

# Tarrant County Master Gardener



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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## Butterfly, Lend Me Your Wings

By Kelly Perry, TCMG Intern, 2020

Gardening is the essence of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association. As is customary every fall, aspiring students who wish to obtain their Master Gardener certification embark on a journey of learning to share that special, almost magical, love for plants. Members of the Red Tomatoes, Katrina Peebles, Linda Di'Rocco, Andrea Curreri, Nicole Moore and Kelly Perry, began that quest in January.

The Red Tomatoes began 2020 as new interns—a year of many changes in our daily lives. It was a year that taught us that we must adapt to change, and that like butterflies, we must go through a process of growth, learning and transformation to finally being able to open our wings and fly through fields of flowers.

Our intern project, a 60-inch tall metal butterfly statue along with a flagstone base and complementary plants, will benefit the students at the Heritage Elementary School garden in Grapevine-Colleyville, Texas, allowing them to stand in front to be photographed with beautiful butterfly wings on their backs!

Red Tomatoes Advisor Harold Annis proposed the project, and we immediately got to work. Nicole, Katrina, Andrea and Linda began planning, measuring and determining where the structure was to be placed. Kelly used her artistic talents to paint the butterfly. TCMG 2020 Intern Matt Ezell shared some of his time and muscle this summer to assist us with some of the heavier tasks of the project which was generously funded by a \$500 donation from the Colleyville Garden Club.

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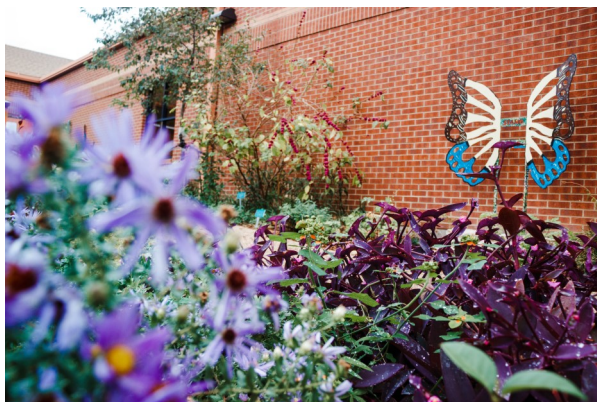
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## Butterfly, Lend Me Your Wings continued

Desiring a design that was representative of the state of Texas, we decided that the butterfly should look like a yellow swallowtail butterfly. The statue's colors contrasted nicely with the red-orange wall creating a beautiful focal point in the garden. The structure is the perfect companion to The Monarch Waystation certification, a 2016 intern project at the Heritage Elementary School garden.

While Kelly painted the butterfly, the rest of the Red Tomatoes, often with the assistance of Harold, began clearing the area of existing plants, rerouting the sprinkler line, building a base for the foundation, pouring concrete, creating the flagstone base, amending the soil, planting the plants and mulching. Some of us learned a lot of new skills! Desiring both nectar and host plants that would attract butterflies, especially swallowtails, we incorporated Gregg's mistflower and parsley into our plantings. Each and every detail was developed and designed by the group.

We know that this year was and continues to be atypical, that the schools are not at 100% capacity, but we also know that in the school garden soon the children may whisper to our butterfly: Lend me your wings.





## Team Spice Intern Project Pictures



Submitted by Donna Arceneaux

## From The Garden of Alan Winter



Alan writes: Lorie, these have finally come into full bloom. Awesome. TCU fans love the color.



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## Purple Fall Aster

**Purple Fall Aster, Aromatic Aster,  
*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*, Family Asteraceae  
And  
Smooth Blue Aster, *Symphyotrichum leave***

These lovely hardy perennial asters light up the landscape in October and November when the bright purple and blue flowers cover the plants and attract a lot of attention from those lucky enough to see them. Everyone wants to know what these flowers are so they can have them in their garden.

The plants are very inconspicuous all year going unnoticed until they burst into bloom. They can grow to about 20 inches tall and have many branches. They benefit from cutting back once or twice during the growing season. After frost they can be cut down to the ground until spring when they will come back with renewed vigor.

Purple Fall Aster and Smooth Blue Aster are very low care, needing only a little water during dry weather. They do best in full sun but can tolerate part shade.

Heat and cold don't bother them, which makes them a very good choice for North Central Texas

by Josephine Keeney



### Plants for Fall and Winter Color

by Dotty Woodson  
Sharecropper November 2004

#### Herbaceous Perennials

Fall Asters (*Aster* spp.); Perennial; blue, pink; fall bloomer; 18" to 24"; sun.

Autumn joy sedum (*Sedum* 'Autumn Joy'); Perennial; fall bloomer; pink; 12" to 24"; sun.

Hardy cyclamen (*Cyclamen* spp.); Perennial; winter bloomer; white or pink flower; goes dormant in summer; 6"; sun to part shade.

Copper Canyon Daisy; Perennial; fall flowers, yellow/gold, 24"; sun.

Ornamental grasses; Annuals and Perennial.

Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*); Perennial; fall bloomer; yellow, 18" to 24"; sun.

Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*); Perennial; beautiful soft gray foliage all winter and summer; 6" to 12"; sun.

Dusty Miller (*Centaurea cineraria*); deep cut silver/gray foliage all winter and summer; 12" to 24"; sun.

Lenten or Christmas Rose (*Helleborus* spp.); Perennial; flowers in winter; white or red flowers 12" to 18"; shade.

Oxalis or wood sorrel (*Oxalis* spp.); Perennial; pink or white flowers in fall and spring; green or red foliage; goes dormant in summer.

'Bowl's Mauve' Wallflower (*Cheiranthus*); Perennial; flower in fall and spring; purple/blue flowers; 8" to 24"; sun.

#### Annuals

Johnny jump-ups; reseeding annual; flowers all winter; purple and yellow; 4" to 6"; sun.

Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum*); Annual; flowers fall to spring; red, pink, yellow, white; 8" to 24"; sun.

Dianthus (*Dianthus*); Annual; flowers fall to spring; red, pink, white; 8" to 10"; sun.

Alyssum (*Alyssum*); Annual; flower fall and spring; White, purple; 2" to 6"; sun to part sun.

Flowering kale, Annual; beautiful purple, green, white foliage all winter; 12"; sun to part sun.

Flowering cabbage, Annual; beautiful purple, green, white foliage all winter; 12"; sun to part sun.

Pansies; Annual; flowers all winter; red, purple, pink, white, yellow, blue; 6"; sun.

Copper plant (*Acalypha wilkesiana*); tropical plant used as annual; gorgeous fall foliage; 24" to 36'; sun.

Candlestick tree (*Cassia alata*); Annual; yellow flowers in fall; 6' to 8'; sun.

#### Shrubs

Possum Haw Holly (*Ilex decidua*); Bright red berries on a deciduous holly; sun.

American Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*); Purple or white berries in fall and winter on a deciduous shrub; sun.

Camellia; flowers in late winter; evergreen; 4' to 6'; shade.

Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera albiflora*); white flowers in February; deciduous; 6' to 8'; sun.

False Aralia (*Fatsia japonica*); white flower in February; evergreen; 4' to 8'; shade.



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## November Garden Tips

### Sharecropper November 2007

—by Marilyn Sallee

Fall is Planting Time – your last chance to get perennials in the ground so their roots will reach deep while the rest of the plant is dormant. Perennials planted in the fall can burst with new growth first thing in the spring, so you gain almost a full year's growth. Roots continue to grow through the winter, so these plants will be more ready when the stresses of summer arrive.

#### Plant & Transplant:

Plant trees and shrubs: Late November through February is the ideal time to plant and transplant trees, shrubs and perennials during their dormant, non-growing period. Before planting any tree or shrub, become aware of how the plant grows and its potential size and growth habits. Dig and divide established perennials to thin or move. Give some clumps to friends or neighbors to share. Pull out the pruning shears when transplanting bare-rooted woody plants. Cut the tops back at least one-third to one-half, to compensate for the roots lost when digging the plant. Don't forget the interest plants with berries can add to the winter landscape. All kinds of Hollies, Pyracantha, Nandina and Beautyberry create bright, winter interest.

Don't Prune: Don't get in a hurry to prune established woody plants. Late December through February is usually the best time to prune them - even later into March for crape myrtles.

Tender plants: If you have favorite tender plants, you'd like to include in your garden next year, then carefully dig them out of the flower bed, plant them in a well-drained potting mix, and keep in a bright, humid room.

They may look terrible during the winter, but if they survive, you can replant them in the garden as soon as the soil begins to warm. Or take cuttings and root them in a well-drained potting mix. Flowers: Plant pansies, violas, calendulas, flowering kale, snapdragons, stock, dianthus, sweet alyssum and larkspur for early spring color. It is best to use started plants at this time. Select short, stocky plants with good green color. Pansies should be planted in rich, moist soil in sun or light shade. Feed them with a balanced fertilizer or blood meal. Control pill bugs, slugs and snails with commercial snail bait. They love pansies.

Also plant Ajuga, Butterfly Weed, Candytuft, Cornflower, Dianthus, Daisy, Indian Blanket, Penstemon, Petunia, Obedient Plant. Sow seeds now of Poppies, bachelor's button, sweet peas and other winter annuals. Continue planting spring flowering wildflowers in early November: bluebonnets, Drummond phlox, rudbeckia and coreopsis can still be sown. You will be rewarded next spring.

Bulbs: Plant spring-flowering bulbs if you haven't already done so. Dutch hyacinth, Dutch iris, Tulips, crocus and late flowering daffodil bulbs need at least 6 weeks of pre-chilling in the refrigerator (with no vegetables or fruits in the same section to give off gasses that will kill the flower bud). Best to plant by late November. Work fertilizer into the soil. Plant bulbs at recommended depths. Vegetables: Early: Carrot, Chard, Mustard, and Turnip. All Month: Lettuce, Radish, and Spinach.

### November Garden Tips continued

Plant Annual ryegrass and perennial ryegrass to cover bare soil areas if needed, or over seed over existing lawn grass for a winter green lawn.

Diseases: Spray peach and plum trees this month to protect for peach leaf curl and bacterial stem canker. Use copper-based fungicide. Remove any fallen fruit from beneath fruit trees to eliminate a major source of infestations for next year.

Things to do in November.

Keep watering: Evergreen plants frequently suffer from lack of moisture during those occasional winter dry periods that occur in Texas. Adequate soil moisture provides the best protection you can give your plants against winter cold injury. Water everything well before a freeze but avoid over watering. Protect your lawn from excessive winter damage by providing irrigation during dry periods.

Lawn Care: As the grass slows down in growth, keep it mowed at the same height. A mulching mower makes raking leaves obsolete or use grass catcher as a mulch catcher. Collect the grass clippings along with the fallen leaves for an excellent mix as mulch or in the compost pile.

Mulch: Now is a good time to mulch flower-beds and shrubs. Two to three inches of bark or pine straw will help to prevent the stress of alternate freezing and thawing during cold winter months.

Composting: Choose a hidden area of the garden and begin collecting grass clippings, leaves, spent flowers vegetable plants, and vegetable trimmings from the kitchen. Add an occasional thin layer of soil and water to keep the pile damp but not soggy. Turn on a regular basis, and watch it change into rich, organic goodness for your garden. Composting all those leaves this month will pay off in the spring.

For the Birds: Provide attractive food, water and shelter to encourage our feathered friends in the garden. Place bird-feeding stations in protected areas, yet visible from your window. Put out your hummingbird feeder.

Care of Tools: Drain the gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the system is used. Clean, repair and oil garden tools and equipment. A coat of linseed oil on wooden handles will help preserve the wood. Sharpen cutting tools, weeders and shovels.

Christmas Plants: Christmas poinsettias will soon be available. Don't be misled by stories - they are not poisonous. However, some individuals may be allergic to certain plants including the poinsettia. Prolong the life of holiday season gift plants by providing proper care: Check the bottom drainage, don't over water, keep out of drafts from heating vents and opening doorways. Fertilizer is seldom needed the first few months.

Want to start cuttings of your favorite Christmas cactus? As soon as it has finished blooming, select a cutting with 4 or 5 joints, break or cut it off, and insert the basal end into a pot of moderately moist soil. Place it in a brightly lit area. The cuttings should be rooted within 3 to 4 weeks.

# Tarrant County Master Gardener

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## History of Thanksgiving

By Derald Freeman

Sharecropper November 2007

Thanksgiving Day is a joyous family festival celebrated with lots of enthusiasm in the US, Canada and several other countries. In the USA the Thanksgiving Day Festival commemorates the feast held by the Pilgrim colonists and members of the Wampanoag people at Plymouth in 1621. On this day people expressed gratitude and gave thanks to dear ones for their love & support.

The early settlers of Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts were particularly thankful for Squanto, the Native American who taught them how to catch eel, grow corn and who served as an interpreter for them (Squanto had learned English as a slave in Europe). It is said that without Squanto's help the settlers might not have survived in the new world.

These settlers (who later came to be called the "Pilgrims") set apart a day to celebrate at Plymouth immediately after their first harvest, in 1621. Native American chiefs Massasoit, Squanto and Samoset joined in the celebration with ninety of their men in the three-day event.

### Celebrations

Long before Europeans settled in North America, Western Europeans observed Harvest Home festivals to celebrate the successful completion of gathering the season's crops. In the British Isles, Lammas Day (Loaf Mass Day), observed on August 1, was often held to celebrate a good wheat harvest. If the wheat crop was disappointing, the holiday was usually canceled.

During the American Revolution (1775-1783) the Continental Congress proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving following the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777. President George Washington proclaimed another day of thanksgiving in 1789 in honor of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom, and many other states soon did the same. Most of the state celebrations were held in November, but not always on the same day.

The traditional Thanksgiving parade probably started with President Lincoln proclaiming it an official day. The full-dress parade is a way to display the country's military strength and discipline. The main aim of such parades is to lift the spirits of the spectators, provide them with wholesome entertainment. In the present day, parades are accompanied with musical shows and celebrities.

In 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt shifted the day of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to one week earlier. Retail merchants had petitioned the president to make the change to allow for an extra week of shopping between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### Pilgrim traditions:

What foods topped the table at the first harvest feast? Historians aren't completely certain about the full bounty, but it's safe to say the pilgrims weren't gobbling up pumpkin pie or playing with their mashed potatoes. It is certain the colonists of 1621 had venison, wild fowl and corn. These people beheld a wilderness of game animals that included: deer, moose, elk, rabbits and squirrels when they arrived in this country. Food teemed from the eastern shores, and fruits, such as mulberries, cherries, grapes and walnuts were there for the taking. The Native Americans introduced lima beans, peppers, pumpkins, squash, sweet potatoes and corn



### History of Thanksgiving Continued

into the settler's diet of cabbage, parsnips and herbs. Corn was the crucial vegetable, which could be roasted, boiled, made into pudding and bread. Indians taught the settlers to grow beans up cornstalks, thereby saving precious land and space. These vegetables, harvested and cooked together, made a popular dish of succotash.

It was a joyous festival, held in the field along the north bank of Town Brook. The Native Americans entertained with some of their dances. There was target shooting with bows and arrows and firearms. For 3 days the festivities went on, with the Pilgrims and their guests gorging themselves on venison cooked on a spit over a blazing open fire, roast fowl, herbs, corn and bread.

When we think of proper table manners at the Thanksgiving meal, many orderly images come to mind. Dinnerware was hard to come by. Sometimes spoons were carved out of wood. No dainty cleanliness for these early folks. Without many forks or spoons, the fingers were the tools of choice.

There were 256 million turkeys raised in the U.S. in 2005, 624 million pounds of cranberries, 1.6 billion pounds of sweet potatoes, and 998 million pounds of pumpkins.

Thanksgiving football goes back to 1876, when the Intercollegiate Football Association held its championship on Thanksgiving Day.

To work off Thanksgiving dinner, the Friday after Thanksgiving is known as The Biggest Shopping Day of the Year. (You were expecting Exercise Day?) Retail stores re-open and jockey to attract the millions of people enjoying their day off with "blow-out" sales and early Christmas specials. This time is so important for U.S. retailers that during the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt tried to move Thanksgiving Day back a week to supply consumers with more shopping time before Christmas. That didn't work.

Feasting with family is an integral and most delightful part of Thanksgiving Day celebrations. Each family adds its own special touch to the holiday. Still, the main message of the holiday is Thanksgiving, a moment to gather with family and friends in the busy turning of life - just to give thanks for what we have and who we are - AMERICANS!





## Tarrant County Master Gardener

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### President's Message

Can You believe this 2020 is coming to a close?

Welcome to our new officers for 2021. What a great team to lead 2021. Thank each one of you who volunteered for the leadership position. Let them hear from you with a note of congratulations. If there is a committee you would like to Chair or be a part of let Dick Pafford know. They will need you. If you are not aware the new officers take position at the end of the December Meeting.

Please continue to send your dues and Background Checks. Thanks to everyone that already has, it is helping a lot.

Of course, if you have not put your hours in VMS it is time. And we do have several members that show no hours. For some reason they have not logged them. If there is a problem any of the timekeepers will be glad to do it for you. Just let them know.

The Greenhouse Advanced Training will be finished 10/30. We had 41 registered from throughout the State. Providing virtual classes has been a learning experience.

Come and be a part of the filming and editing team. It is a new committee that was started around June so we could do meetings, presentations, training virtually. There are other things to do than filming or editing behind the scenes. We have some talented interns and members that are teaching us a whole new way to communicate with members and the surrounding area.

Margaret is starting to work on the 2021 budget so if you have a budget request now is the time. The deadline for budget requests is November 30, 2020. According to the Standing Rules the Budget needs to be presented to the membership 2 weeks before the January Meeting.

The December Meeting will be virtual of course and a team of members are working on a video. If I have requested pictures or something from you, please get it to me by the November Meeting.

I am excited about the new year. It is always great to see new ideas emerge year after year. I will have a new grandbaby by the November meeting. I will try not to brag too much at the meeting or show too many pictures virtually.

Theresa

*Regardless of geographical region or culture gardening is perhaps the most common and shared experience of Nature.*

**S. Kelley Harrell**

### History of A Gardener

Submitted by Eleanor Tuck

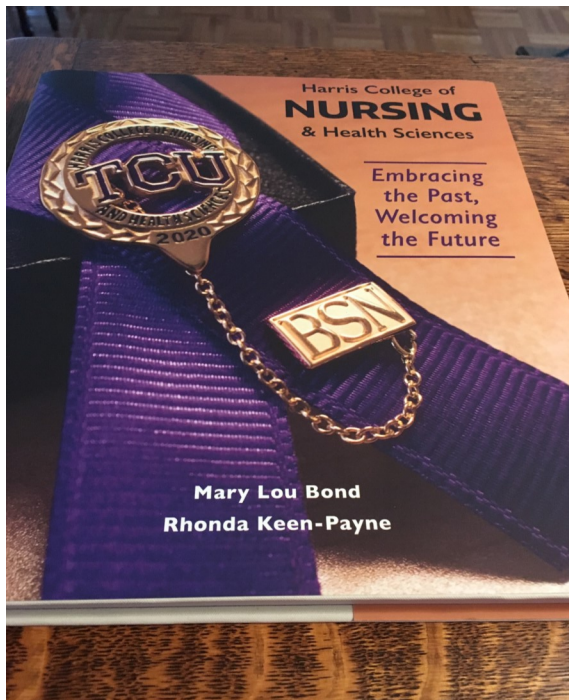
Ever wonder what some of our Master Gardener friends lives were like before they became Master Gardeners? Let me fill you in on one...

In 1978 the TCU College of Nursing instituted a study abroad program. A group of nursing students and their professors traveled to Cuernavaca and Aguascalientes, Mexico for a two-week study/learning experience.

Our own Patsy Miller experienced this and once they were home wrote an article that was published in the Ft Worth Star Telegram.

Recently, a book of the history of the TCU College of Nursing, entitled "*Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences: Embracing the Past, Welcoming the Future*" has been published. Needless to say, Patsy's article is a part of this publication.

Congrats, Patsy—you make us proud!



As always, I would like to thank Theresa Thomas for helping to provide content to the Newsletter every month.

Lorie Grandclair-Diaz



# Tarrant County Master Gardener

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## TCMGA Community/Demo Garden

By Pat Higgins

Sharecropper November 2008

I was surprised to hear some members of our Association still ask, "What is the community garden, where is it, and what is its purpose". So, I would like to explain about the community/demo garden at the Resource Connection. It is located on a two-acre site west of building 2300 where our monthly meetings are held. In just two years the garden that was an expanse of grass and a few trees in 2006 is now a place where one can take a pleasant stroll or just sit on a bench and enjoy the surrounding beauty provided by Master Gardener volunteers working at the garden.

Before you enter the front gate, you will want to stroll around the wagon wheel path that leads you through the Herb Garden that Rita Hottel and her committee of volunteers are developing. They planted a kitchen garden of herbs used for cooking and also gray and silver herbs. If you have an herb garden and would like to share with Rita, please give her a call.

Uh oh! What's the tall grass across the walk behind the Rosemary? Why it's the perennial garden being developed by Ginger Bason and Jo Ann Hahn to demonstrate native and drought tolerant plants for this area. The garden runs along the outside of the fence, and while you are walking along admiring the beautiful blooms, be sure to stroll around and through the beautiful Earth Kind Rose garden tended by Karen Kologe and Nan Garvin. The Griffith Buck rose bed is just past the perennial garden. Thanks Ginger, Jo Ann, Karen and Nan for the beauty of your gardens.

Don't miss the pergola constructed by Ken Knecht. It stands majestically at the gate that leads into the area to be developed as a children's garden thanks to Ken's hard work.

Before entering the main garden, check out the fruit trees and vines in the orchard.

Renee Beckum began developing the orchard early this year and planted peach, apple, pear, and plum trees along with grape and blackberry vines. She hopes to have an arbor next year for the grape vines to run on and a shade area in the center of the orchard. Water for the orchard is provided by a drip irrigation system installed by Renee. Thanks Renee for a job well done.

As you enter the main garden's front gate, you will pass through the Enabling Garden area designed by intern Sandy Landry in front of the red barn. The intern class of 2008 began building the beds in the spring under the direction of Tom Scott, project chairman, and Lance Jepson, head intern. It is a demonstration garden and will eventually be used by gardeners that may not be able to bend over or get down on their knees to work in the soil. They can stand and lean against the beds or sit on a bench beside the bed as they work. The interns built a pergola in the center for shade, and all the beds have drip irrigation for easy watering. A great big thank you to the interns for all their handiwork. And they're not finished yet. There's more to come.

As you move out of the Enabling garden you will probably want to walk among the raised beds to view the vegetables. Eleven of the beds nearest the barn are demonstration beds planted by Master Gardeners and TCU students. This summer and fall the volunteers have left the garden with bags of potatoes, black-eyed

### TCMGA Community/Demo Garden

peas, beans, tomatoes, onions, squash, okra, or peppers. Staff and agency clients of the Resource Connection such as Senior Citizens and New Lives students plant the remaining beds. Visitors can see several different materials that can be used to construct raised beds and ways to build trellises in the beds for vines. At the back of the garden is a composting area for demonstrating and making compost for the beds. We have a rainwater harvesting system set up in the garden that is a great demonstration for visitors to the garden and for rainwater harvesting classes.

Charlotte Berck is in the process of planting the beds around the barn with Texas Super Star plants. She needs lots more plants to complete her garden, so if you have plants to share, call Charlotte to see if they are on her list. Thanks Charlotte for your work in making a beautiful learning garden.

At the far end of the garden is the greenhouse area. Nancy Curl and her greenhouse management volunteers are completing a greenhouse that was donated to the garden in 2006 by an elementary school in Tarrant County. They are also completing the three hoop house frames built by the Greenhouse Management Specialist classes. Plans for the greenhouse include teaching plant propagation headed up by Pat Lovejoy, misting and drip irrigation systems and maybe a few fun things like making concrete leaves, bird baths or gourd bird houses.

Last but certainly not least a huge thank you to Avis and Jerry Sorenson for making the whole garden a manicured place of beauty by edging, trimming and mowing.

There are numerous other volunteers that deserve thanks for working at the TCMGA Community/Demo Garden, but I don't have room to list them all. They know who they are. Thanks so very much to everyone.

Visitors come to the garden because they have seen it on TV, read about it in the newspaper, heard about it from an employee or client of the Resource Connection or from some other source. Hopefully this explains a little about the community/demo garden and inspires you to come visit or volunteer to work in the garden. We have many areas, so there's a place for any Master Gardener that wants to help.