

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Volume 1 Issue3

March 2017

Plant Sale Moves to 6 Stones Community Garden By Wanda Stutsman



The plant sale committee is very excited to have 6 Stone Community Garden and 6Stones Mission host our annual plant sale this April 22.

6Stones Community Garden (A Master Gardener Project) is situated on several acres with raised vegetables beds, a large covered patio, secure storage space, ample parking and high exposure to Hwy 157. Moving our plant sale at 6Stones community garden will generate a

large scale opportunity for Master Gardeners to provide education to the Mission supporters and local community.

The following are educational workshops we would like to provide:

- Rain Water Harvesting
- Native and Adaptive Plants
- Benefits of Composting
- Pollinator Plants

- Growing Vegetables

Visitors will also have the opportunity to purchase quality native and adaptive plants that we recommend for their landscapes. Master Gardener pass-a-long plants will be displayed as “grown

by a Master Gardener”.

6Stones Mission provides far reaching benefits to Bedford/Euless and surrounding areas. The Mission supports over 16,000 families per year. Additionally, the Mission is supported by many churches, businesses and local clubs/associates.

We are looking forward to providing a wonderful educational and shopping experience. We know that you will be eager to support this amazing opportunity for TCMGA members to offer community support.

6 Stones Community Garden is a Master Gardener Project, located in a very high traffic area. The Plant Sale Committee is excited to expand exposure of our Plant Sale and our Association. Thank you to 6Stones Community Garden and 6 Stones Mission!

Open House at 1801

Photos by Lena Goff



A large crowd gathered to enjoy desserts, share fellowship and explore our new building and grounds.

Fun on the Phones

By Nora Coalson



Dread those required eight hours of phone duty if you must, but I prefer to enjoy the heck out of them. It's great fun to work with a different colleague each time. You'll find that all Master Gardeners have a unique body of knowledge and skills. To find the real gems, note who schedules frequent phone duty and try to schedule with that person. If you always schedule with your best friend who is as phone adverse as you, it is unlikely that your experience will improve.

Admittedly there will be times when your companion is someone who rarely works the phones, schedules the required eight hours all on one day to get it over with, and does not remember how to attach an article to an email, much less how to pick up the phone from Desk 2. You may have to do the heavy lifting on the phone and computer, but even those gardeners can teach you something.

Now let me turn to my sales

talk, to why I think you should schedule phone duty for at least once a month. You might come to enjoy it. Most assuredly you won't forget the computer how-to basics between sessions. So, set your fears and dreads aside and just go with Sale talk #1: What's the worst that can happen?

For some people, it is not having the answer to a question since we are all Master Gardeners and supposed to know everything. No one I've worked with yet has had all the answers, and most of my colleagues have many more years of experience than I. I have learned that what is more important than knowing the answers is knowing what questions to ask about the problem.

I've no idea why your lawn has turned brown. Is it getting full sun? Is there an obvious insect infestation? Are

you watering once a week - deeply? Have you sprayed it with something recently? Ah, hah! That's when the caller reveals that he sprayed for weeds last week. A few more questions reveal that he also sprayed for weeds the week before that, and, because it was a bad weed year, he had first sprayed three weeks ago. Three different products, each promising to kill those pesky weeds. No, he had not read the label to be sure the product could be used safely on his type of grass. (You will find that not reading labels is a typical problem.) Can I tell him how to fix this problem? Not likely. Sympathy helps it.

Sales talk #2: Have fun with your callers.

You have all had calls that strike you as absurd and absurdly funny. Last summer a woman called and described a large crevice that had opened in her back yard. It was about 36 inches deep, 6

First Class Held in 1801 a Success



Over 50 people attended the first class taught in Building 1801. Richard Kurth instructed a class in fern propagation.



Fun on the Phones continued

visualizing the crevice becoming a Florida-sized sink hole swallowing her home. (No, I did not share this vision with the caller.) Dry cracks in the ground during periods of drought, normal. This problem was not normal. Turned out (after much questioning) that there had been a water main leak nearby, and this crevice was possibly a by-product of that problem. The dear lady had not wanted to bother the city with her problem. "Bother them," I said. "You need some help."

Then there was the caller in January who wanted ID on a bug she had found in her home. She had sent a photo, but it was blurry and there was no frame of reference to indicate if the bug was tiny or a giant man-eater. But the caller said it was small – about a half inch. A bit of searching using directions and links from Insects in the City revealed that the bug was probably an Assassin bug. The caller and I had a laugh

about the scary name for what is generally a beneficial insect. Since she had found only one in her home, we surmised that she had no infestation problem. Sweep him up and throw him out. Problem Sales talk #3: Remember your ace in the hole.

What is that ace? Your RESOURCES. You are surrounded by them at the office. They're in the computer. They're on the bookshelves all around you. They're embodied in every Master Gardener who walks through the room. Use them all.

If E.T. (Eleanor Tuck) walks through the room and I'm working on an insect ID, I flag her down to look at the picture. Saves a boat-load of time. Here's when it pays to have learned who the specialists are in our group. Luckily the Membership Directory has a list of them along with a handy photo. They can often answer your question or at the very least

point you in the right direction for further search.

Similarly, if Steve Chaney strolls through the phone area, I run my current problem question by him. At least 80% of the time he will know the answer. In the case of the other 20% he knows who will know.

Yes, you need to provide information from a legitimate .edu source, but you can often get there through the back door. If your aggie-horticulture search is unhelpful, do a general Google search, and then sort through the answers that come from an appropriate source.

Please don't complain about phone duty. Don't tell a green intern how much you hate it or fear it. At the very least steer them toward someone who enjoys the duty, who can tell that intern to: Embrace it. Enjoy getting to know your fellow Master Gardeners. Enjoy the quiet times by picking up a beautiful gardening book and enhancing your knowledge. Enjoy knowing that you are helping educate the public. That is, after all, what we are here for.



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Ways and Means

By Sue Kelley and Donna Detzel

Ordering Deadline for Caladium Bulbs March 2! Last Day for ordering bulbs is during the monthly meeting on March 2. The grower has released more bulbs:

Red Flash IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Red Ruffles (strap leaf) IS SOLD OUT. Auto substitution is Sweetheart.

Candidum numbers are LOW. Auto substitution is White Christmas.

Carolyn Whorton numbers are LOW. Auto substitution is Red Flash.

Delivery is at the Resource Center 1801 Building the day of our monthly meeting on April 6. You can pick up

bulbs before the meeting 8:30-9:30 a.m. or immediately following the meeting.

Please order early by emailing

donna.detzel. You may also order fertilizer at the March Master Gardener meeting. Fifty pound con-

ventional fertilizer, 28-0-0, and forty pound organic fertilizer, 3-2-1, are available for \$18 a bag. Fertilizer will be delivered at the April Master Gardener meeting. We plan to have a limited amount of worm castings for sale as well.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Look What We Dug Up!



Historic Aerial Photograph Garden Under Construction, 1930s

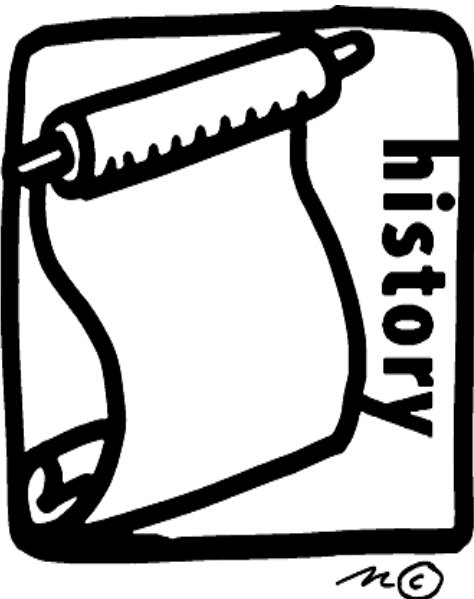


Photo of newly constructed Rose Garden, 1930's

Valerie Soens, class of 2015 and Japanese Garden Docent coordinator discovered this delightful photo from the 1930's. In it we see the Fort Worth Botanic Garden under construction. The Rose Garden is very recognizable, and it is interesting to see the undeveloped area where the Japanese Garden now resides.

To learn about becoming a Docent at the Japanese Garden, email Valerie.

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Upcoming Events

By Patsy Miller

Check out the upcoming events listed below that have invited Tarrant County Master Gardeners to participate. With our partnership with the Tarrant Region Water Board, we can expect our visibility as an education leader in horticulture and water conservation to grow. And that alliance will make it possible to offer more classes to the public at our 1801 facility.

It also makes it easier for you to fill those required certification hours – no weeding, digging or hard work involved. Just be your friendly self, eager to share with others information on gardening and water conservation. Your own knowledge increases as you share information with other MGs – and you meet interesting people. In an organization of 400, it's easy to stick with the same group.

Contact Patsy Miller if you want to

volunteer. You can choose to work a partial or entire shift. The days of the Fort Worth Home and Garden Shows are listed to mark in your calendar and there will be an eblast when shift times are known.

April 20, 11 a.m.— 2 p.m. — University of North Texas Health Science Center Earth Day, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth — Provide general information on gardening and water conservation for HSC staff.

April 22

9 a.m.—1 p.m. — Smartscape/Southlake Home Depot Plant Sale - Provide information about drought tolerant, water conserving plants at Southlake Home Depot, 300 Village Center Dr. Can choose shift from 8 a.m. (setup) – 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. -1 p.m. (cleanup) or entire shift

11 a.m. 2 p.m. — Bryson Elementary School Earth Day — Provide information on gardening, insects, water conservation, etc. for children and adults, 8601 Old Decatur Road, Fort Worth.

April 29

9 a.m.-1 p.m. — Smartscape/Keller Home Depot Plant Sale — Provide information on drought tolerant, water conserving plants at Keller Home Depot, 2013 Hwy. 377. Can choose shift from 8 a.m. (setup) – 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. -1 p.m. (cleanup) or entire shift

10 a.m.-4 p.m. --Mansfield Earth Day, Chris W. Burkett Service Ctr., 620 S. Wisteria St., Mansfield. Provide general information on gardening and water conservation; Can choose shift from 9 a.m. (setup) to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 – 1 p.m. (cleanup)

Lovely Spring Annuals on Sale Now

The Plant Sale Committee is delighted to offer our Members flats of Spring annuals at a great price! Bronze leaf begonias are offered in white and mixed flower colors. Green leaf begonias are available in rose and mixed flower colors. These are \$12 per flat. Dianthus is available in purple and picot colors. These are also \$12 per flat.

Profusion zinnias are available in yellow, mixed and pink

flowers. These are \$14 per flat.

Bronze leaf Dragon Wing Begonia is offered in red flower. Green leaf Dragon Wing Begonia is available in red flower. These are \$18 per flat.

Please print the order form from the e-blast and mail the order form and check, made out to TCMG, to Lorie Grandclair-Diaz.

We will also be taking orders at the March meeting.

All orders require pre-payment, cash and check only.

Mark your
calendars
now!

Fort Worth
Home and
Garden
Show

Will Rogers
May 19—
21

PLEASE
CHECK OUT
THE
E-BLAST
FOR THE
ORDER
FORM AND
PHOTOS

We'd love to include your delicious and garden related recipe next month! Please email Lorie Grandclair-Diaz with yours!

Do you have something that should be included in next month's newsletter? Let Lorie know!

Master Gardeners in the Kitchen



This is one of my favorites. It is truly the best oven chicken I have ever tasted. Pair it with any green salad, a risotto and you are set to go.

I am including my basil garlic mayonnaise also. You can make this and store in the fridge ahead of time. This mayonnaise can be used with any meat dish, sandwich or even makes great grilled cheese.

Chef Henry Cole

BASIL GARLIC MAYONNAISE

YIELD Makes about 1 cup
ACTIVE TIME 10 minutes
TOTAL TIME 1 1/4 hour

INGREDIENTS

1 cup coarsely chopped fresh basil
1 garlic clove, smashed
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cayenne
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1 tsp lemon juice
1 Tbl Extra Virgin Olive Oil

PREPARATION

Pulse basil, garlic, salt, and cayenne in a food processor until finely chopped. Add mayonnaise and blend until smooth. Mix EVO and lemon juice and drizzle into food processor. Chill, covered, 1 hour (for flavors to develop).

OVEN FRIED CHICKEN THIGHS - BEST EVER

ACTIVE TIME 1 hour 30 minutes
TOTAL TIME 2 hours

INGREDIENTS

8 pieces chicken thighs
1 cup panko
1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
4 tablespoons Parmesan Cheese
1 teaspoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup Mayonnaise
1 cup basil Mayonnaise
1/2 cup Dijon Mustard

1 teaspoon Dried Thyme

PREPARATION

Combine Panko, breadcrumbs, and Parmesan cheese in a bag

Clean chicken remove fat and skin

Combine mayonnaise, basil mayonnaise, Dijon, paprika, and thyme in a bowl

Dredge chicken in mayonnaise mixture, coat with dry mixture in bag. Place on a cooking rack in pan.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Place pan in oven for 40 minutes

From the President's Corner...



February has been a busy month for many of us. Five of us went to the State Directors meeting at Texas A&M on February 11. Several events are in the works at the State level. The 2018 State Conference will be at TAMU with the Celebration of the Garden. The 2019 Conference will be in Victoria, Texas. Check the Texas Master Gardener Website for Specialist Classes that will be held around the state.

Thursday, February 23, was a beautiful day and a group of us took a field trip to Womack's Nursery in De Leon, followed by a delicious lunch at Hard Eight Barbecue in Stephenville. Thanks to Gay Larson and Betty Story for planning our adventure....we all have lots of things to plant.

Our TRWD collaboration is off and running and thank you to all the

folks that are participating with us. A special thanks to Nancy Curl and Claire Alford for all their hard work.

The Propagation Specialist class to be held at the Sheraton is filled and they are all staying at the event hotel. Yahoo! Great job, Claire Alford and Rocky Deutscher, we met our goal on this event....many thanks to you.

Donna Detzel and Diane Cauwels are selling caladium bulbs. Be sure to place your orders soon, they are going fast. These are prepaid orders so be sure to bring your checkbooks to the March meeting. Keep up the good work.

Wanda Stutsman and Debra Rosenthal are busy purchasing plants for our plant sale. This is going to be a huge event. Well done ladies.

The Demonstration Garden is looking beautiful and thanks to all

of you who went out to help Richard Kurth and Robert Fairies. A special thanks to Lena Goff and her helpers for lunch.

The website is up and running, and our newsletter is back. Thanks Laurin, Lorie and the MarComm team.

There are so many to thank for the big and little things you do and it's good to see so many volunteering all over Tarrant County. I hope you enjoy working with your friends and realize how very much you do in our community. I am sure we are touching many lives with education and caring. The task is a little easier when you're working and laughing with a friend. It is my honor to serve and work beside you and I am here to listen or help.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting. You know, I've said it so many times to interns and coworkers, it's just me caring about you.....big hugs to all.

Judy Ratzlaff

Saturday Work Day at the Demonstration Garden...

A good way to get your demo hours in if you can't make it on Tuesdays! Keep your ears open for the next one!

