

# Sharecropper

## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

### Mission Statement

To provide horticultural and environmental research based information and techniques. To volunteer in area horticulture projects.



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Articles welcome  
and encouraged.

Send submissions to  
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

### Beautiful Bark: Beyond Flowers, Fruit, and Foliage

by Derald Freeman

As the trees lose their leaves in fall, many landscapes are left looking bare in winter with perennials having disappeared altogether. Using plants with interesting bark adds sculpture, texture and interest to a sparse winter landscape. Though often hidden during the growing season, a tree's beautiful bark finally comes to center stage in the winter. Bark characteristics range from bright colors to exfoliating texture to a quilt-like appearance and can create a dramatic impact in winter as well as adding a subtle accent to the landscape the rest of the year.

Trees with exfoliating or peeling bark include crape myrtle, Lacebark elm, river birch, paper-mulberry, shagbark hickory and paper-bark maple to name a few.



**Crape myrtle:** Noted for exfoliating bark with color ranging from tan to gray to a cinnamon-colored bark on different species, the crape myrtle smooth bark exfoliates, flaking off in irregular patches to reveal various shades of brown to gray. This bark is especially noticeable in the winter months when the tree is leafless. The 25 foot tall 'Natchez' with exfoliating light brown bark peels in sheets and reveals the most beautiful cinnamon bark underneath. It is exceptional and has become a favorite.

**Lacebark Elm:** This tree produces rich green and glossy foliage with serrated edges and is accented with the exfoliating bark, which is outstandingly attractive. The bark on a Lacebark Elm peels off in a puzzle like pattern and exposes rich shades of gray, green, brown and orange. The best quality of the Lacebark Elm is its ability to withstand the harshest growing conditions by growing well in a wide range of soil types.



Other trees with interesting bark.

- The American beech, which has a beautiful white-gray bark.
- The sycamore with bark on the upper portions of the tree and gray-brown to reddish exfoliating bark near the base

*(Beautiful Bark Continued on page 7)*

# MGs in ACTION



Photos by Debbie Rasmussen



Photos by Debbie Rasmussen

The 2009 Intern Review was held July 31st at Joe T. Garcia's and about 50 attended; interns, advisors & Steve. Steve discussed the Intern Survey, Judy Ratzlaff discussed hours earned and time sheets, and Rocky Deutscher discussed the intern project. It was informative and lots of fun.

More Intern Photos on Page 15



Photos by Nancy Curl



Photos by Nancy Curl

**YOUR PHOTO could be HERE**  
 We are always looking for shots of MGs in action — at field trips, projects, tours, educational events, etc. Please send any photos to the editor, with your name, date and event.

There's always plenty of activity at the Resource Connection Community Demonstration Gardens

## LEADERSHIP

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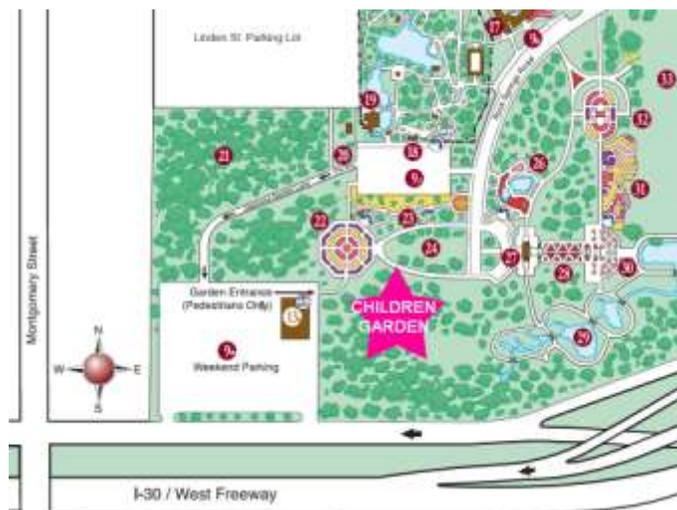
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s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Web site  
<http://www.tcmga.org>  
TCMGA office 817-884-1944

## Project Profile: The FWBG Children's Garden

by Mary McCoy, Project Chair

**Location:** The Fort Worth Botanic Garden on University Ave. north of I-30. In the far south east corner of FWBG, past the Japanese Garden and Shelter House/Rose Garden, near the Trial Garden. Can also be reached from the pedestrian path from Montgomery St.



The Children's Garden is nestled in the beautiful Botanical Gardens. The FWBG collaborates with Tarrant County Master Gardeners and the 4th-graders from Fort Worth Independent School District to maintain an orchard and grow vegetables, herbs and berries. All of our planting areas are raised beds and total space is about 500 square feet for gardening. The produce is donated to the needy.

During the school year we work with fourth graders using the Jr. Master Gardener Program. The JMG Program incorporates Group Activity and an Individual Activity. We provide the students with their own journal to record answers they have found during their lesson.



Gardening at any age is rewarding. Seasoned gardeners and young students experience a sense of wonder and accomplishment when you put seed in the soil and are rewarded with aspiring plant growth. If you enjoy working with students and vegetable gardening this could be the place for you.



If you would like to come and visit, our gate is open on Wednesdays Summer Hours 8 a.m. -11 a.m. September until school is out: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Questions? Contact Mary McCoy  
[mary-m-mccoy@sbcglobal.com](mailto:mary-m-mccoy@sbcglobal.com)



## President's Message

### October newsletter

Just a few thoughts as we wrap up our MG recertification year:

Our Oct. 1 meeting is the last membership meeting to count toward recertification (3 are required).

Our re-certification year is from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Last call for all time to be turned in by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> for recertification purposes. If for some reason you are not recertifying, please let your timekeeper know that also.

Dues notices have either already gone out when this hits the press or will go out shortly. I love 'time savers' and 'the easy way' so I will definitely be putting my check in the mail as soon as I receive my notice. Then I don't have to worry about forgetting my check book at the next meeting or having something come up and miss the meeting and not pay on time (wait – can I miss a meeting?). Please, please pay your dues promptly upon receipt of your dues notice.

Something new – we are requesting that all dues be paid by check or money order this year. This is because every year we have a discrepancy with one or more members who pay in cash and we just really want to avoid that scenario. If this is a tremendous hardship for you, please contact me directly .

The telephone calendar - I have already put my name on the telephone calendar for January and my second phone duty in May, both with a dear friend from my intern class. We laugh and laugh, and actually look forward to those times. Everything is better when done with a friend, even telephone duty!

See you all in October. We are going to have an outstanding speaker and you will not want to miss this program! We will also be electing our 2010 Executive Board and it is very important that you attend and let your vote be counted.

— Susan Stanek, President

## September Monthly Program

### October 1 Speaker Native Dave

We have a wonderful speaker to help us begin the month of October. Native Dave.

Dave also describes himself as Rebellious by Nature—

perhaps he will share the full meaning of that?! Dave and Christy Ilfrey say that speaking engagements provide them a forum to share their expertise and enthusiasm for gardening with others. "We speak about native plants and gardening, but we also address "big picture" topics, such as sustainable and green business."

Join us on 10/1 to hear Native Dave present ideas and suggestions about sustainable landscapes for Texas. Either Dave or Christy will be with us—one has to remain at home with their new baby, Sage.



9:30 AM Gather for coffee and friendship

10:00 AM Native Dave

11:00 AM Business Meeting and Snack Lunch

12: Noon Native Dave

## DUES DUE

Watch your mailbox for your TCMGA dues collection notice mailed mid-Sept.

Dues are due by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> or a late fee will be incurred. Mail per the instructions received or pay at the Oct membership meeting.



Checks or money orders only please.

## **TCMGA Meeting Minutes** **September 3, 2009**

The morning presentation was Backyard Birding by Steve Woodward, owner of the Wild Bird Center on Hulen St. After lunch Eleanor Tuck introduced the following master gardeners to discuss some of our Specialist Programs: Nancy Curl, Rainwater Harvesting; Marilyn Sallee, Entomology; Jackie Peel, Oak Wilt; Claire Alford, Plant Propagation.

President Stanek called the business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with 155 members present. The August General Meeting minutes were approved as published.

Carl Trehus presented the Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2009:

Checking Account balance	\$ 3,483.01
Money Market Account	<u>20,738.51</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$24,221.52

Gross proceeds of the August Garage Sale were \$1,109.25. Thirteen projects received \$85.32 each. Silent Auction brought in \$1,723, given to participating projects. Carl explained why the organization does not reimburse projects for sales tax paid. We have a tax exemption sheet to be used for purchases so we do not have to pay sales tax.

In the absence of Nominating Committee Chairman Joyce Quam, Judy Ratzlaff presented the slate of candidates for 2010 Officers: President-Susan Stanek; First Vice President-Nancy Curl; Second Vice President-Bill Vandever; Secretary-Sue Ellen Schlitzer; Treasurer-Pat Higgins.

President Stanek asked for nominees from the floor. Susanne Mills nominated Steve Purdy for President, seconded by Charlie Shiner. There being no further nominations from the floor, Joy Lease made a motion that the nominations be closed, seconded by Tammy Edwards. A vote was taken and counted: 118 for closing the nominations and 1 against. The motion passed and the nominations were closed.

Ginger Bason announced the Garden Conservancy Event on October 11. There will be tours

of six private gardens in Fort Worth and Arlington, volunteers still needed. Tickets will be available online, at Calloway's Nurseries, or at the homes on the day of the tour. Individual tickets are \$5 or all six for \$25. The Mira Vista gardens can only be toured with tickets purchased before arrival at their Security Gate. Ginger also gave us statistics on how many Master Gardeners there are nationally and how many hours are worked yearly.

Nancy Curl announced that orders for Earthkind roses can be taken at today's meeting or online. Orders will close on September 18 and be delivered in mid-October. Jeanie Browning announced the fall bulb sale. Bulbs can be ordered online or at the September, October, and November General Meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dottie Bucy, Secretary

### **Cottage Garden Changes**

It's sad, but we are losing one of our projects as a stand alone project.

The FW Botanic Cottage Garden, under the guidance of Janet Riley, has been a Master Gardener project for some time and it shows her loving care. She has been juggling several things in her life lately, so Janet and I made the decision that it's time to close this project.

Janet is working at Tim's Landscape and Garden Center and has been promoted to manager. This demands much of her time, but she loves the job and she's still in gardening. How wonderful to have a job doing the things you love. Stop by the nursery and show your current MG card to receive a 10% discount.

Janet, we wish you much success in your new endeavor and thank you for your years of dedication to the Tarrant County Master Gardeners. We still hope to see you from time to time at MG functions.

Cindy Wolke has volunteered to incorporate the Cottage Garden with the Perennial Garden. Cindy's volunteers will be caring for both gardens. Hours worked will be recorded under the FW Perennial Garden code #311. Thank you, Cindy.

Good luck from the Project Committee and TCMGA.

— Judy Ratzlaff

## **SuperStar MG Profile**

### **Sally Henderson**

### **Intern of the Year**



#### **In Her Own Words**

I'm in love with Texas, and that is why I wanted to take the Master Gardener class.

I grew up on the east coast near New York City. My dad was an editor of Little Golden Books, and we grew up surrounded by them. Each year at Christmas my mother would take us into the city to see the beautiful Christmas windows at the department stores. We would join the long lines inching toward the windows and stand in the sifting snowflakes surrounded by holiday music and lights. My sister and I were little girls and were spellbound.

Our little town was small and safe. When kindergarten started, we walked to school alone through the woods, crossing a brook on a rickety bridge. Neither we nor anyone else worried about us.

Maybe Little Golden Books are why I still love to read. I visit our Arlington libraries about once a week. I check out ten or twelve books I've never read or seen, and it usually happens that one out of twelve is a priceless find. If any of you love reading exquisitely crafted novels, I recommend for you *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones (Virginia blacks who owned

slaves just before the Civil War); *A Million Nightingales* by Susan Straight (slavery in Louisiana); *The Color of Lightning* by Paulette Jiles (Texas Indian tribes just after the Civil War); *Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles (displaced southerners during the Civil War); *Horse Heaven* by Jane Smiley (beautifully worded descriptions of animal thought and behavior); *The Outlander* by Gil Adamson (a fugitive woman's winter flight on foot through the mountain wilderness of Canada, 1800's); *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague* by Geraldine Brooks; and two marvelous gothic novels – *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* by Maggie O'Farrell, and *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield.

After completing a Master of Arts in Teaching program at Harvard University, I taught school for many years – English, history, government, social studies – in grades seven, eight, nine, and ten. Five of those years were at International School Bangkok in Bangkok, Thailand, just as the war in Vietnam was ending. I eventually returned to the United States, left teaching, and had a second career at I.B.M. in Washington, D.C. Here I met my delightful husband Burl, who was serving as Chief Information Officer and Vice Provost at Howard University. We married, moved to Wisconsin, and finally arrived in Texas.

Right away I learned to love Turk's cap, lantana, Mexican feather grass, cactus, and all the other beautiful Texas plants. We have spent time in Big Bend, and I love the plants there also.

I took our Master Gardener class in order to learn more about growing and caring for these plants I had come to love. The course was marvelous and gave me exactly what I had hoped to learn.

It is the dedicated Master Gardeners, such as Sally, who inspire us all and make this organization the outstanding chapter it is. Watch for future profiles of our SuperStar Master Gardeners in coming months.

## Upcoming Classes at the Community Garden

### September

**Propagation – How to Take Cuttings and Layering** Claire Alford and Donna Morris, Propagation Specialists, will teach how to propagate plants from cuttings and layering techniques.

### How to Make a Cement Leaf

Tammy Edwards will teach how to make a cement leaf for your garden - a make-n-take class.

### October

### Propagation – House Plants

Claire Alford and Donna Morris, Propagation Specialists, will teach you propagation techniques that will allow you to increase your collection of plants and to share with friends.

### How to Make a Hypertufa Pot- I

Susanne Mills will teach how to make a lightweight, “do-it-yourself” artificial stone hypertufa pot. It is more fun than making mud pies! This is a make-n-take class.

### How to Make a Hypertufa Pot-II

By Susanne Mills. This class will allow you to make larger and more unconventional hypertufa pots. This is a make-n-take class.

### November

### Poinsettias

Marilyn Sallee, Propagation Specialist, will teach about Native and Commercial poinsettias. Bldg. 2300 – Classroom B

### Composting

Ron and Sue Ellen Schlitzer, Compost Specialist, will teach the benefits of composting and how to create your own compost area.

### December

### How to Layer a Pot with Spring Blooming

**Bulbs** Claire Alford and Donna Morris, Propagation Specialists, will teach how to have a sneak-peek of spring with layered bulbs in a pot.

*(Beautiful Barks Continued from page 1)*

- Cucumber magnolia has an attractive gray bark which becomes ridged as it matures.
- Paper Birch: This most striking species of Birch has brilliant white bark.
- Yellow birch has peeling amber-gold outer bark and wintergreen-flavored inner bark.
- River birch, found from the Great Lakes south to Florida and Texas, prefer shade.
- Paper-bark maple turns a beautiful red-brown color as it exfoliates. The young tree has a gray-brown color that peels off like paper.
- River birch is well known for its beautiful bark, which can be gray-brown or red.
- Striped maple, a small tree, has gray, green, and tan molting bark.

Plants with interesting bark and form add character to an otherwise dull winter landscape.

## Newsletter Costs for 2010

With the continued rise in postage and printing costs over the last several years, without a respective rise in the subscription price of the TCMGA newsletter, the cost of a paper subscription has far outrun its expense to the organization. The 2009 cost of \$5/year does not reimburse expenses more than twice that value.

To maintain the current size and quality, the TCMGA newsletter expenses projected for 2010 are expected to run more than \$20 per year per subscriber. For several years, the association has been absorbing the difference between the \$5 charged and the true cost. We cannot expect the entire membership to carry the cost of this subsidy. The fair thing to do is allow those who request paper to pay for its cost.

This was discussed at several board meetings and is the consensus of the Advisory Board and Executive Boards. Those members who do not have email accounts will continue to receive it at no cost.



Coming soon – directions how to print the full-color newsletter in black and white to save the expense of color ink, and by single pages to save paper.

-- Marilyn Sallee, Editor

# OCTOBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING  7p NCNPSOT	2 8:30a CG Veggie	3 Composting Demo
4	5 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	6 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 7p FWBG class Attract Birds	7 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald 7p Ladies Garden	8 8:30a Alice Carlson	9 8:30a CG Veggie	10 9am SW Crthse 9a Wildscape class - Cross Timbers Preser- vation- Steve Chaney Composting Demo 9a FWBG Plant Sale & Monarch class
11  Garden Conservancy Tour	12 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel  3p Heritage Elem.	13 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie	14 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald  FIELD TRIP BRIT Brown Bag	15 8:30a Alice Carlson  TCMGA Board	16 8:30a CG Veggie  Veggie Specialist Georgetown	17 9a Hulen Library  Veggie Specialist Georgetown  Rosedango McKinney
18	19 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	20 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie  7p Organic GC	21 8a Veterans Park 8:30a Hulen Library 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9am SW Crthse 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	22 8:30a Alice Carlson	23 8:30a CG Veggie	24  FWBG Japanese Fest  Parker County Rose Seminar
25  FWBG Japanese Festival	26 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel  3p Heritage Elem.	27 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie  BRIT class	28 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Hulen Library 9am SW Crthse 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	29 8:30a Alice Carlson  Greenhouse Special- ist-Tarrant Co.	30 8:30a CG Veggie  Greenhouse Special- ist-Tarrant Co.  Bulb Garden Travis County	31 Clark Garden BOOtanical  FWBG class Nature Photography

## UP-COMING EVENTS

**NOTE: for this month's events, see back cover**

- Nov. 4 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Nov. 5 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Nov. 7 Wildscape class - No Child Left Inside
- Nov. 7 FREE DAY for MGs at Dallas Arboretum
- Nov. 9 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Nov. 11 BRIT Brown Bag Botany TBA
- Nov. 13-14 Rainwater Specialist, San Angelo
- Nov. 13 Cool Season Veggies, Travis Co. MG
- Nov. 26 Holiday - Thanksgiving
- Nov. 27 Holiday - Day After Thanksgiving
- Nov. 27 FWBG Family Hike Night 6:30 pm
- Nov. 30 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Dec. 2 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Dec. 3 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Dec. 5 FWBG Birds' Christmas Tree 11 am
- Dec. 5 Wildscape Class - Working with Children
- Dec. 14 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Dec. 24 Holiday - Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Holiday - Christmas

**Your Event Here** - send info of an event or class for this column to [tmgmarilyn@gmail.com](mailto:tmgmarilyn@gmail.com)

### 2010

- Jan. 1 Holiday - New Year's Day
- Jan. 7 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Jan. 11 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Jan. 12 Intern Class - Orientation
- Jan. 14 Intern Class - Soil, Compost, Organics
- Jan. 18 Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 19 Intern Class - Field Trip TBD
- Jan. 25 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Jan. 26 Intern Class - Basic Hort & Botany
- Jan. 28 Intern Class - Vegetables, Herbs, Perennials
- Feb. 2 Intern Class - Plant Pathology
- Feb. 4 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Feb. 4 Intern Class - Meeting (am) Pruning (pm)
- Feb. 8 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Feb. 9 Intern Class - Field Trip TBD
- Feb. 10 BRIT Brown Bag Botany
- Feb. 11 Intern Class - Entomology
- Feb. 15 Holiday - President's Day
- Feb. 16 Intern Class - Landscape, Xeriscape, Container
- Feb. 18 Intern Class - Turf
- Feb. 23 Intern Class - Plant Propagation

## Announcements/Going On

**NEW—Holidays on Calendar**—the holidays listed on the events calendar are the official County days; the office will be closed.

**Project Workdays** — contact the Project Chair - see page 11 for details

**Field Trips**—TCMGA Field Trip Chair is Kay Gunn. See schedule page 10 of this issue.

**FWBG Events**— See calendar at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens for more information.

**State, Regional & International MG Conferences, MG Specialist Training**—See State MG website for more information: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>

**Wildscape Classes**—each first Saturday at 9 am at the Molly Hollar Wildscape in Veteran's Park, Arlington, following Saturday volunteer workday. Also Composting demo/class.

**BRIT** (Botanical Research Center of Texas) phone 817-257-7132 or 817-871-7682

**Composting Classes**—2nd Saturday of each month 9-11 am 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 817-459-6778

**NCNPSOT**—native plant meeting at Ft W Botanic Garden 7 pm. See topic at their website

**Free Organic Classes**—1st Wednesday every month Ladies of the Garden, 5208 Hidden Oaks Lane, Arlington 817-572-0148

**Note:** This list of items of interest to MGs may not be automatically approved for hours. Please confirm approval with Steve Chaney.

Below are clickable links in the electronic version. Another reason to get this via email.

**Our local TCMGA website**  
<http://www.tcmga.org/>

**State MG Website and TMG news:**  
<http://www.texasmastergardeners.com>

**State Newsletter:** <http://www.tmgnewsletter.org/2009/July09c.pdf>

**Our RC Demo Garden Website:**  
<http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123>

## 2009 Fall Bulb Sale

The cool breezes in the air tell us that fall is arriving. This is a great time to get bulbs in the ground for spectacular color in the spring.

The 11 bulbs offered in the first TCMGA Fall Sale bloom in the spring. They are all especially suited for our zone 7b/8a Texas climate, and enjoy a wet winter and spring and a dry summer. Pre-chilling is not necessary. Most originate from the Mediterranean region which is similar to our climate. They can give many years of color.

Daffodils (*Narcissus* ssp.) These beloved harbingers of spring have 13 divisions from the American Daffodil Society based on their characteristics. Daffodil is an English generic or nickname for narcissus. Jonquil is more commonly used in the South. *Narcissus* is the actual genus name. *Jonquilla* is a species, which comes from the Latin word "juncos" meaning rush or grass like. The foliage of true jonquils is rush or grass like.

There are 6 narcissi being offered in the sale.

Thalia (*Triandrus*) A graceful, creamy white narcissus often called the "orchid narcissus." Petals are thicker than most so they last a little longer. It is fragrant and highly recommended for this area.



Quail (*Jonquilla*) A yellow jonquil with 2 to 4 flowers per stem. It is a very dependable bloomer and increases steadily from year to year. Highly recommended by Thad Howard of San Antonio.



Tahiti (Double) This daffodil has a very frilly lacey cup with bright red-orange segments in the multi-petaled bright yellow, so it's very showy. The best double for our area.



Avalanche (*Tazetta*) With 3 to 20 flowers per stem. It's sometimes called "Seventeen Sisters" because it can have that many flowers per stem. It has a musky sweet fragrance, and does well here.



Minnow (*Tazetta*) Bears 3-5 flowers per stem; a butter yellow cup with white or pale yellow petals. It is 7 to 8 inches tall.



Golden Bells (*Bulbocodium*) A miniature "hoop petticoat", the unusual flowers resemble little funnels; an improved multi-flowering variety. Instead of many flowers per stem it has many stems per bulb.

Ipheion uniflorum Wisley Blue (Star Flower) Medium blue, 3 - 6 inch tall, found in and named for Wisley Garden, England. A 6-pointed star shaped flower, blooms for a month. Naturalizes well; sometimes found in lawns of old estates



Muscari ameniaceum (Blue Grape Hyacinth) Bulb naturalizes well, sends up foliage in fall, then blooms in the spring. Great for borders and edges. The grape fragrance matches spikes covered in grape-like flowers.

Dutch Iris (Blue Magic) does well in our warm climate, blooms later than the daffodils. They tend to naturalize and will bloom in bright dappled shade.



Hyacinthoides hispanica Excelsior (Spanish Bluebells) are happy anywhere they receive spring moisture. Think of it as a "shade bluebonnet." Naturalizes, does well under deciduous trees. They are very adaptable to our dry summers.

Leucojum aestivum (Summer Snow Flake) Contrary to the name, these bulbs bloom in the spring. *Leucojum* means "white violet." In the Mediterranean they thrive in mucky wet soil in the winter, but bake in the hot dry summer. Very tough and thrive in the South in sun or shade.



The bulb order form is on line and can be sent in to the Extension Office. Bulbs can also again be ordered at the October monthly meeting. The deadline for ordering is Thursday, October 1, 2009. All orders must be pre-paid. Orders can be picked up at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting or at the Resource Center Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Call Jeanie Browning 817-478-2006.

Two very informative titles include:  
 Bulbs for Warm Climates by Thad M. Howard (2001)  
 Garden Bulbs for the South by Scott Ogden (1994)

— Jeanie Browning

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIP October 14 – Granbury

The last field trip of 2009 is coming up on October 14, just in time to celebrate cooler weather. Join us for a morning in Granbury to see three outstanding and completely different gardens, two belonging to Hood County Master Gardeners.

The first is a five acre country property with a pond and beautiful vistas through clumps of live oaks. The big feature is the collection of roses. The owner has planted every EarthKind rose, and by mid-October they should be gorgeous.

Our next stop takes us to the shores of Lake Granbury. Palm trees, water features and beautiful design transform this property into a tropical garden.

The last garden is just off the square in Granbury. This is a historic property, over 100 years old, and is planted in keeping with the early 1900's with antique roses, native plants and a kitchen garden.

After the garden tour is over, enjoy lunch with your Master Gardener friends at one of Granbury's great restaurants and spend some time shopping on the square.

PLEASE CARPOOL and share the expense. You can meet at one of the following locations:

- 8:45 – Office Depot at Hwy 26 and Davis Blvd
- 9:00 – Resource Connection
- 9:15 - Albertson's just south of Loop 820 SW at Highway 377



**Get in on the fun  
and join us**

## Intern Training Class Schedule

- 1/12/2010**-Orientation & Lunch-Steve Chaney -CEA Hort, Intern Advisors, Staff, Officers
- 1/14/2010**-Soil, Compost & Organics-Steve Chaney-CEA Hort
- 1/19/2010**-Field Trip - TBD-Intern Advisors
- 1/21/2010**-NO CLASS-
- 1/26/2010**-Basic Hort & Botany-Dr. Dotty Woodson-Extension Program Specialist
- 1/28/2010**-(AM) Vegetables - Vegetable Specialist TCMG, (PM) Herbs & Perennials - Janet Laminack-Denton County
- 2/2/2010**-Plant Pathology - Dr. Greg Church-CEA Hort, Collin County
- 2/4/2010**- (AM) MG Monthly Meeting, (PM) Pruning-Steve Chaney - CEA Hort
- 2/9/2010**-Field Trip (TBD)-Intern Advisors
- 2/11/2010**-Entomology-Kim Schofield-Extension Program Specialist
- 2/16/2010**-(AM) Landscape Design (PM) Xeriscape & Container Design-Steve Chaney -CEA Hort
- 2/18/2010**-Turf -Jim McAfee-Extension Turfgrass Specialist-Dallas County
- 2/23/2010**-Plant Prop.- Plant Prop. Specialist
- 2/25/2010**-Field Trip (TBD)-Intern Advisors
- 3/2/2010**-Fruit & Nut-Steve Chaney-CEA Hort
- 3/4/2010**-(AM) MG Monthly Meeting (PM) Field Trip-Weston Gardens -Steve Chaney-CEA Hort, Intern Advisors
- 3/9/2010**-Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation-Dr. Dotty Woodson- Extension Program Specialist
- 3/11/2010**-(AM) Trees & Shrubs -Steve Chaney-CEA Hort (PM) Tree ID Courtney Blevins-Texas Forest Service
- 3/16/2010**-Native Plants/ Ornamental Grasses -Steve Chaney-CEA Hort
- 3/18/2010**-NO CLASS-
- 3/23/2010**-Digital Photography & PowerPoint -Marilyn Sallee-TCMG
- 3/25/2010**-Field Trip (TBD)-
- 3/30/2010**-Make Up Only-

All MGs are welcome to attend any training classes. Please sign in at desk.

## **Committee Profile: Speakers Bureau Committee**

A tremendously potent part of the Master Gardeners, the Speaker's Bureau, does outreach to the public by giving talks on different horticultural subjects to other groups, such as Garden Clubs, Church groups, and even other Extension Agency departments. Education of the public is a major objective of the TCMGA. When any group calls or emails, then the important work begins: find a speaker who knows the subject that the group is requesting. If all goes well, the topic is an easy one, such as "Spring Gardening", and there are many speakers who can do the job. A not-so-easily filled position is Bonsai or Japanese flower arranging—not so many of those. Sometimes many phone calls and hours later, voila! a perfect match: someone who has the time, is willing to go to the area and knows the subject well enough to give an interesting talk on it. Even then all is not done until the talk has been completed. Speakers cancel and the search begins again. If a speaker is not found for that subject, then negotiation for a new topic ensues and the position is filled.

Speakers presently know or have been trained in a specialty and want to give talks which they can do as soon as there is a need for that topic. Hopefully, soon all speakers will be interviewed and give a sample talk so that they may be evaluated and we know the performance level of all speakers. If you would like to be a speaker, see the dates below for times of evaluating classes. Presently, a committee is being formed to assist in making the Speakers Bureau a more uniform and inclusive adventure.

The Speaker's Bureau had one short class in March, 2009, which was about how to give short talks and use the machines, computers and slides, to aid in the talks given. This fall we are set to have two more classes both from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The October 21<sup>st</sup> class is about assisting the speakers in becoming more comfortable giving talks. We ask that each person prepare a three minute talk about their favorite plant subject with Power Point or slides or demonstration and present it to the group. For the November 11<sup>th</sup> class we will work principally with the how to use machines with Power Point. Because it is becoming more difficult to find the parts for the slide machines we are converting to Power Point. If you have slides, we can help you convert them to Power Point usage. Just ask Lucurtis, to arrange a time to meet at the Extension Office and learn. If I can learn, so can you. Besides, I am patient.

There are also two other important aspects of the Speakers Bureau online: an email address [mgspeakersbureau@yahoo.com](mailto:mgspeakersbureau@yahoo.com) and a calendar where the speaker's events are posted: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/mgspeakersbureau>. Maybe the MGs can contact the speaker and find out whether the Garden Club is willing to have visitors to listen to our experts. We do have some really good ones. Check them out. Another wonderful improvement is the flash drives for speaker use. These can be checked out, loaded with pictures from many topics, downloaded to your computer and placed on your own Power Point.

— Lucurtis Williams

## **Committee Profile: Program Committee**

You've no doubt heard the description of the product of a committee?? "A giraffe is produced by a committee whose goal was a horse". Our Program Committee has defied that negative but humorous definition. Of course, our Committee is assuming that each of you who have complimented the programs IS sincere. My point in this rambling is to tell you about this group of dedicated Master Gardeners who've been behind the scenes for more than 8 months. They are: Emily Ward, Joy Lease, Nancy Curl and Susanne Mills. Each of these ladies has helped to contact and to come up with information leading to our various Speakers. In addition, last year's 1<sup>st</sup> VP, now our President Susan Stanek, passed along a notebook full of good contacts—several of whom have produced fine programs for us.

When I was being talked into this job, Ginger Bason and JoAnn Hahn, urged me to approach the task as a committee. They were so correct—I could not have done this job without the help of all of these ladies. And we could not have looked so technically correct without the help of Marilyn Sallee and Tammy Edwards. On most meeting days they got the Speakers' disc or thumb drives up and working quickly and efficiently. Steve Purdy must also be recognized and thanked for his special help at our June meeting.

These Master Gardeners could be called the Adjunct Program Committee without whom things would not have proceeded so smoothly and professionally. We still have notable programs to share, but it seems like a good time for me to say a huge THANK YOU, Emily, Joy, Nancy and Susanne, and Marilyn, Tammy and Steve for your help this far.

— Eleanor Tuck/ET

## Out and About

School bells are ringing, and throughout the county, MG's beds ready for returning student's fall vegetable gardening. **Mary McCoy** at the **FWBG Children's Garden** will lead the kids through a semester's 8 lessons, preparing them for certificates from A&M as Jr. Master Gardeners. Mary and the volunteers also teach composting and guide their charges in exploration activities throughout the botanic gardens. All MG's are welcome through "Our Garden Gate" on Wednesday mornings as observers and/or participants in the fun.

**Jackie Peel** and her gang at our northeast project, **Heritage OLC**, are geared up to teach seed cleaning, measuring, labeling and storing of hyacinth beans, gourds, pumpkins, zinnias and coneflowers for future sales and for next year's use. Each class outline beds with bricks to define their areas and spread wildflower seeds in their meadow. All activities involve application of math, science and art life skills in fun and exciting ways for the students.

Fall vegetable gardening and wildflower seed balls are in the plans at **Alice Carlson OLE**. The garden gazebo features a new display cabinet built by MG **Jack Gerloff**. There's printed information for all visitors on current and seasonal events in the garden, and MG **John Stanley** already has a wealth of information on butterflies. The display case is the first step in placing information kiosks and didactic panels throughout the OLE.

All of our school gardens are rich in education, teaching children the way they learn best -- through hands on experiences they share at home and will use throughout their lives. Become a part of one these worthwhile projects.

Have news to share? Call Joy, (817) 795-5133

— Joy Lease

## Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your directory:

**Berck**, Charlotte - [caberck@dot11net.net](mailto:caberck@dot11net.net)

**Cimma**, Claudia - 2321 Daisy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76111-1530

**Norfleet**, Carol – 3701 W. Biddison Street, Fort Worth, TX 76109-2706, [carol.norfleet@att.net](mailto:carol.norfleet@att.net)

**Woodrey**, Evaline, - correct phone number is 817-295-5281

Report changes or corrections to Sue Ellen Schlitzer, [s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net) or 817-294-1329



Happy Birthday,  
Master Gardeners!

## October Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Searle
- 3 Janet Southerland,  
Mary Margaret Halleck, Nancy Love
- 4 Karl Keffer
- 7 Steve Chaney, Karen Kolege
- 9 Jim Woodlief
- 11 Diane Clark
- 13 Gailon Hardin, Catherine Sabin
- 14 Karen Simmons, Mary Jane Goad (I)
- 16 Susan Houston
- 17 Rick Neal, Dottie Bucy, Jeanie Browning
- 18 Frank Durda, Donna Jobe
- 19 Cathy Hiles, Bill Hall, Elena Bartzat (I)
- 20 Betsy Kalina
- 22 Judy Butler
- 26 Pat Wisneauckas (I)
- 27 Hope Porter
- 29 Dee Grant, Kay Yount
- 30 Bill Vandever

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact Joy Lease, (817) 795-5133 or email [jlease@prodigy.net](mailto:jlease@prodigy.net)

— Joy Lease

## Conservancy Tour Oct. 11

Tarrant County Master Gardeners and Garden Conservancy announce the 2009 OPEN DAYS Garden Tour in Fort Worth on October 11.

Six private gardens will be open to the public for tour for one day 10 AM - 4:30 PM.

Tickets are available at Calloway's Nursery, or on line at [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) or at the gardens. Note: Tickets for the Mira Vista gardens must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for all 6 gardens.

More information and directions are available on the Garden Conservancy website above.

## Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<b>Project Code &amp; Name</b>	<b>Work Days/Times</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Phone</b>
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
312 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
321 Thistle Hill	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
326 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact area coordinators below)		
Project Co-chairs:	<b>Pat Higgins, Nancy Curl and Tom Scott</b>		
	817-946-6278	817-319-1795	817-427-9009
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Compost:	Sue Ellen & Ron Schlitzer s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Education:	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Enabling beds:	Jeanette Berggren, jberggren@sbcglobal.net		817-249-6815
Greenhouse:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net - Wednesdays		817-295-2883
Mowing/Edging:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Orchard and Berry	Renee Beckum jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		214-914-6597
Perennial beds: (developing)	Joann Hahn, joannhahn@att.net		817-923-9250
	Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-838-7321
Propagation	Claire Alford, Joy Lease, and Donna Morris		
Roses:	Nan Garvin garbre@hotmail.com - Fridays		817-477-2867
TCU students &	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Vegetable garden	Tues, & Fri. 8:30 a.m.		
401 Composting Demo	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 8:30 a.m.	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat, 9:00 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5281
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat, last Wed. 9 a.m.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues. 8-11 am Randolmill Pk. Greenhouse		
	Wed. 8-11 p.m., 2nd Sat, 8-12 a.m. Nancy Swan		817-535-9991
<b>School Gardens</b>			
601 Alice Carlson	Mon/& Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
611 BG-Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
NEW Heritage School OLE	2nd & 4th Mon. 2:45 p.m	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977

# 2009 Interns in Action



Touring  
Various Projects



Intern Party  
Luncheon at  
Sally Harris'



Chandor Garden  
Tour with  
Steve Chamblee  
in Weatherford

All Photos courtesy of Steve Purdy, intern advisor

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association**  
200 Taylor St., Suite 500  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-7308



## Calendar of This Month's Events



- Oct. 1 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Oct. 3 Wildscape Class - Saving Water & Money  
by Dotty Woodson
- Oct. 5 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Oct. 6 FWBG class - Attract Birds 7-9 pm
- Oct. 7 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Oct. 7-9 National EarthKind Specialist - Steve Chaney
- Oct. 10 FWBG Fall Plant Sale 9 am - 2 pm
- Oct. 10 FWBG class - Monarch Waystation 9 a- 12n
- Oct. 11 Garden Conservancy Flower Tour
- Oct. 14 BRIT Brown Bag Botany TBA
- Oct. 14 TCMGA Field Trip - Granbury
- Oct. 16-17 MG Specialist Training Vegetable Gardens  
Georgetown
- Oct. 17-18 RoseDango, McKinney/Farmer's Branch
- Oct. 17 EarthKind Rose Symposium, Victoria
- Oct. 24-26 FWBG Fall Festival Japanese Garden
- Oct. 24 Rose Seminar, Parker County Extension
- Oct. 26 Heritage Elementary workday
- Oct. 27 BRIT class - Poisonous & Healing Plants
- Oct. 28-30 MG Specialist Training Greenhouse  
Mgt - Tarrant Co. Fort Worth
- Oct. 30 Demo Garden Bulbs, Travis Co. MG
- Oct. 31 Clark Garden BOOtanical
- Oct. 31 FWBG - Nature Photography 9-11 am

Steve Chaney—For up-to-the-minute  
TCMGA news visit: [www.tcmga.org](http://www.tcmga.org)



More state news:  
[www.texasmastergardeners.com](http://www.texasmastergardeners.com)