



Mission Statement

To support and assist Texas Cooperative Extension by providing the community with information on horticultural practices consistent with Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations.



President's Notepad

Don't you feel sorry for people who have the name Katrina? They will long be associated with a devastating storm.

As you know, we have voted to spend up to \$1000 for aid to Katrina victims as authorized by the Executive Board. This was discussed at the Advisory meeting and the following thoughts represent the majority view.

1. We would like to support those sheltered at the Resource Connection.
2. We prefer to contribute directly and not through one of the big relief organizations.
3. One of the unsupported areas of need is for supplies when moving from the shelter to an apartment.
4. The suggestion of making and supplying a "move in" kit seemed attractive to the group.

We are told that they have received personal care items but that basic housekeeping supplies do not seem to be provided. We will investigate this further and welcome any input that you may have. Email any of the officers with your suggestions and we will include them in the deliberations.

Good gardening, Warren

*** NOTICE ***

Beginning 2006, there will be a \$5 subscription fee to receive the newsletter via US Mail. Payment can be made at monthly meetings.

October Monthly TCMGA Program

What do you think? Should we plan a "field trip" to Longwood Gardens? **Steven Chamblee** had a great experience getting to "work" there and we certainly had a great experience getting to see and hear about that wonderful garden at our September meeting. I'm ready to go again!! AND did we realize our own Botanic Garden has all this history and the pictures to prove it???? Sure glad someone had the foresight to save them.

Fall is a great time to plant in our area and **Randy Weston** (owner of Weston Gardens In Bloom) will be our speaker at the October meeting to tell us what to plant in those hard to grow, shady spots in our yards. This was one of the most requested topics on the interest forms filled out last November. After the business meeting and lunch, we will gather at Weston Gardens in the Demonstration Area to see what is growing and in bloom. Docents will be on hand to answer all of our questions. Of course we will then go across the road to shop!!!!

9:30 Sign-in and coffee.

10:00 Shade Gardening - **Randy Weston**

11:00 Business meeting and meet/greet/eat..

>>>> **Afterward, reconvene at nearby Weston Gardens.** Directions available at the meeting.

12:00 Weston Gardens Demonstration Area

Hope to see ALL of you October 6th!

Ginger Bason

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - September 1, 2005

President **Warren Tingley** called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. at Worth Baptist Church as the Red Cross was setting up the Resource Connection for Katrina evacuees. 157 TCMGA members were in attendance.

The minutes of August 4, 2005 were approved as published in *The Sharecropper*. Treasurer **Rita Hottel** gave the Treasurer's Report for August 2005 and it is on file.

President **Warren Tingley** welcomed and introduced **Doug Richards** from Hood County Master Gardeners. Hood County is sponsoring a Creative Landscaping Gardening Seminar on October 14, 2005. Registration forms are available.

New Business

A motion was made by **LaVonne Nowlin** and unanimously carried to authorize the TCMGA Board to donate up to \$1,000 for the Katrina evacuees in our local area.

Dave Wilson, Nominating Committee Chairman announced the following slate of officers and offered to take nominations from the floor. They are as follows:

President	Ginger Bason	1 st Vice President	Joy Lease
2 nd Vice President	Jim Nelson	Secretary	Judy Butler
Treasurer	Rita Hottel		

A vote will be taken at the October 7, 2005 meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Submitted by **Shari Stanfield**, Acting Secretary

Hospitality Notes



The change of location for our September MG meeting was a very minor inconvenience for us, but it brought the tragedy of hurricane Katrina a little closer to home. We appreciate the hospitality of **Worth Baptist Church** for our meeting.

Thank you to all who brought food to the September TCMGA Meeting. You are a very caring group. Some of you brought food for our meeting, but then headed off to help the evacuees soon to arrive on Circle Drive and elsewhere. Even so, we had over 150 in attendance!

The sign-up sheets for **FOOD** at the next **MG** meeting on October 6 are woefully short! If you have not helped out with food recently, please consider bringing something to the next meeting. Please call or email me at the numbers listed below if you are planning to bring food. Thank you sooooo much! See you at the meeting.

Joyce Quam
817-571-8520 dqum5@juno.com



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following individuals for election to the respective offices:

- PRESIDENT: Ginger Bason**
- 1st VICE-PRESIDENT: Joy Lease**
- 2nd VICE-PRESIDENT: James Nelson**
- SECRETARY: Judy Butler**
- TREASURER: Rita Hottel**

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the October meeting and the election will be held following any nominations.

The Nominating Committee requests that any member anticipating making a nomination from the floor contact the perspective nominee and ensure that the individual is available and willing to serve in the office.



REMINDER Southwest Tarrant County Member Garden Tour October 12

Please join us on the Southwest Tarrant County MG Garden Tour October 12th. Three beautiful gardens will be featured. See a beautifully designed garden featuring native plants, an impressive dry creek bed and a hoop house, a lush serene garden nestled around a log cabin and surrounded by magnificent trees and a recently redesigned garden with heritage roses, unusual plants, a pond and great ideas. After the final tour, we will have lunch at a barbeque restaurant that comes highly recommended. Nearby is a shop featuring interesting cement garden items. After lunch, we will head to Stegall's Wholesale Nursery. A drawing will be held at the nursery and Mr. Stegall will provide a beautiful large terra cotta container that the winner may fill with plants. Project chairmen may leave a wish list with Mr. Stegall and he will donate what he can to our projects. He has been very generous with several Mansfield projects.

We will meet at 9:00 at Lowe's parking lot in Burleson, Texas. Take the Alsbury exit off of I35 South. Please come and join us!

OCTOBER 9TH GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS TOUR

We hope everyone has signed up to work in one of the gardens and that all MGs are telling everyone they know about this wonderful opportunity. Any questions, call the Master Gardener Desk.

Tour hours are 10am-4pm, Sunday October 9. Six estate gardens for \$25 or \$5 each. For more information, see www.gardenconservancy.org and www.tcmga.org.



To All Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Thank you for a wonderful celebration. Your thoughtfulness, kind words, cards, cake and gifts are a reflection of the thoughtful caring wonderful people you are.

Thank you so much for all you do,

Dotty Woodson



Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Managers Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 Perennial Garden	7:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
312 Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
313 BG Cottage Garden	call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1st, 3rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	every Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325 Weston Gardens Docent	call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326 Teen Challenge	every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
399 Gardening with Dotty	last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat. 2nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4th Thurs, 10 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 9-12:00, 2nd & 4th Sat 8-11:00	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
407 Willow Park DemoGarden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
408 TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mon/Thurs	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Bransom	call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603 Brewer	call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	3:15 p.m. Wed	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Contact Ginger	Ginger Bason	817-838-7321
606 South Davis	2nd & 4th Thurs, 9:00 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden		Judy Sargent	817-589-0221

Please complete and bring to the next MG meeting.

It's that time of year again to honor our hard-working members with special awards! Many of our members have gone the "extra mile" and we'd like for YOU to select the honorees. The categories are listed below:

2005 RECOGNITION AND AWARDS NOMINEE CRITERIA

Every recipient must be:

- *A member in good standing*
- *Attend monthly meetings and events*
- *See a need, come forth and become actively involved*

Master Gardener of the Year – _____

- Someone who exhibits the "Mark of Excellence"
- Demonstrates honor
- Leadership in more than one (1) Association area
- Someone who has made a positive impact

Master Gardener of the Decade – _____

Someone who has been a MG member at least 4 years

- A member whose presence grows stronger each year
- Their efforts make a difference
- Someone who supports and continually strengthens the Association
- Is always there when called upon

Volunteer of the Year - _____

Contributed numerous hours of "hands on" volunteer service in the community

Extra Mile Award – _____

People who went over and above and behind the scene.

Special Merit Award - _____

People who have given much several years in a row. *(Please choose two)*

Education/Educator Award – _____

Workshops, docent for several areas, etc

INTERNS: PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY THE TWO NOMINEES BELOW:

Intern of the Year – _____

A member of the Intern class who has become actively involved and who has gone "beyond the norm".

Intern Special Award - _____

Interns who went over the required hours, always willing to do extras, very helpful to others and high goals set for themselves. *(Please nominate two or three)*

Barbara Munn, Awards Chairman
817/337-4955
bhmunn@charter.net

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Intern Scoop

Submitted by Kay Gunn



The Fall 2005 Intern classes have begun with thirty-one eager and enthusiastic participants! They are a great group and you will enjoy getting to know each of them. As they are beginning their Intern year, the Spring 2005 Interns are busily working to complete their volunteer requirements. There's a lot going on!

Intern Advisors for the fall class are:

Mary-Sheba Graves, Doris Hill, Mary Nell Hubbard, Joy Lease, Dixie Norwood, LaVonne Nowlin, Judy Ratzlaff, Charlie Shiner, and chairman Kay Gunn.

We would love to have certified Master Gardeners join us for any classes that interest you.

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

- 10-1 Dotty Woodson;
- 10-3 Janet Southerland,
Mary Margaret Halleck;
- 10-4 Karl Keffer;
- 10-6 Kyle Pettit;
- 10-7 Steve Chaney;
- 10-8 Valerie Freund;
- 10-9 Jim Woodlief;
- 10-11 Diane Clark, Linda Hardy;
- 10-13 Gailon Hardin;
- 10-14 Julie Shaw;
- 10-17 Susan Kingeter;
- 10-18 Frank Durda, Jack Mitchell;
- 10-19 Cathy Hiles;
- 10-22 Don Blanton, Judy Butler, Betsy Kalina;
- 10-23 Janet Shupe;
- 10-24 Lynn Horvat;
- 10-27 Hope Porter;
- 10-29 Dee Grant, Kay Yount;
- 10-30 Shirley Helmick, Hugh Ross.

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because **LaVonne Nowlin** does not have it. Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.

Ways and Means Update

Logo Items ordered in September will be available for pickup at the November 3rd meeting,

**Vendor tables are available for the November meeting.
Contact Ann Couch to reserve.**

***** REMINDER *****
2006 TCMGA DUES (\$20)
ARE DUE DECEMBER 31ST.
Pay at monthly meeting or
mail to Pat Lovejoy.

MG DIRECTORY OCTOBER UPDATES

- Susann Draper bill1221@sbcglobal.net
- Eleanor Tuck 8328 Patreota Dr.
Benbrook, TX 76126

Note: Send updates to Pat Lovejoy
at patlovejoy@att.net.

I Planted Bluebonnets Last Year but no Bluebonnets Grew this Spring

by Dotty Woodson

This is the biggest complaint we hear about bluebonnets. I am writing about this in the fall because this is when bluebonnet seeds germinate. September and October are the planting months for spring flowering wildflowers. Many wildflowers including bluebonnets germinate in the fall when the soil is moist and the temperature is cool. The small seedlings require the winter chilling to grow a good root system and flower in the spring.

Bluebonnet seeds resemble small, flat pea-gravel and are almost as hard. The seed color varies from slate blue to light tan. The hard seed coat prevents water from entering the germinating seeds. In nature, the seed germination rate is about 20 percent for the seeds dropped that spring. In nature, several years of weathering is required to soften the seed coat to assure germination. This is nature's way of assuring survival of the bluebonnet when drought or adverse growing conditions that would kill all the seedlings. The Texas Highway Department planted bluebonnet seeds for up to 6 years to assure the beautiful wildflower displays we all enjoy. Bluebonnets seeds available in seed packets have been acid scarified in order to assure a high germination rate. Properly scarified bluebonnet seeds will germinate within 10 days after planting in a moist soil.

The most common reasons bluebonnets do not return the second year are:

- seed germination was poor because not enough seeds germinated
- seeds or seedlings died because the soil was too moist
- plants were mowed or pulled out before the seeds matured and dropped to the ground
- birds or mammals eat the seeds

- either the soil was disturbed or a deep layer of mulch covered the seed too deeply

To Plant Bluebonnets Successfully

In a garden area, select a site in full sun where the soil drains well and you do not mind the ragged look of the wildflower plants as the plants produce seed for the next spring. In non-irrigated areas, plant wildflowers where you do not need to mow until the seeds are mature. In a garden area, clear the area of other plants. Break up the soil to a depth of 6 inches. Plant the seeds in the soil. Cover the seeds with a light cover of soil and mulch. Keep the area moist but not wet. Germination will occur in the fall when the night temperature cools and the soil moisture is correct. The wildflower seedlings will remain small until spring. After a winter chill, the plants start growing and flower in the spring or summer. After the wildflowers finish flowering, allow the plants to disperse seeds before cutting down or removing the plants. You can collect and store the seeds or allow the seeds to fall to the ground and remain there until the seeds germinate in the fall. Plant bluebonnets seeds for several years to assure a beautiful display each spring.

Some of the best wildflowers for this area are bluebonnet, Indian paint brush, coreopsis, winecup, purple cone flower, cosmos, larkspur and black-eyed Susan. My favorite planting is bluebonnets, Indian paint brush, larkspur and coreopsis in the front of a flower bed with purple cone flower and black-eyed Susan in the back. Bluebonnets and Indian paint bush flower first. Then the larkspur tower above these bluebonnet and Indian paint brush as these plants produce seed. Then coreopsis will flower. Purple cone flower and black eyed Susan will flower all summer if you cut off the spent flowers. If you add cosmos to this mix, the cosmos will flower later and keeping flowering until the plants freeze. Cosmos towers over the other plants.

Wildflower plants are called re-seeders. Some are biennial and some are annuals. Re-seeder plants grow each year from the seeds the plants drop. The amount of plants that

germinate and grow the next fall is influenced by how many seeds drop, soil disturbance, weather, birds, mammals and insects eating the seeds, moisture in the fall and hardness of the seeds. In non-irrigated areas, disperse wildflower seeds in clay seed balls to assure better germination and keep birds and mammals from eating the seeds. Mix the wildflowers with 2 parts compost or potting soil and one part potter's clay. For example, for one ounce of bluebonnet seeds, use about 4 cups of compost or potting soil and 1 cup of clay. Mix the dry compost, clay and seeds together. Add enough water to make the clay sticky. Roll the mixture into about 1 to 2 inch balls. Allow the balls to dry. In the fall, drop the balls about 1 to 2 feet apart in the area where you want the wildflowers to go. A fall rain will melt away the clay and disperse the seeds. The compost will keep the seeds moist and provide a small amount of nutrients.

Oakhurst Elementary School

Submitted by **Ginger Bason**



Oakhurst Elementary School opened in 1928. It has grown a lot in 77 years but it still looks like a school and the people there still have that warm, small school attitude. In 1998, a Japanese-style garden was put in with funds from a grant with Sister Cities. It is most unusual for a Ft Worth school garden. There is a bridge over a symbolic stream, an island and a tea house. The original landscaping in the front of the school is long gone. Pictures show an evergreen hedge that over time outgrew it's location, so the front of the school has been bare for many years.

In 2002, Master Gardeners began working at Oakhurst in the Japanese garden that had been neglected for several years. Some new plantings have been added to the front landscape. There is still a lot to do at Oakhurst Elementary. Join us for all the planning and planting. For more information about the Oakhurst school garden, please contact **Ginger Bason** at 817-838-7321

2005 International Master Gardener Conference

Submitted by **Mary Margaret Halleck**

As a Master Gardener, one of my favorite things offered to us is the International Master Gardener Conference which is held every two years. I am fortunate to have attended my fourth conference, in July, in Saskatoon, Canada at the University of Saskatchewan.

Each conference has it's unique characteristic and this conference was no different. Master Gardener's came from most states, Canada and this year England. I attended classes on many of the things I haven't yet had, or needed a refresher course in, enjoyed key-note speakers, met authors, went on a garden tour, and attended a trade show. Probably the most important thing was getting to know Master Gardeners from everywhere.

Each year I especially look forward to the projects that win as the most Outstanding MG projects. And these MGs never let me down! For example, one project in San Diego was at a senior center where the seniors are considered legally blind and yet they teach them to garden and to make flower arrangements and topiaries.

Judy Childers was the only other Tarrant County MG at the conference. We were fortunate to be joined by **Steve Chaney** and **Dotty Woodson**. We were able to spend time with them without all the hustle and bustle which usually goes on when we are with them.

We all need to start our plans for the next conference in 2007 which will be close enough so we can all attend --- Little Rock, Arkansas.

**In all things of nature
there is something marvelous.**

- Aristotle

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct	Annual Landscape Design School (10/11, 13, 18, 20, 29)
Oct 6	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - location TBA
Oct 9	TCMGA Garden Conservancy Tour (see page 3)
Oct 12	Southwest Tarrant County Garden tour (see page 3)
Oct 24	Little Hands on the Farm - clean up day
Nov 3	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - location TBA
Dec 8	TCMGA Christmas Awards/Social

For up-to-the-minute TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org
More state news: www.texasmastergardeners.com