

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



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Bob Jones Nature Center From Slavery to Freedom, from Farmland back to Nature By Carol Dowd

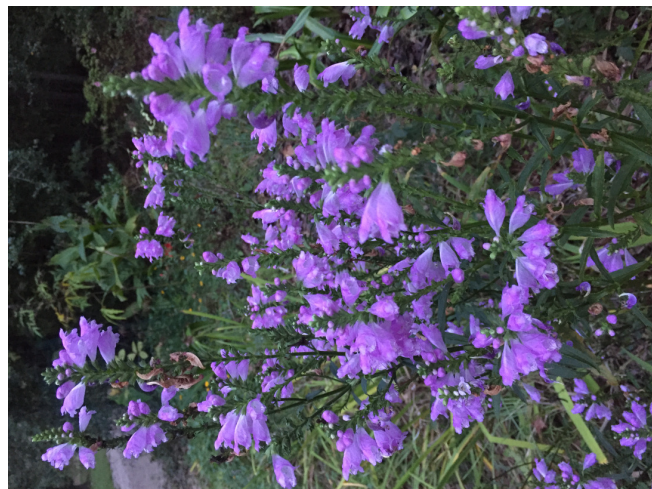
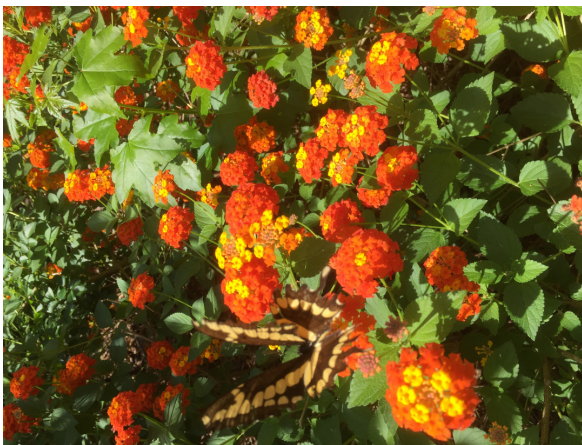
A note from the editor: Bob Jones Nature Center is located at 355 W. Bob Jones Rd., Southlake, TX 76092

Bob Jones Nature Center and Park are named after John Dolford "Bob" Jones who was a slave and shepherd on his father's farm on the land where the Park is now. After the Civil War, Bob's owner returned to Alabama and left Bob, his mother and brother on the 60 acre farm.

Over the years , Bob and his wife Almeady Chisum prospered, had ten children, and increased the farm size until they owned about 2,000 acres. Bob built a school for his children and hired teachers to educate his children and some of the neighbor's children as well. After a severe drought in the 50's, the federal government bought much of the Jones family farm to build Lake Grapevine which was completed in 1952.

In the 1990's the City of Southlake purchased part of the farm as a park and a section of the park was reserved as a Nature Center to preserve a part of the Cross Timbers ecosystem from development. The Cross Timbers is an ecosystem marked by a swath of trees extending from Kansas through Texas just North of Waco, and was a boundary between the great plains and the Southeastern forests of the U.S. Early explorers named it the 'Cast Iron Forest' because the dense understory of tangled thorny vines and shrubbery made it difficult to cross.

Continued on next page.



Some examples of the beauty found at Bob Jones Nature Center

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Bob Jones Nature Center continued

Bob Jones Nature is still home to many Cross Timbers species including white-tailed deer, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, wild turkeys and many birds, as it is in the Central Flyway for migrating bird species.

Bob Jones Nature Center and Park provide a wonderful outdoor classroom for education in understanding the role of the Cross Timbers ecosystem in biodiversity as well as a respite from the noise and concrete of the city.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners implemented the design and the plantings around the Nature Center building in 2008 and have maintained and enlarged the gardens with Texas tough perennial natives in harmony with the education and preservation motif of the Nature Center.

There are many scheduled activities for children and adults at the Nature Center as well as 20 miles of hiking and equestrian trails and 758 acres adjoining Lake Grapevine..

Please come on over and join your fellow Tarrant County Master Gardeners at Bob Jones Nature on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 0900 during the winter months and 0800 during the summer months. We are friendly and have food and fellowship after working in the garden.

Sincerely, Carol Dowd



Top left photo is a Monarch being tagged for release at the Bob Jones Nature Center Monarch Festival. The two photos above were taken at the Monarch Festival. Photo to the left was taken at the Bob Jones Nature Center family work day.

From the President's Corner

***True Confession**

At our Advisory Board Meeting on June 21st, Dorothy Hildebrand told us she had several more shovels for sale. Debbie Rasmussen asked me if I had one and said it was a fabulous tool. As President, I thought, okay I need to be supportive and I said I would take the pink one with yellow butterflies. The weekend of the 14th, I opened it up and used it. Oh my gosh!!!! This is an amazing shovel, cuts through the clay and rock of Parker County with ease. I decided to purchase one for the August Raffle, believe me, your going to love it. **Note:** Logo wear will be able to order more shovels, but they will be prepaid. Ask your friends to buy one, too. They are great gifts and the price break is ordering 10 shovels at a time.

*Raffle at August Meeting-Funds go to the Scholarship Fund: Amazing Green Shovel!!! Be sure to buy your tickets and support our Scholarship Program. Alan Winter and Ray Morrell do have one candidate. If you know someone who is pursuing a Horticulture or Entomology Degree, please contact them and get the information to your candidate.

*Speaking of Dorothy Hildebrand, Class of 2011, she received the Brenda and Don Henderson Award on June 14th at a Volunteer Appreciation celebration. This award is given to a volunteer who goes above and beyond in volunteering for Arlington Urban Ministries. Dorothy has volunteered with this ministry for more than 11 years. She is known as the Christmas Lady, she works in the back pricing Christmas items all year long. Their Christmas in July sale brings in a lot of money and AUM and Tarrant Food Bank along with other supporters set up in Arlington on a vacant lot on the first Wednesday of every month with food. Anyone who can show they are a resident of Tarrant County can shop for fresh vegetables and canned goods, etc. Each family getting 23 lbs of food. Folks stand in line in all kinds of weather to get this food.

Dorothy also received a congratulatory from Texas State Senator, Kelly Hancock:

"Congratulations on receiving the Brenda and Don Henderson Award from Nu2U Resale. This outstanding recognition exemplifies the many years of hard work, dedication, and service you have invested in our community. Thank you for so generously giving of your time and talents on behalf of others. Please accept our compliments and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kelly Hancock, District 9

Chairman, Business and Commerce"

Dorothy asked me to remind you...if you don't have a place to donate your gently used clothing, housewares or small furniture, this is the place. She's there around 12 on Wednesday, in the back. Incidentally Patty Casey, Class of 2014, is the Manager of the Resale Shop and presented Dorothy this award.

I am so very proud for Dorothy, she's a wonderful volunteer and leader.

If you have received an honor, we would like to know. We are proud of what you do for TCMGA as well as the community. Please share these honors and let us thank you for things you do for others in Tarrant County or anywhere else.

Continued on next page.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

From the President's Corner continued

Timekeeping

Within the next two weeks, you will be receiving a call or email from your Timekeeper, introducing themselves and reminding you to enter your hours. They will also be able to advise you on any medical and family issues that are preventing you from doing your hours.

At our July Monthly Meeting, Steve Chaney addressed this new procedure. When we are not reporting all of our hours, we are not presenting an accurate account of the hours actually volunteered by our membership.

Steve's Report from the July Meeting Minutes:

Timekeeping: Steve reported that the total number of volunteer hours for our organization has dropped over the last few years but membership has increased. MG's are not turning in their hours for various reasons. Therefore we are going back to using timekeepers; to help you or remind you to enter your hours. Everyone has to enter hours regardless of their age; however, written guidelines have been created to handle health issues, etc. for a six months leave of absence. The Agent can extend this period if necessary. We don't want to lose or penalize anybody but if at the end of the year you have not entered your hours you will not be certified. We still have six months left this year which is plenty of time to get your hours. MG hours go to the state legislature, FWBG hours go to the city, therefore, it is not considered double dipping to enter hours in the MG system as well as the FWBG system when applicable. Put in all of your hours, don't stop when you hit your goal.

Judy added that the state legislature looks at the first three months of volunteer hour to determine funding. We have been first in the state in volunteer hours for years but we dropped this year. *So I don't know about you, but I need to enter hours.*

Transfers:

I held a brunch at my home on July 20th for the 2017/18 folks who have transferred to TCMGA from other Counties and States. I invited some committee chairs, IE, Demo Garden, Education, Home and Garden, Speakers Bureau, Membership, MG at Botanic Garden, Telephone, Timekeeper, Executive Board and Steve Chaney. My goal was to provide new transfers with information on what we do, where you could volunteer. I asked what they did in their previous association, interests, thoughts and questions. We learned right away just welcoming new folks does not give the guidance or direction about our association or personal information and we realized that out of state transfers deal with different conditions than Texas and attending some intern classes would prove to be useful and provide interaction with the new interns as well as the certified. And learning our office procedures was a must, not just welcome, you need to volunteer at the office. This was a very productive day enjoyed by all.

ON THAT NOTE: THE JR CHALLENGE

From the August Meeting to the December Meeting, when we transfer from the 2018 Executive Board to the 2019 Executive Board. I would like to challenge each of you to introduce yourself to 10 people you may not know or may not know well. Tell them about yourself and ask about them. If you spend 3 or more minutes with each person, each of you may find you have interests in common.

From the President's Corner continued

If 200 members come to a meeting, contact 10 members each of the remaining 5 months..200 will have shaken hands 10,000 times. An individual will have shaken hands 50 times. You can hug:)

Food for thought: if every member $[424] \times 10 = 4250$ a month $\times 5$ months 21,200 contacts and everyone knows each other a little better.

LAST "The September Picnic in the Garden"

Are you working on your Royal Garden Party Hat? You can also purchase, I bought two on a JJHOUSE England website. Kentucky Derby Style or Royal Wedding Style. It was suggested Cat in the Hat, Top Hats, Driving Berets or Chef's Hats for the Gentlemen of the group.

I will present Outback Steakhouse gift cards in 3 Categories

Men

Women

Original Design

Granbury Hood County MG's have asked to be included on this Day, so they will join us.

I like to dress for church and growing up at Easter-time we wore hats, in fact often we wore hats, but one beautiful lady always wore a true royal garden/wedding party hat....we loved to see what she would wear each year. I'm thinking I might just start wearing one again, my gloves, too. Is that 40's, 50's, 60's, early 70's or what.

Thanks to each of you for your dedication to educating and volunteering in our Community. A special thanks for volunteering in this hot Texas heat. Drink lots of water and take breaks. See you August 2 at our monthly meeting.

Hugs,



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Tarrant County Master Gardener Garden Tour!

The Tarrant County Master Gardener Garden Tour will be in Arlington, Texas October 7, 2018. 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Whatever your garden size or conditions, you will find ideas on how to make your own garden better by touring the six Arlington gardens that will be open for you on Sunday, October 7. Each garden is the result of a homeowner making the best of the conditions they found on their property. The gardens represent the love and hard work of the homeowners who have designed and created these gardens themselves. Tarrant County Master Gardeners will be on hand at each garden to answer questions, and there will be educational activities at selected gardens, including learning about backyard chickens! For more information on the gardens visit our website www.tarrantmg.org. Tickets will be available on our website beginning August 15, or at each garden on the day of the tour.



To whet your appetite for the Garden Tour...photos from Patsy Miller's garden. Left is Emily the Garden Diva.

Grasshopper Control Tips for Texas

Content provided by
Theresa Thomas

**By Michael E. Merchant, PhD, BCE, Professor & Extension Urban Entomologist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
(Sharecropper July 2013)**

Grasshoppers are occasional pests of ornamental landscapes. The differential grasshopper (see image) and four other species (red-legged, migratory, two-striped, and Packard grasshoppers) cause most of the damage seen by homeowners and urban residents in Texas. Because grasshoppers require relatively large breeding grounds in which to build large populations, most severe outbreaks occur near farmland and other less disturbed areas, such as in rural communities, farmsteads, and urban fringe areas. Although grasshopper damage is difficult to completely prevent during outbreak years, homeowners can minimize their impact through the use of barriers, insecticides and landscape plants that are less prone to damage.

Biology

Generally only one generation of grasshoppers is produced each year; however, cool, dry weather during the spring months and the successive emergences of different grasshopper species can result in a seemingly endless procession of these insects throughout the summer and fall months. Grasshopper eggs are generally laid during the fall and late summer in rural, non-crop landscapes, such as along ditches, fence rows, and shelterbelts, and in weedy areas. They may also be laid in crop areas after harvest, within weedy fields, and in forage areas and pastureland. Eggs usually hatch the following spring in June and July. The development of grasshopper nymphs to the adult stage requires 40 to 60 days or more.

Adult forms of the differential grasshopper usually appear in mid-July. The adult grasshopper is the most voracious feeder, and is able to disperse over large areas due to its strong wings. The adult grasshopper is the most likely stage to invade and damage ornamental landscapes.

Control

Because residents of urban communities generally have little control over the surrounding countryside, management options for grasshoppers in urban landscapes are limited. Homeowners can protect valuable plants, to some extent, through the use of residual insecticides. Geotextile fabrics can be used as barriers to protect valuable vegetables and specimen ornamental plants. Also, landscape plants that are less attractive to grasshoppers can be used.

Recent tests have shown that insecticides containing bifenthrin (found in some Ortho® Home Defense products) and lambda-cyhalothrin (Scimitar®) provide the fastest knock-down and longest residual control. Products containing permethrin (several manufacturers), cyfluthrin (Bayer® Advanced Lawn and Garden products), and esfenvalerate (Ortho® Bug-B-Gone) should also provide good control. Insecticides containing chlorpyrifos, diazinon and carbaryl will provide control of shorter duration.

Geotextile fabrics have found increased use among vegetable gardeners as floating row covers to protect plants. These fabrics are light enough to permit needed sunlight and air circulation to occur within plants that are covered, yet strong enough to provide a barrier to many insects. During heavy grasshopper infestations, even these barriers may be damaged by hungry grasshoppers. It may be necessary to apply insecticides (that are labeled for

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Grasshopper Control continued

the plants being protected) to the fabrics before they are used to cover the plants. Some plants that require insect pollination may require hand pollination when covered by row covers. These fabrics may be obtained through some garden centers and via mail-order garden supply catalogs.

The following list of plants preferred and not-preferred by grasshoppers was developed largely by (retired) extension horticulture agents, John Cooper and Stan Lovelace, based on observations during heavy grasshopper feeding in Denton County in 1998. Additional species have been added based on reports from Master Gardeners and others. The plants listed were observed under heavy feeding pressure from differential grasshoppers. This list should be used with caution, understanding that different results may be obtained under differing conditions with different grasshopper species.

Preferred	Slight Damage	Not Preferred
Althea	Flowering almond	American beautyberry
Amarylis	Grape	Artemesia
Bachelor's buttons	Hardy aster	Bridal wreath spirea
Bush honeysuckle		Confederate jasmine
Butterfly bush		Coralberry
Cherry laurel		Dwarf yaupon
Day lily		Dwarf burning bush
Eleagnus		Dwarf Mexican petunia
Hardy hibiscus		Eldarica (Afghan) pine
Iris		Euonymous
Liriope		Forsythia
Mondograss		Juniper
Mums		Lantana
Nellie R. Stevens holly		Mexican bush sage
Peach		Moss rose
Photinia		Nandina
Privet		Passionvine
Purple loosestrife		Perennial thrift
Rose		Perennial dianthus
Tradescantia		Persian lilac
Wegelia		Penstemon
Wisteria		Purslane
		Pygmy barberry
		Rock rose
		Salvia greggii
		Turks cap
		Verbena (perennial)
		Vitex

American Beauty Berry

Content provided by Theresa Thomas

Callicarpa americana L. (American beautyberry , French mulberry
Verbenaceae (Verbena Family))

Synonym(s): *Callicarpa americana* var. *lactea*
(Source: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center)

American beauty-berry most often grows 3-5 ft. tall and usually just as wide, It can reach 9 ft. in height in favorable soil and moisture conditions. It has long, arching branches and yellow-green fall foliage, but its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, iridescent-purple fruit (sometimes white) which hug the branches at leaf axils in the fall and winter. Bark light brown on the older wood, reddish brown on younger wood. Bark smooth, with elongate, raised corky areas (lenticels); twigs round to 4 sided, covered with branched hairs visible under a 10x hand lens. Leaves in pairs or in threes, blades half as wide as long and up to 9 inches long, ovate to elliptic, pointed or blunt at the tip and tapered to the base; margins coarsely toothed except toward the base and near the tip, teeth pointed or rounded; lower surface of young leaves covered with branched hairs. Flowers small, pink, in dense clusters at the bases of the leaves, clusters usually not exceeding the leaf petioles. Fruit distinctly colored, rose pink or lavender pink, berry like, about 1/4 inch long and 3/16 inch wide, in showy clusters, persisting after the leaves have fallen.

The seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds, particularly the Northern Bobwhite. Foliage is a favorite of White-tailed Deer.

Plant Characteristics

Duration: Perennial

Habit: Shrub

Root Type: Tap

Leaf Retention: Deciduous

Leaf Shape: Elliptic , Ovate

Leaf Margin: Serrate

Leaf: Green

Autumn Foliage: yes

Fruit: Purple, sometimes white.

Bloom Information

Bloom Color: White , Pink

Bloom Time: May , Jun , Jul

Native Distribution: VA to AR south to FL & e. TX

Native Habitat: Found in woods, moist thickets, wet slopes, low rich bottomlands, and at the edges of swamps in the Piney Woods, Post Oak Woods, Blackland woodlands, and coastal woodlands. Moist woods; coastal plains; swamp edges, bottomlands

Growing Conditions

Water Use: Low

Light Requirement: Part Shade

Soil Moisture: Moist

Cold Tolerant: yes

Heat Tolerant: yes

Soil Description: Moist, rich soils, Sandy, Sandy Loam, Medium Loam, Clay Loam, Clay, Acid-based, Calcareous

Conditions Comments: American beautyberry is a wonderful, large understory shrub with a naturally loose and

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

American Beauty Berry continued

graceful arching form. In the fall and early winter, the branches are laden with magenta purple (sometimes white) berry clusters that look spectacular as the leaves drop in autumn. It is useful as a screen in swampy or wooded locations or under shade trees in a garden setting. It can be cut to 12 above the base each winter to encourage more compact growth, flowers and fruit. It can also be left to mature naturally into a tall woody shrub. The shrub may temporarily defoliate and lose developing fruit during periods of prolonged summer drought.

Benefit

Use Ornamental: Of considerable value for edge landscapes and surface mine reclamation. Good understory shrub. Easily propagated and requires little maintenance.

Fragrant Foliage: yes

Attracts: Birds , Butterflies

Nectar Source: yes

Deer Resistant: No

Propagation

Propagation Material: Seeds

Description: Seed, Root cuttings, softwood tip cuttings and to a much lesser extent division of mature clumps

Commercially Avail: yes

Maintenance: Can be pruned severely right before new growth begins in the spring to control size or refresh an older plant, Prevent complete soil dryness

Find Seed or Plants



American Beauty Berry



Northern Bobwhite