

# Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 2018

## Demo Garden Rose Garden Gets a Make-Over

By Marie-Jose Smith

I took over the lead of the rose garden at the Community Demonstration Garden last winter. The bed had been hit hard by the rose rosette disease. Many roses had already been dug up. After assessing the situation, I came to the conclusion that we should not replant right away. The price of a rose bush was not cheap and there was a good chance that the mites creating the disease were still present in the bed. But we needed to do something for the bed to bring it back to life. I had the idea of creating a mixed bed by adding perennials with the remaining roses. We planted salvias, verbenas, copper canyon daisies, phlox, hardy hibiscus and others to fill the gaps between the remaining roses. This allowed the bed to be full of color during the growing season. We monitored the remaining rose bushes during the season and sadly had to get rid of some affected plants.

About the same time in early February, I contacted Steve Huddleston at the Botanic Garden. It was pruning season so I asked him if he would allow me to get cuttings from the Botanic Garden rose beds. Many roses had been newly planted. To my amazement, he agreed and put me in contact with the gardener, Jeff, who gave me free access to the place. My friend, Janice Penwarden, came and helped me and we prepared over 300 cuttings. We placed them first in the Star greenhouse at the Demo Garden and later, thanks to Trip and Agnes, we got the authorization to transfer them to the propagation greenhouse at the Botanic Garden. Although we lost a lot of them in the process, we also learned a lot. On October 2nd we brought 24 rooted and blooming roses back to the rose bed at the Demo Garden and with the help of my team, Master Gardener, Stinson Jones and interns, Ellen and Bruce Hsieh, we were able to plant the surviving cuttings. These new plants included Crepuscule, Duchesse du Brabant, Cinque de Mayo, Miracle on the Hudson, Rise and Shine, Spice and Mary Daly, Fire Opal Kolorscape and New Dawn are now growing in the garden. We also planted some of the roses given by Dale Murr which includes Belinda's dream and Midas touch. Since then we got 3 weeks of continuous rain so the plants shouldn't have any problem to get established. We are looking forward to Spring for hopefully a lot of blooms and No rosette disease.



Above: Marie-Josie Smith



Above: Stinson Jones



Above: Bruce Hsieh

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### Rose Garden continued



Above: Ellen Hsieh watering the newly planted roses.



Above: Loaded up and headed to the Demo Garden.



Above: Belinda's Dream

The December Master Gardener meeting is the annual Award Luncheon. The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person. A table will be at the November meeting to take reservations and payments. RSVP to Eleanor Tuck. Very important!

The location is Diamond Oaks Country Club.

**Annual Award Luncheon - Thursday, December 6, 2018. Doors Open 10:30 am.**

Diamond Oaks Country Club  
5821 Diamond Oaks Drive North  
Fort Worth Texas 76117

**Congratulations to Starr Krottinger and Pam Braak on a glorious Tarrant County Master Gardener Garden Tour!**

### From the President's Corner

By Judy Ratzlaff

**A Moment for You.....**from an article I read.

**Every day you get to be someone extraordinary! In a world of constant comparisons, it can be easy to overlook your own outstandingness and shrug off what makes you incredibly special. But imagine how much happier you'd feel if you stopped to consider all that makes you wonderful. It's time to celebrate you!!!**

As your president, everyday I see or I am aware of the many important things you are doing in the community as you represent our Association. As I reach out to thank you I am surprised by the modesty and humbleness you display. Each of you are special and I appreciate your willingness to share your talent. That makes you an extraordinary and incredibly special master gardener.

These past two years have been very busy and very rewarding. Let's review what we have accomplished together. TCMGA had a few obstacles to overcome as we fulfilled our obligation for the Southern Regional Conference and the Leach Gardens at Texas A & M. We established a collaboration with Tarrant Regional Water District to promote Water Conservation and leased a building....The Water Works Learning Center. Next partnered with Goodwill, built a greenhouse, potting shed, a new hoop house and we are providing education to the S.T.A.R.S. clients. We have a collaboration with Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, Botanical Research Institute of Texas in the GROW Program and are now providing information at FWBG at a MG Help Desk. AND, we celebrated our 30th Anniversary as an Association.

We have new Intern and Mod Squad Classes each year. We've had three Advance Training Propagation Classes and at least two Advance Training Greenhouse Classes. We continue to be strong in our educational venues, Speakers Bureau and Home and Garden Events. Our Spring and Fall Plant Sales have generously supported our Resource Connection Community Garden as well as our Projects. The Greenhouses have also provided plants for school gardens, County Volunteers Day, classes and plant sales. The Logo Wear, Shovels, Spring and Fall bulb sells support our expenses. With five school projects, our support for Clifford Davis Elementary and the Pen Pal program for Oakhurst Elementary we are reaching many students. The Peter Rabbit Players first program was April 2018 and has been presented to over 1500 students thus far.

The Website and Newsletter came back online in 2107. Many attended the State Conference and Cruise in 2017 and the State Conference at TAMU. The National Conservancy tour was a success and the MG Garden Tour this fall raise \$2900 for the Scholarship Fund, with many thanks going to the MG members and friends who shared their home for the events. Our publicity Team has articles in several Newspaper and are diligently working to provide information and coverage to the community.

"The Texas Gardener Magazine" has chosen "The Peter Rabbit Players" program for the inaugural issue to be published in December. There are probably things that I have missed, but know I realize the work and dedication each of you have put forth.

I have walked this journey with the support of the Advisory and Executive Boards of 2017-2018, our Agent, Steve Chaney and you. You, the master gardeners are the backbone of our Association. I am a better person because of your support, confidence and guidance. TODAY, I CELEBRATE YOU!!!! You are amazing, extraordinary and incredibly special.

I hope to see you at the November Monthly Meeting and the December Annual Awards Luncheon. Rocky Deutscher and her team are working to make this a wonderful event.

And since this is coming out early "Happy Halloween".

Hugs Always,

Judy



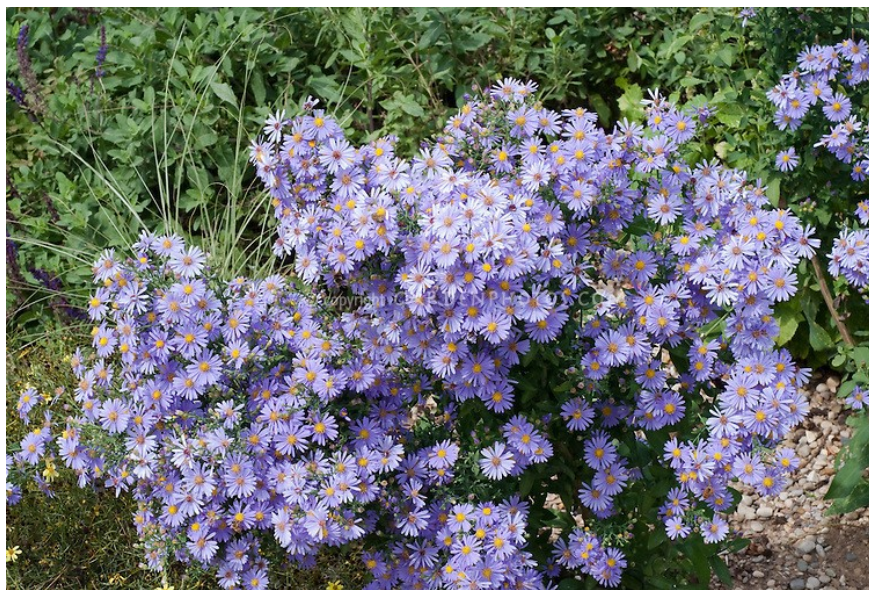
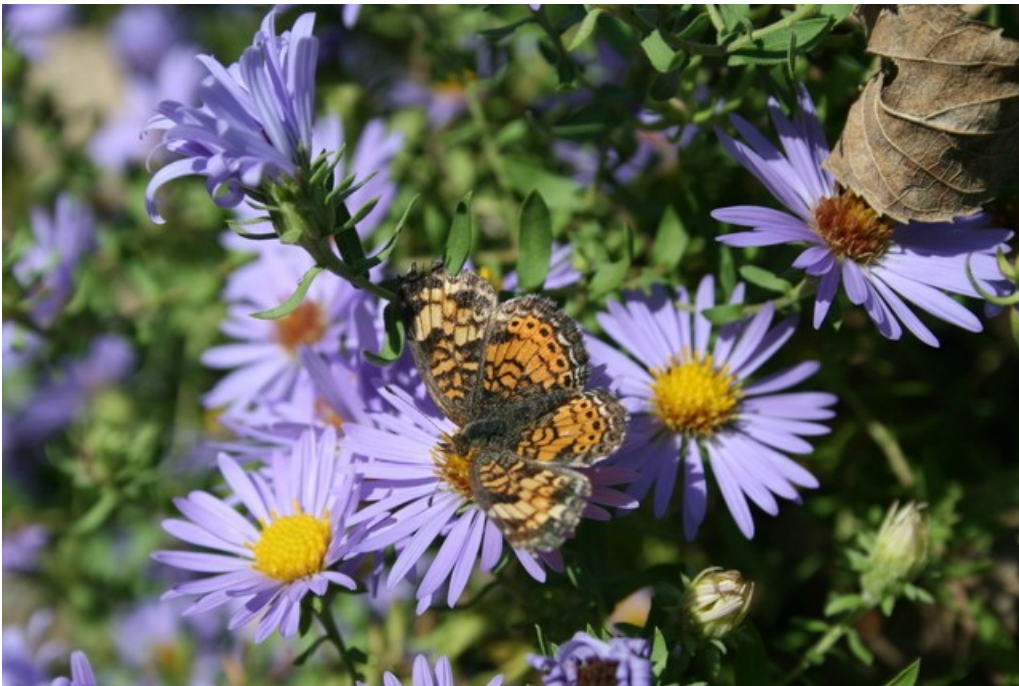
## Smooth Blue Aster

*Symphyotrichum laeve*

by Theresa Kay Thomas

This is a smooth leaved perennial bearing flower heads with a rich lavender-blue rays surrounding a yellow central disk; stem with a light grayish-white bloom. One of the most attractive blue asters, this species has bright green foliage that is very smooth to the touch. Wonderful fragrant flowers that you can't miss as you walk by the plant

Blooming Time is August thru October. Grows in full sun and part sun. Grows 1-3". Special Value to our Native Bees. Propagation - Seeds are be collected in mid-September. You can do stem cuttings.



## Trees

by Toni Moorehead

Sharecropper November 2013

Fall and winter are THE BEST times for planting trees. Even though the upper part of the tree may be dormant during the winter, the roots will continue to develop throughout the winter, and your new tree will be very well established before next summer's heat. Nurseries usually have great sales going on this time of year, too! If you need to transplant a tree, wait until it is completely dormant, usually January.

When planting trees, never add anything to the planting hole except the soil that came out of the hole. Amending the planting hole basically creates a "container" in the ground. The tree roots may not want to move beyond the nice cushy soil of the "container," and when the roots hit the native soil, they may circle back, eventually girdling the tree.

Dig a wide hole no deeper than the height of the root ball, and loosen or break up the sides of the hole with a shovel or rake. Take the tree out of the container, scrape the top couple inches of soil off the top of the root ball until you can see the flare of the trunk. (I just use a broom to brush the soil away). That is the top of the root ball. Break up any roots encircling the root ball. If the tree is really root bound, you may need to slice into the sides of the root ball with a shovel or knife.

Place the tree in the planting hole with the top of the root ball (the flare of the trunk) a couple inches ABOVE your soil grade. Backfill around the root ball, once again, only with the soil that was dug out of the planting hole. Add root stimulator and water well to settle the soil.

Add compost to the TOP of the root ball area if needed, feathering it out to your surrounding soil grade. Then mulch around the tree, taking care to not cover the trunk flare. During the first year or two, you will need to give your tree supplemental water during hot, dry weather. Water slowly and deeply to encourage deep root development.

NOTE: If you are planting a Shumard Red Oak or Chinese Pistachio, Neil Sperry highly recommends wrapping the trunk with tree wrap (see above) for two years to prevent sunscald and borer attack.

It is not necessary, however, to stake trees after planting, unless you have a high wind situation that may cause the tree to uproot before it is established. Trees will establish a stronger root system if not staked. If staking is necessary, be sure to remove all staking material after about one year.



Content provided  
by Theresa Thomas