Nice
- 29 Susan Stanek, Carol Lally, Lori Maxwell (I)
- 30 Dawn Hancock, Bernice Ramsbottom
- 31 Jo Poppelreiter, Kim Freeman

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don’t see your name and date of birth, it’s because we don’t have it. Please contact Joy Lease, (817) 795-5133 or email jlease@prodigy.net for changes.

In addition, if you know of serious illnesses or deaths of Master Gardeners or members of their immediate families, please notify Joy so that appropriate acknowledgements may be made on behalf of the organization.

— Joy Lease

In Memoriam



We have purchased The Vegetable Book: A Texan’s Guide to Gardening by Sam Cotner to be placed in our office library in memory of **Pat Durda**. Throughout their married life Pat and Frank worked side-by-side in their vegetable gardens, and this seemed an appropriate tribute.

Patricia E. Durda, passed away Oct. 18, 2008

In Sympathy

Deepest sympathies are sent to Judy Ratzlaff on the death of her father on February 3.

Please Note

We would like to expand this space to report happenings throughout our gardening community. Project leaders, you might send yearly plans and/or updates of happenings in your areas. Any news worth sharing from our committees or individual members? We’d like this to become an “out and about” feature to share “newsy” tidbits of information with our members, so let us know!

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Cabrera went back to the Urban Solutions Center, grabbed a ladder, and started measuring the stomatal conductance, a measure of water loss per unit of leaf area of tree leaves and mistletoe leaves. While he hasn't been able to quantify the actual water and nutrient use in leafy mistletoe yet, he has found that the stomatal conductance of mistletoe is higher than in the host tree leaves, and actually it loses water from both sides of its leaves (tree leaves lose water only or mostly from the lower side). This suggests that on a leaf area basis the mistletoe is using more water than its tree host. Dr. Cabrera's research continues. He's currently growing mistletoe on containerized plants so he won't have to spend so much time up on ladders.

While Dr. Cabrera is trying to quantify how much water mistletoe is stealing, weed scientist Dr. Mengmeng Gu of Mississippi State University, in the weed science way, is just trying to get rid of it. Unfortunately, the title of her presentation at the same conference pretty much says it all "Bark-penetrating Surfactant and Ethephon Did Not Control Leafy Mistletoe in Spring."

The plant growth regulator Ethephon is the only labeled chemical control for mistletoe. Ethephon ([2-chloroethyl] phosphoric acid) is absorbed by plant tissues and releases ethylene which causes leaf abscission. It must be applied in the dormant season, and doesn't translocate so application in large trees can be challenging. Dr. Gu applied Ethephon on March 21 and April 3 and 4 of 2008. While her results were inconsistent, she does plan to try the product again this fall. She's also planning to avoid one unintended side effect—car paint damage.

Dr. Gu's inconsistent results were consistent with an experiment conducted in February 1988 by Randy Peterson of the Denton Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with John Cooper, recently retired Denton County Extension Agent. They tested three rates of Ethephon, with and without surfactant on Cedar Elm trees. Mistletoe leaf abscission increased with increasing rates, but only reached 50%. They also found that spraying twice at a 15 minute interval increased abscission.

Other studies such as "New Methods for Control of Leafy Mistletoe (*Phoradendron* spp.) on Landscape Trees" (John M. Lichter, Michael S. Reid and Alison M. Berry, *Journal of Arboriculture* 17(5): May 1991 pp. 127-130) tried treating cut mistletoe stubs with Ethephon and glyphosate (i.e. Round-

up™) and compared those treatments to simply pruning out the mistletoe. Glyphosate results were extremely variable, but treatment of cut stubs with 10% Ethephon did reduce percent re-growth over pruning alone.

If Ethephon is not the solution, what's the best way to get rid of mistletoe? Like many successful weeds, mistletoe is efficiently spread by birds. Many species of birds eat its lovely white berries and then excrete the seeds in unsuspecting trees. The sticky seeds germinate and grow root like structures called haustoria which extend up and down the tree branch in the tree's vascular system. Pruning the mistletoe to a stub is like mowing to control weeds. Pruning will reduce the numbers of seeds spread, and it slows down the growth of the mistletoe. It's certainly better than doing nothing, but unless it's done repeatedly over time, the mistletoe will re-grow.

Pruning out the infected limb to at least a foot below the mistletoe attachment site should remove the haustoria and prevent re-growth. However, this is an expensive solution and not always appropriate.

The other commonly used control method is to cut the mistletoe back to a stub and prevent its regrowth by excluding light. This is traditionally done by wrapping the area with black plastic, aluminum foil or tar paper. The wrap needs to remain on the tree for a few years. As one might imagine, wrapping tree branches in black plastic is also time consuming and not especially attractive. It's also likely to create a microclimate which could cause heat damage to the bark and often attracts ants and other insects. Lichter, Reid and Berry (1991) substituted black pruning paint for the plastic wrap treatment with good results. The pruning paint is much more quickly applied and not quite as ugly.

How about host resistance? There's both good and bad news here. Crape myrtle, Chinese pistache, Bradford pear, ginkgo, sweet gum and sycamore are never infested with mistletoe, meaning they are not suitable hosts. Unfortunately, many of our great native trees are quite susceptible including the oaks, the elms, bois d'arc and mesquite. Other popular street trees afflicted by leafy mistletoe infections include walnut, poplar, beech and cherry.

In summary, you can try spraying, pruning, really pruning, pruning and wrapping, pruning and painting or giving up and planting a ginkgo, but the mistletoe battle is not easily won. It is however a worthy battle, especially when you consider that water conservation may soon be a quantifiable benefit. And while we may not always have snow for Christmas, there's always going to be plenty of mistletoe.

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 a.m.	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	Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
326 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact area coordinators below)		
Project Co-chairs:	Pat Higgins, Nancy Curl and Jerry Sorenson		
	817-946-6278 817-319-1795 817-427-9009		
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Compost:	position open		
Education:	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Enabling beds:	Jeanette Berggren, jberggren@sbcglobal.net		817-249-6815
Greenhouse:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net - Wednesdays		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
Propagation	Pat Lovejoy palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Roses:	Karen Kologe, kpk@charter.net - Fridays		817-924-6449
TCU students &	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Vegetable garden	Tues, & Fri. 8:30 am		
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-448-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9:30	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
	3 rd Sat, 10:00 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
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



Calendar of This Month's Events

March—TBA—Open house at Resource Gardens

Mar. 3 Intern Class—Digital Photography

Mar. 5 **TCMGA MEETING**

Mar. 5 NCNPSOT meeting 7 pm FWBG

Mar. 5 Intern Class Field Trip Weston Gardens

Mar. 7 Gardening with the Pros:
Vegetable Garden

Mar. 7-8 Ft W Orchid Society Spring Sale FWBG

Mar 10 Intern Class—Rainwater Harvesting

Mar. 11 BRIT Brown Bag - Tx Big Trees

Mar. 12 Intern Class—Native Plants & Grasses

Mar 13-15 **Will Rogers H&G Show-** Amon Carter

Mar. 17 Intern Class make-up session

Mar. 18—BRIT class "Murderous Plants"

Mar. 20-21 TX Rainwater Catchment Conf



Kerrville, TX

Mar. 21 YardSmart Seminar 9-1—FWBG

Mar. 21 Ft Worth Herb Society 10 am FWBG

Mar. 22-26 International MG Conf. Las Vegas, NV

Mar 26—TCMGA Field Trip to Dallas Arboretum

Mar 26 FWBG Spring Plant Sale Preview for
members only

Mar. 28 Ft. W Botanical Society Spring Plant Sale

Mar 28 Johnson Co MG Plant Sale Cleburne

Mar 28 Southlake Green Day 9 am - 4 pm

Mar 28—Green Mama's 11 am "Trees"

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



More state news:
www.texasmastergardeners.com