

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



Texas A & M AgriLife Extension

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Exciting Possibilities with TRWD Collaboration

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

We have all been tantalized with bits of information regarding our partnership with Tarrant Regional Water District and our acquisition of the building at 1801 Circle Drive. But what are the details? Nancy Curl and Claire Alford held an informational meeting on Monday, January 16 to flesh out the specifics.

TRWD is very motivated to develop awareness of the importance of water conservation, and has asked TCMG to help get the word out. As educators, we already reach out to thousands of people every year through presentations, workshops and events. TRWD has asked that we simply add a short piece on water conservation to each of these occasions. We provide the educational outreach and keep track of the numbers of people reached. Here are the basics of the Collaboration:

There will be a monthly administrative fee paid by TRWD that covers the monthly rent and insurance for Jan - Dec, 2017, for bldg 1801, and

potential compensation to TCMGA Education. In addition to the administration fee, there is an opportunity for TCMGA education to receive additional compensation for presentations. Any potential income generated will be used to cover cost of educational workshops, materials, updating ppt set ups, web cam, etc.

Continued on page 2



The greenhouse is going up! Right next to 1801.



TCMG Plant Sale! TCMG Early Annual Sale!

Save the date! The TCMG Annual Plant Sale will be Saturday, April 22. Stay tuned for more exciting details! We will also be offering Spring Annuals for online order that will be available for pick up at our April meeting. We'll keep you posted on what lovely Spring blooms will be available for your purchase.

It's a Contest!!!!!!

Name the building! There will be a box at the February meeting for entries on naming the building at 1801 Circle Drive. Put your thinking hats on!



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

TRWD Collaboration continued



TCMGA will provide a minimum of 30 workshops, presentations or events over a 12 month period. Eight of those workshops will be held within Fort Worth. The focus group is adults.

To receive compensation, pre-approval of the event is required from TRWD. We will also turn in sign in sheets with head counts and evaluation forms for workshops and presentations after the fact. TCMGA will invoice TRWD every month.

What do we do to help? So many of us are asked to give presentations throughout the year. The next time that you are approached to give an educational gardening talk, give Theresa Thomas or Claudia Teague a call. They have the pre-approval form that they will forward to you. You then fill it out with the details of your event, get it back to one of them, and they will forward it to TRWD for approval. They will also supply you with the sign sheets, a 4 slide Power Point,

and evaluations.

TCMGA members are encouraged to talk to members of the Education committee; Claire Alford, Claudia Teague, Jennifer Yousef, Judy Ratzlaf, Hester Schwarzer, Lance Jepson, Nancy Curl, Pat Higgins, Pat Lovejoy, Patsy Miller, Richard Kurth, Sue Kelley, Taddie Hamilton, Theresa Thomas and Steve Chaney for more information. We are happy to answer all questions and encourage suggestions.

Susan Miller retires from Botanic Trial Garden

By Nancy Taylor



The Trial Garden work day is every Thursday, except Monthly Meeting days. We tend our garden from 8:30 until 11:30 weather permitting. Join us!

Susan Miller was honored recently for her 10 years of dedicated service as the Project Lead at the Trail Garden in the FW Botanic Gardens. A luncheon to celebrate her tireless leadership was held at The Gardens Restaurant. Master Gardeners who labored alongside Susan throughout the years filled a large table. Botanic Garden employees Kathleen and Renee made a special appearance. They presented

Susan with a certificate acknowledging her commitment to the Botanic Gardens. (see photo at left) Susan was also surprised with a gift certificate to a local nursery, so she can have fun in her own yard.

Just a little about me, Nancy Taylor, the new Project Lead. I am a brand new Master Gardener. I've spent 30 + years gardening and killing plants in my home gar-

den in Arlington. My husband & I raised 4 sons, who may not quite like to garden, but send me photos of flowers from all over the world. Three years ago my husband & I traded city life for 1 acre of dirt and rocks, not soil, in Palo Pinto County. Yes, the drive back to Tarrant county is long, but I'm in heaven at the wonderful gardens where I volunteer weekly.

Special recognitions at the January Meeting



Judy Ratzlaff received her 15 year pin



Gay Larson and Eleanor Tuck received their 20 Year Pins



Jane Bruckner received her 25 year pin



Pat Higgins won the Master Gardener Rock Award , see back page story.

Master Gardeners in the Kitchen

We all know that this organization is filled with good cooks. Let's feature a garden related recipe each month from one of our kitchens. This one is from Julie Taber, Class of 2012. It's a recipe that has been in her family for a long time. Julie won a ribbon at a fair when she was in High School with this recipe.

Please email Lorie with your delicious recipes.

Tomato Preserves

2 quarts tomatoes

3 lemons

4 cups sugar

Scald red/yellow tomatoes and peel. Cut into small pieces and drain in sieve. Measure 2 quarts pulp. Thinly slice lemons and combine with tomatoes in kettle or boiler. Cook gently uncovered 40 minutes or until lemon slices are tender. Add sugar, continue to cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Turn into hot, sterilized jars and seal at once.

P.S. Lorie made several batches of this...huge hit at Christmas!



Ways and Means By Sue Kelley

Gardeners, it's time to begin thinking about purchasing caladium bulbs! The bulbs will be available for order during the February and March Master Gardener meetings or you may order by sending the form (last page) to: Donna Detzel or to

Diane Cauwels
Payment must accompany the orders. The bulbs will be available for pick up at the May meeting.

Caladiums are best planted after Mother's Day. The varieties offered will be the same as last year – Strap

Leaf, which are considered more heat and sun tolerant and Fancy Leaf, which have large heart shaped leaves and prefer filtered shade or afternoon shade with morning sun. Planting and care information will also accompany these purchases.

Thank you for supporting this fund raising activity of TCM-GA - you're getting a quality product at a great price! You may certainly share this information with others who might want to purchase bulbs.



Look what we dug up! Discovered by Lena Goff

Master Gardeners win special award from Fort Worth Garden Club in 1993

Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association

Fort Worth Beautiful honors the members of the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association for the time, knowledge, talent and effort contributed collectively and individually to the beauty of the city.

Their assistance in 1993 in planting and maintaining areas in the Botanic Garden, the Texas Exhibit at the Fort Worth Zoo, St. Francis Village, Prince Hall Public Housing, and various churches and community centers is greatly appreciated and makes a terrific impact. They are most helpful as well in dispensing horticultural information throughout the community.



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Propagation Specialist Class By Patsy Miller

Did you inherit your mother's prize begonia and would like to pass it on to your children and grandchildren? Or do you have lots of area to landscape and a limited budget for plants? Or you just want to learn more on how to make 10 plants from one?

The Master Gardener plant specialist course, March 24-25, at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington gives you two full days of hands-on learning a variety of propagation techniques. You will come home with many starter plants.

Our own Tarrant County Master Gardener propagation specialists and other propagation experts will teach the course, but registration is limited to two MGs per county.

Cost is \$225 which includes lectures, hands-on instruction sessions, field trip, propagation equipment, propagation book, thumb drive with resource materials, one dinner, two lunches and new enthusiasm for propagating a variety of plants. The registration form is available on the Texas Master Garden website, txmg.org. Look for the Specialist Training link on the home page. Information includes the class schedule and topics. Deadline to register for

the propagation course is March 1.

Participants are encouraged to stay at the Sheraton Hotel, the host hotel. The hotel has given us an excellent price and as classes begin at 8 a.m. each day, no commute is involved. Just off the major highway I30, it is easy to access. Information on registration at the hotel is included in the registration packet. Hotel reservations are due by February 24.

A Message from our President By Judy Ratzlaff



I interviewed for the Master Gardener Program in 2001. I was at a crossroad, needing a focus. This journey has been one of the great highlights of my life. Now, 15 years later, we are over 410 strong, including our Interns and Mod Squad. We are like a small town of people who share the same interests and goals. We encourage conservation in our choice of plants, use of chemicals and water. We educate those who join our group, reaching out in friendship and caring. How blessed we are to be a part of a group who listens, will step up to our needs and give encouragement. Four Hundred and Ten friends, accomplishing great feats, touching young and old lives everyday...changing the world, one garden at a time. Well done MG friends.

As a child, my mom sub-

scribed to "ideals" a story and poem publication, so from time to time I will share something with you. This is for each of you.

"The Flowers in My Garden"

You're the flower in my garden,

Rooted deep within my heart

With a love that stems gigantic

From the day you had your start.

As a tiny seed that sprouted

In the latter part of May,

With outstretched petals, budding stem---

Oh what a grand display.

I hope your delicate, blossoming stem

Can bend with wind and storm,

That gentle rain from up above

Refresh you every morn.

With radiant color and fragrance

Only full grown flowers know

And share with those who plant them,

The chance to watch them grow.

The Gardener watched you with a smile

As sun shined on your face:

The dew kissed petals sparkle,

Your special winsome grace.

I know a Master Gardener

Grew this lovely work of art,

The flower in my garden

Rooted deep within my heart.

Stay warm, Spring is around the corner.

25 Years as a Master Gardener

By Jane Bruckner

Receiving my 25 year pin at the January meeting, caused me to reflect how quickly time has flown! I'm realizing gardening restores my soul. Time does fly when learning and working with friends who know the value of plants in our world and how to care for them. It is remarkable how the Master Gardener concept has expanded in membership and service during these 25 years.

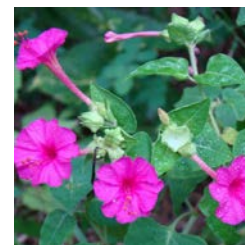
In 1992, twenty five years ago, I saw the small ad in the Fort Worth Star Telegram about the Master Gardener (MG) classes to be held at The Botanic Gardens and how to apply. Curious and interested, I applied and was delighted to be accepted. Dynamic Dottie Woodson was the Horticulture Agent. Full of energy and ideas, she scheduled all the specialized professors who drove from Texas A & M to teach the classes. The volume of information in classes, the homework, our personal experiences and the large amount of printed materials – articles, magazines, books, handouts - in the MG

office was reassuring – until we students realized we were expected to be “the expert” in the seat at the Master Gardener Telephone desk. Without computer, we relied on the printed word. Agent Dottie Woodson gave us a pep talk about what an education we had received and how much more we would learn while looking up answers to telephone queries. That year, in addition to the desk duty, my volunteer hours were spent at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden greenhouse.

As a rancher's daughter, I grew up north of San Angelo, riding horses in the pastures of native grasses, mesquite trees and prickly pear cactus. My parents always had a vegetable garden near the windmill for fresh vegetables in season and preserved ones for winter. As a child, I helped with watering, manuring, weeding and later, gathering the produce. Planted near our ranch house were drought tolerant perennials: bright pink *Salvia greggii*; and fragrant Four-O'Clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*) and old fashioned *Lantana*.

In 1959 after Howard C. Bruckner, MD and I were married, we enjoyed living in Ann Arbor Michigan and then, Chatham New Jersey, where I helped research and restore a colonial garden at the home of Tempe Wicke in Jockey Hollow National Park.

Now, I call my Fort Worth yard “my garden,” planted with *eleagnus* bushes, yaupon holly, old fashioned honeysuckle along the back fence. In addition, there are some trees: a pecan, a maple, a fig, and a bay tree. Growing on the other side, are tomatoes, a sweet olive tree, native perennials with lots of fragrant herbs. In addition, there are three hardy antique roses, received years ago as cuttings from friends. These pass-along plants remind us that our grandmothers often shared plants. Jane Austin Bruckner MG Class of 1992.



Look for Jane's book at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com):

Grandmother Stories from the Heart of Texas, Eakin Press, Austin, 2003.

Master Gardener Rock Award

By Claudia Teague

The Master Gardener “Rock” is presented to someone who works tirelessly behind the scenes doing great work; but, someone who would not necessarily be noticed.

A rock does not make much noise or call attention to its self, but it is solid and steadfast.

Rock – solid, steadfast, and sometimes immovable – i.e. my house is built on solid rock.

Rock – moving back and forth – i.e. to rock the boat.

And, to move forward at steady speed – i.e. the train rocked through the countryside

Or, to be exciting - that garden ‘rocks’!

We have a special gardener who fits all this....she is solid, she makes things happen, she keeps the garden moving forward; and she ‘rocks’ at pulling weeds! She is always there for us....our Master Gardener Rock – Pat Higgins



Pat Higgins

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

2017 Caladium Bulb Sale

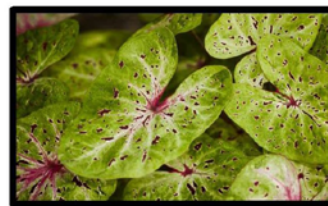
Ordering Deadline March 2



Candidum ☀️ ☀️



White Queen ☀️ ☀️ ☀️



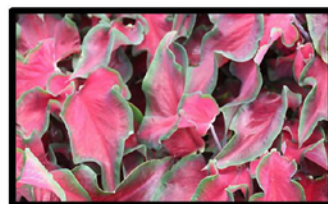
Miss Muffet ☀️ ☀️



Carolyn Whorton ☀️ ☀️ ☀️



Red Flash ☀️ ☀️ ☀️



Red Ruffles ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Strap Leaf Caladiums are considered more heat and sun tolerant than other caladiums. These caladiums have smaller, narrower, and more elongated leaves on short petioles giving the plants a more compact habit. They produce more leaves per tuber. Height is 12" to 14". *Uses:* hanging baskets, borders, and plantings in front of fancy type. Miss Muffet and Red Ruffles are both strap leaf.

Fancy Leaf Caladiums have large heart shaped leaves ranging in height from 18" to 22". Most prefer filtered shade or afternoon shade with morning sun. Varieties that tolerate full sun are Carolyn Whorton, Red Flash, and White Queen. Candidums need shade.

All Bulbs are Grade #1 (1 1/2" - 2 1/2" size bulbs). Each variety has a minimum order of 10 bulbs.

Delivery is at the May 4th meeting. Bulbs can be purchased at the FEBRUARY and MARCH meetings or by sending the form below to: Donna Detzel at 6210 Kenshire Dr. Colleyville TX 76034 donna.detzel@verizon.net or Diane Cauwels 3035 Creekview Dr. Grapevine TX 76051, dr.cauwels@verizon.net

Bulb Type	Bulb Variety	Qty.	Cost/Bulb	Line Total
Fancy Leaf	Candidum		\$0.60	
	White Queen		\$0.60	
	Carolyn Whorton		\$0.60	
	Red Flash		\$0.60	
Strap Leaf	Miss Muffet		\$0.80	
	Red Ruffles		\$0.80	

☐ Cash

☐ Check # _____

Made out to: TCMGA

Total Paid: _____

Name: _____

Telephone: _____