

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION AGENCY

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January 2019

A Lovely Awards Luncheon at Diamond Oaks Country Club

We enjoyed delicious food and fellowship at our Annual Awards Luncheon, which was held at Diamond Oaks Country Club on December 6. Judy Ratzlaff led us in our final monthly meeting for 2018. Once lunch was served, we were entertained by the storytelling and puppeteering of Diane Roberts. The annual awards were then announced: Master Gardener of the Year, Lorie Grandclair-Diaz. Extra Miler of the Year, Harold Taylor. Educator of the Year, Henry Cole. Intern of the Year, Dale Murr. Intern Extra Miler of the Year, Cheri Mills. Mod Squad Intern of the Year, Donna Parikka. Mod Squad Extra Miler, Sandra Dolan. The Master Gardener Rock Award was presented to Gay Larson. It was a pleasure to gift Steve Chaney with a gourmet grill set. Outgoing President Judy Ratzlaff gave her President's Award to Barry Smith for 2018, and Debbie Rasmussen for 2017. She also presented our Annual Scholarship Award to Camille Carey. (see page 3 for story)

Patsy Miller oversaw the induction of the new officers. Our officers for 2019 are: President, Theresa Thomas. 1st Vice President Programs, Rocky Deutscher. 2nd Vice President Ways & Means, Debra Rosenthal. Secretary, Debbie Rasmussen. Treasurer, Debby Stevenson.

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz



Above left, Judy Ratzlaff is honored for her service as our President. Center, Gay Larson is honored with the Master Gardener Rock Award. Right, Steve Chaney is honored and teased by our guest storyteller Diane Roberts.

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The President's Corner

By Theresa Thomas

Looking ahead for 2019, there are so many opportunities we have as Master Gardeners to present our Mission Statement *"To provide horticultural and environmental research-based information and techniques. To volunteer in area horticultural projects."*

There is a place for each one of us to be a part of. There are new outreach programs that will be announced as we move into 2019.

One of the new events is happening January 18 - February 9, 2019. The AgriLife Extension will have a booth at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. The booth will represent all facets of the Extension Agency, from 4-H to FCH to Agriculture and Natural Resources. This is the first for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. The new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Jacklyn Jones, has made this happen. She will be at the January Monthly meeting to tell us all about it. She will have a table at the meeting to answer any questions anyone might have.

The Executive Board and Advisory Board Meetings will still be on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1801 except for October. Advisory Board Meeting at 9:30 and with the Executive Board Meeting immediately following

There are still several committees that need a Chair and/or committee members for 2019. One that needs to be filled immediately is the Hospitality Chairperson position. If anyone is interested please let me know or any of the Executive Board know.

As the new President for 2019 I want to thank you on behalf of the each member of the Executive Board and Advisory Board for your support.

Happy New Year
Theresa



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Tarrant County Master Gardener Scholarship Award

By Judy Ratzlaff

A very deserving young woman by the name of Camille Carey was awarded the Tarrant County Master Gardener Scholarship. She attended TCC and is pursuing a degree in horticulture and minor in entomology. Camille plans to continue in school for her masters and doctorate degrees. She hopes to work in the USDA Research Center as a scientist, researching plants and insects. She is currently writing a paper on bees habits and varieties with a professor at Tarleton.

Camille is interning with BRIT and also works with Tripp in the FWBG Greenhouse and with the Begonia Greenhouse. She was in tears as she thanked us for the \$1,000 scholarship, as it will allow her to graduate debt free.



Above: Our Tarrant County Master Gardener Scholarship recipient, Camille Carey.

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Japanese Garden Docents Needed

By Diane Jones

Do you have a passion for the FWBG Japanese Garden? Would you like to share that passion?

We are looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a Japanese Garden Docent. You do not have to be an expert in Japanese Culture or Gardening. All you need is a desire to learn, a willingness to share that knowledge with our guests and the willingness and ability to use email. We will provide all the training you'll need including a written docent training manual.

Our guests include school groups from pre-school to college and adults of all ages. Church groups, book clubs, garden clubs and families are some of the types of groups who request tours. As a docent you will be free to choose which and how many tours you would like to lead. No set schedule or hours are required.

Here is what some of our past and current docents have said about why they love being a docent:

**When entering the garden you feel the change immediately. You have entered a peaceful and quiet space filled with natural elements which the Japanese love. Water, stone, wood, and different shades of green soothe you.*

**I love to see children's fascination with the koi and hearing how they describe the garden. My favorite description came from 6 year old Ellie who whispered to her friend "I love this place. It's like a magical forest".*

**Being a Japanese Garden Docent is invigorating and compelling because of the ever-changing beauty of the garden and the wide variety of tour groups. As a docent, I am involved in teaching-with-enthusiasm and compelled to enter into a discipline of life-long learning about all aspects of the garden. Being a docent keeps me fit physically, intellectually, spiritually, and socially.*

**I love being a docent because of my love of this exquisite, serene oasis that has something to offer anyone who enters. It is a jewel of Fort Worth and I want to share my passion for it with others. This Japanese Garden gives me such pleasure that I want to give back and share it with anyone who will listen.*

**It's the most flexible docent program in town. You're free to help when you want but if you want to leave town for a month.....no problem!*

**I am Japanese born and raised and today I enjoy how the Fort Worth Japanese Garden illustrates the traditional ways of Japan's life, past and present. Pagodas, bridges, stone lanterns and a tea house, all clustered in a Japanese landscape with ancient messages hidden beneath. Sharing this community and traditions with visitors is a satisfying remembrance of my past, even a learning environment for me too! I want our guests to enjoy their visit and leave with satisfying examples of the richness in Japanese culture and history.*

How to become a Japanese Garden Docent

To prepare new docents for our busy spring tour season, we will run a four week training program beginning in March. Each week a trainer will cover a different subject and lead two identical training sessions. You will be free to attend whichever session fits your schedule best. All training sessions will last two hours. At the completion of the course you will be asked to shadow and/or lead at least 2 tours during the months of April and May.

Week 1 – Garden Protocols and Review of the Docent Training Manual
Tuesday 3/5 10:00 -12:00 or Wednesday 3/6 1:00-3:00

Week 2 – History of the FWBG Japanese Garden, Historical Evolution of Japanese Gardens, and Cultural Significance and Design Elements of Japanese Gardens
Tuesday 3/12 10:00-12:00 or Wednesday 3/13 1:00-3:00

Week 3 – Plants and Animals of the Garden
Tuesday 3/19 10:00 -12:00 or Wednesday 3/20 1:00-3:00

Week 4 – Nick Esthus, Head Gardener, will lead a tour while discussing key elements of the garden
Tuesday 3/26 10:00 -12:00 or Wednesday 3/27 1:00-3:00

(***Week 3 and 4 may be reversed if needed due to Nick's schedule)

Please contact Diane Jones at 713-249-6170 or fwjgdocents@gmail.com with question or to register for training.

Registration Deadline is February 15, 2019.

