

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Donna Snow Treated us With Laughs & Down Home Humor

On Saturday October 26, a large audience of Master Gardeners and others were charmed by the wit and country-style advice of reality TV star Donna Snow. Organized by Rocky Deutscher, the event featuring Ms. Snow was a fund raiser that will pay for landscaping a veteran's yard after the Snow Sisters rehab the property.

Donna Snow, her sister Toni, and brother Gary are the third generation of a family house moving business that started in 1942. Donna and Toni were able to utilize their experience in the family business to achieve success on the hit TV reality show "Texas Flip n Move". Although Toni was unable to attend due to knee surgery, Donna's buoyant personality filled the house with laughter.

In addition to Donna's presentation, Master Gardeners served cookies & tea, gave away plants and gardening advice, and sold lots of cookbooks. Mary Lou Youst provided décor, and along with her husband George, created a thank you gift for Ms. Snow—a Fall inspired decorative tool box.

Thank you to Rocky and all the other Master Gardeners who worked hard to make this such a fun afternoon.

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

Photos by Gay Larson



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

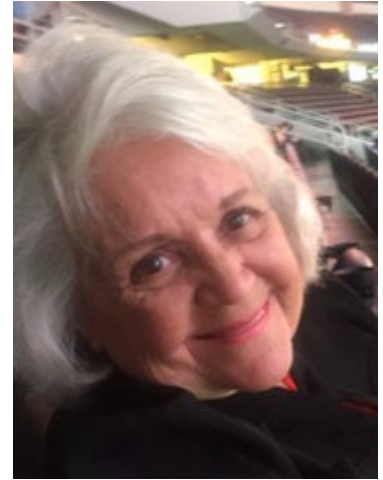
President's Message

By the time you get this newsletter it will be November!!!

A Big Congratulations to the new 2019 Executive Board that you as members voted to approve in October. Welcome aboard.

As we begin to get ready for the holidays ahead, the Association is gearing up for the new year. We will be looking for several new committee chairs and lots of folks to serve on committees. It takes all of us to make our association what is it today. Our diversity makes us better and stronger. Every new face that joins in a committee or accepts a leadership role brings new ideas to the table and keeps us fresh and current.

A big thank you for all of the members that have been committee chairs and committee members this year. Outstanding job. Look in the handbook and stop and thank the ones listed for this year. Give them a hug.



The newsletter is always looking for articles and photos each month. Contact Lorie Grandclair-Diaz at lgrandclair@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the November 7th meeting for our last regular meeting of the year. It's Vendor Day. There will be lots great items available to purchase. Don't forget your checkbook! December 5th is the Annual Awards Luncheon at Diamond Oaks Country Club.
Theresa

Winners of the 2019 TCMGA Photo Competition:

Flora

- 3rd A tiny, less than 1/8" mushroom on a firewood log, by Cristel Danning
- 2nd Arrangement on Water Canvas, by Mercy Kettler
- 1st Mexican Bird of Paradise, by Sher Dunaway

Fauna

- 3rd Eastern Black Swallowtail 5th Instar Caterpillar – MG Demo Garden, by Cyndy McCoy
- 2nd Bee and Sunflower, by Noa Baron
- 1st Monarch on Lantana, by Tom Hightower

Landscapes

- 3rd My garden path, by Eva Granado
- 3rd tie Wildflowers in the Hill Country, by Mary Reagor
- 2nd Distant Storm, by Sher Dunaway
- 1st Mountain Lupines, New Zealand, by Diane Schofield

My Story

- 3rd A River Runs Through It, by Henry Cole
- 2nd Snuggs in the Garden, by Noa Baron
- 1st Potting workshop, England, by Rachel Clark

Update to Changes In Pizza Ranch



Master Gardeners:

I would like to take this time to bring you up to speed regarding the 25th Annual Pizza Ranch event. It will be taking place on April 21 & 22. However, there are going to be some significant changes to the event!

First off, the event will NOT be held at the Will Rogers Memorial Center this year. Therefore, we are not going to have to worry with the parking issues we have had in the past. The event will be held at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Arena in Saginaw. We are also not going to schedule schools to come in waves. The whole event will start at 9:30 a.m. with the first station being one that all the students will attend together. Once that station is completed, we will break them into groups and send them to the various stations for rotations to begin.

Second, the overall goal of the program will be the same, however the structure of the event is going to be different. We will no longer be building the pizza in the arena; however, we will continue to use the talking points that were used around the pizza slices. We are also going to be adding many more stations to the event, in order to give a broader understanding to how Agriculture is important to our everyday lives. Examples that are coming: portable cotton gin, mobile dairy, farming equipment, Agriculture learning module trailer, beekeepers, and various species of livestock just to name a few. My goal is to have 12-14 stations for the students to go through.

Third, due to adding more education stations we will NOT be serving pizza for lunch this year. But the goal is to serve a healthy snack: yogurt, vegetable sticks, or fruit. So, we will still need some help at this station for serving, but it will not be as intensive as years past.

There is one other area of the program that would require some help and that is in the farming/gardening topic area. The Extension office has a program that is called Path to the Plate, which fits very well into the Pizza Ranch program. It brings the whole story together from production of food to the various by-products that are produced. What I would like to do is to get the Master Gardener's involved with this portion of the program and help present to the students at the program. Therefore, I am asking for volunteers who would like to go through a Path to the Plate training in order to help present the topics at the event as well as possible other youth events as well.

If you are interested in the Path to the Plate training to help with the Pizza Ranch and any other future events, please let me know so we can begin getting those trainings scheduled.

Sincerely,

Jacklyn Jones
Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension Agent



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Plant of the Month

FALL ASTER

Also known as October Skies, Aromatic Aster

Symphyotrichum oblongifolium

As its name implies, the fall aster blooms in fall proving a colorful display when other flowering plants may have run out of steam. The plants mound around 2 to 3 feet by sending out stolons. Native to the Midwest and eastern United States, fall aster grows 1 to 3 feet tall. The stems are slender and rigid and the leaves at the bottom are larger than leaves at the top.

Characteristics: Fall aster is a bushy perennial with numerous branches. It does best in sunny locations, becoming a little leggy in shady locations and has a tendency to lodge or fall over. Cut back to the ground in late spring to have it come back upright and bushier in the fall.

Size: 2 feet tall

Flowers: medium violet-blue flowers about 1 inch in diameter with slight scent.

Bloom time: late September until frost

Leaves: short narrow leaves, rough texture.

Pests and Disease Problems: disease and pest resistant

Growing in North Texas

This is a wonderful plant for North Texas. It is suitable for sunny locations but adapts to lightly shaded areas. It is drought tolerant and has no pest or disease problems. It is very easy to divide after blooms die back and plant throughout your garden for lovely fall color. It will bloom the season following division. After blooms have died back, cut plant back to the ground. Asters tolerate acidic, rocky or sandy soils. Thin regularly to control spread.



Content provided by Theresa Thomas

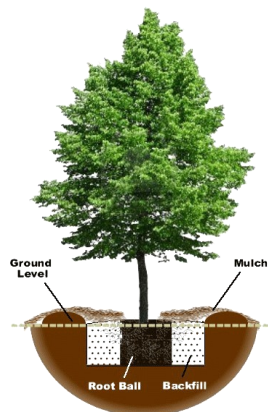
How To Plant a Tree

Toni Tips

From 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 sun scald 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