

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2018

The Peter Rabbit Players are an Exciting Success!

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

The Peter Rabbit Players had their debut performance on April 12th at Durham Intermediate School where they performed for 350 students. Master Gardener Henry Cole formed this MG team after he learned of the original program that was created by Tracy Wootten, Sussex County Extension Agent, Georgetown, DE and her Master Gardeners. The Delaware group have been performing this since 2010, and have received an international "In Search of Excellence" award. Ms. Wootten has given Tarrant County Master Gardeners permission to use it in Texas.

Henry formed a team of Tarrant County MG volunteers to perform this 30 minute puppet show that teaches students the different parts of vegetables for food. Henry then brings out his "Chef Luigi" puppet and distributes vegetable recipes to the students to take home, thus sharing the vegetable experience with their parents. Chef Luigi also give the students "I Love Vegetables" stickers for their backpacks.

Henry has been working on this project since last November. He has committed to Extension Agent Steve Chaney to get the performance in front of at least 1000 students in 2018. He will then present this program to TAMU to see if they would like to incorporate it into the Junior Master Gardener program. Reaching 1000 shouldn't be difficult, as he has performances scheduled through May that he anticipates will reach 750 students!



Presented By:
Tarrant County Master Gardeners

The above logo was designed by Henry's graphic designer daughter, Kristin Cole. It is exclusive to the Tarrant County Players.



Left, the Peter Rabbit players. Above, Henry Cole and Chef Luigi.



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Peter Rabbit Players Photos



Above, Farmer McGregor, also know as Harold Annis.
Right, Peter Rabbit, played by Rose Bedwell, and Ripley Rat, played by Sian Rees.



Above, Ripley Rat , (Sian Rees) and the beautiful pollinator butterfly played by Kim Corbo.



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From the President's Corner

I can't believe it's May already. Time flies when you are having fun and volunteering with friends.

I don't know about you, but I am rushing around trying to move from the Winter/Spring mode, to tidying up my garden and thinking about replacing some plants. We have cut down some damaged trees, cleared out the fence line and are enjoying watching the cattle wander behind our back garden. As in many years past, my Iris are ready to share with those who love them. If you would like some, call.

April was a busy month for our Association. **Kudos** and **Thanks** go out to many folks.

Thanks to all who attended the State MG Conference at TAMU. We had 31 attending, that may be a record for us and maybe the most from any one association. We missed you, next time.

Thanks to Marilyn Satterfield, Keith Olmstead, Jerry Warnell[Keith's friend], Dave Wilson and any other folks who helped with the fertilizer sale, pickup and distribution. **Thanks** to Ray Kelley for picking up my purchase and I think, for many others who were at the conference.

Thanks to Henry Cole and The Peter Rabbit Players for a wonderful day performing at Durham Elementary. We presented the puppet show to over 350 students. The Players and the children interacted and we all loved it. Our Players for the Durham show were....Harold Annis, Maureen Baker, Rose Bedwell, Henry Cole, Kim Corbo, Susan Houston, Caryn Hutchinson, Wendy Kennedy, Judy Ratzlaff, Sian Rees and Bea Wilson. Henry has received 2 more requests and will be presenting " Peter Rabbit's Misadventure In Farmer McGregor's Vegetable Garden" at Meadowbrook Elementary and Walnut Grove Elementary in Southlake in May.

Thanks to Pat Higgins and team who held a children's event at the demonstration garden for Oakhurst and Clifford Davis Elementary school's 3rd grade classes.

Thanks to Debra Rosenthal and Lorie Granclaire-Diaz co-chairs, Rene Muhl-publicity and all the other team members of the Annual MG Plant Sale. We appreciate your dedication and long hours to make this event a great success.

Thanks to all our **speakers** and **educators** for the month of April and many other months.

Thank you to all who have come out the Demonstration Garden. Robert Faires and Harold Taylor need your help and we all have hours that we must earn at that garden. **They need our help and time. If you have not been out to work, please come. There are tasks that everyone can handle. This is our garden, your garden.....care for it as if it was your home garden.**

A very special thanks to Rocky Deutscher, Debby Stevenson and Debbie Rasmussen for a great job at our April Monthly Meeting. Sue Kelley and I appreciate your dedication while we were at the conference.

Congratulations to Harold Annis. April was National Volunteers Month. Harold was recognized for his volunteer service by the Tarrant County Commissioner's Court. They also thanked all of the Master Gardeners for their service to the County. **Lastly, keep volunteering, but do take some time in your own garden. Find that special place where you sit and reflect on the calm, beauty and peace that restores your soul and energizes your body to continue volunteering to serve our community.**

Hugs and Happy gardening,

Judy



Reminders

**2019 Texas Master Gardener Conference Victoria, TX
4/25/19--4/27/19**

2019 International MG Conference Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots

June 17-21, 2019

Valley Forge Casino Resort , Valley Forge, PA

Come early and stay late!

Half and full day tours to area public and private gardens

June 16, 17, 21, and 22, 2019.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Golden columbine, Yellow columbine, Southwestern yellow columbine

Aquilegia chrysantha

Aquilegia chrysantha A. Gray

Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

(Information from the Lady Bird Wildflower Center)

Content provided by Theresa Thomas

Several stems and basal leaves form a bushy **perennial** columbine one to three feet tall with handsome, clear yellow flowers that are held relatively erect on long stalks rather than nodding. Leaves are usually divided into three, occasionally into two parts (variety *hinckleyana*), with leaflets up to four centimeters long, all carried on petioles up to 20 centimeters in length. **Petal** blades normally range from eight to sixteen centimeters long, but those of variety *hinckleyana* are only two centimeters long and sixteen millimeters wide. Spurs range from less than four to more than ten centimeters in length, with four to nine centimeters most common.

Native to moist canyon seeps in the Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts of southwestern North America, this popular garden columbine is **perfect** for brightening dark corners of Southwestern shade gardens. It requires good drainage and can't take excessive sun, but is relatively adaptable to any standard garden soil. It is pollinated by moths, butterflies, and bees. There are several yellow-flowered columbines in western North America, including Longspur Columbine (*A. longissima*), the rare Hinckley Columbine (*A. chrysantha* var. *hinckleyana*), and the rare Chaplins Columbine (*A. chrysantha* var. *chaplinei*), the latter two currently considered varieties of *A. chrysantha*. *Aquilegia flavescens*, a mountain species growing from southern British Columbia to northern Oregon, east to Colorado, western Wyoming, and Alberta, has bent tips on the spurs, forming hooks.

The word columbine comes from *columbinus*, in Latin dove, referring to the flowers resemblance to a cluster of 5 doves. The spurs represent the birds heads and shoulders; the spreading **sepals**, the wings; the **blade** of the **petal**, each birds body. The **genus** name, from the Latin *aquila* (eagle), alludes to the petals, which resemble eagle talons. It is a perennial, semi-evergreen herb.

Size Class: 1-3 ft.

Light requirement: Part Shade, Shade

Blooming Time: April-September,

Heat Tolerant.

Soil Description: Moist, well-drained sandy, rocky, loamy, limestone or igneous soils

Conditions Comments: Needs good drainage but will adapt to clays if enough sand and/or organic matter is worked in to prevent waterlogging. Poor drainage causes crown rot. May go dormant during drought, but minimal moisture and adequate shade can prevent this. Though they tolerate some heat, Southwestern yellow columbines become susceptible to spider mites and aphids in very hot, arid conditions. In continuous full sun, can become stressed, with faded leaves, so plant in shade.



MAY GARDENING TIPS & TIDBITS

(Sharecropper, May 2015 Issue)

By Steve Chaney

Content provided by Theresa Thomas

“The only good bug is a dead bug” is NOT a good motto. Imperative is the understanding that most insects are harmless to humans and animals, and many insects provide great benefit to the natural environment and the home landscape and garden. Insects benefit the landscape and garden in several ways:

- They pollinate flowers of many fruit and vegetable crops, as well as ornamental flowers.
- They destroy various weeds in the same way they may injure desired plants.
- They improve soil conditions by tilling and burrowing through the soil while consuming organic matter and debris; dead insects and insect dropping also serve as fertilizer.
- Perhaps most important, they serve as predators and parasites of many of our insect pests.

WATER

- Irrigation starts in earnest this month for most people, so be sure and check with your city to see what level of water restriction you’re in. Yes, we have had lots of rain earlier this spring, but that only managed to bring the dangerously low levels back up a small amount. So stay focused on letting the plant tell you when to water.
- Water thoroughly every time you water. Apply 1 inch of water weekly to soak 6 inches deep in clay soils and 12 inches in a sand or prepared garden soil. Make multiple short applications (soak and cycle) of water to reach 1 inch without having water runoff down the street.

BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

- Provide water for the birds with birdbaths, fountains or bubblers. Don’t forget, butterflies need water but they need some stones or something to land on and then drink.

*Plant heat tolerant, butterfly attracting plants, such as buddleia, butterfly weed, lantana, Penta, salvia and verbenas.



Important Dates in May

Thursday, May 3 Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 17, Advisory Board and Executive Committee meeting

Monday, May 28 Master Gardener office closed for Memorial Day

Treasurer's Report by Debby Stevenson

Balance February 28, 2018			42,339.31
Add Deposits			
Dues, Background Checks, Late Fees & Badges	202.00		
Ways & Means Items	1073.50		
Caladiums	6084.00		
Fertilizer	1638.00		
February Void Check	313.05		
TRWD Deposit Feb & March	6534.00		
Education Class Fee	206.00		
RC Plot Rentals	135.00		
Transfer of 2011 Intern Funds	602.83		
March Raffle	198.00		
Donation Texas Instruments Union Gospel Mission	700.00		
Donation Exxon Mobil Perennial Garden	500.00		
Donation Grapevine Garden Club Heritage	200.00		
Donation Individual Peter Rabbit Players	100.00		
Check Cleared for Less than written	0.02		
Total Deposits			18,486.40
Less Checks Written			
Speaker Honorarium	100.00		
Treasurer Supplies & Stamps	175.38		
Website Forms	29.25		
Hospitality Hot Dogs	122.67		
Bank Fees	3.00		
Holiday Party Deposit	500.00		
H&G Show Parking & Supplies	111.82		
Ways & Means Items	1578.04		
Caladiums Expenses	5601.17		
Plant Sale Expense	127.06		
Education Class Expenses	842.28		
Propagation Expense	431.98		
Tarrant County Auditor Rent 1801	2309.62		
Demo Garden	201.04		
Project: FWBG Perennial Garden	131.17		
Project: Durham Intermediate School	53.96		
Total Checks			-12,318.44
Reconciled Balance per Checkbook			48,507.27
Money Market Balance March 31, 2018 including interest			15,369.04
Total Cash Balance March 31, 2018 Reconciled			63,876.31

April is National Volunteers Month

Harold Annis was presented with a proclamation honoring his volunteer work in the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. Home and Extension volunteers were recognized. Congratulations to Harold! Very well deserved!



Left, what a happy group of Master Gardeners!



Harold pictured above with his wife, Angela.

