



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

The Post Oak's Role

by Melinda Adams, Forester, City of Fort Worth

The Post Oak, *Quercus stellata*, got its name from early settlers who commonly used the decay resistant wood for fence posts.

Post Oak takes several forms throughout its range but the tree we are most familiar with is an upright majestic shade tree. Its twisted and gnarled branches make it one of the most prominent deciduous trees in the winter landscape. Post oak leaves are five lobed and somewhat resemble a crucifix. They are among the last trees to leaf out in the spring and one of the earliest to stop growing, which contribute to their slow growth rate. The average Post Oak takes more than ten years to grow 2" in trunk diameter. However, it becomes a dominant species on poor sites due to its drought resistance.



The Cross Timbers consists of upland forests of drought resistant, slow growing trees that cut through sections of the prairie from Central Texas, Oklahoma and southern Kansas. Fort Worth is flanked with the Eastern and the Western Cross Timbers. The drought resistant Post Oak is a dominant species in both, but in the more arid sandier Western Cross Timbers they are closer together, smaller and slower growing.

The University of Arkansas Tree-Ring Laboratory has been conducting research in the Cross Timbers for over twenty years. They have found thousands of post oaks between 200 and 400 years old in all three states. The oldest are usually found on sandy soils or steep rocky terrain. The height of the Post Oak is rarely over 100', or greater than 48" in diameter; the largest recorded post oak is 105' tall and 5' in diameter. However, in its extreme southern range it often takes the form of a small tree seldom taller than 40 feet. The oldest Post Oak documented in the cross timbers is over 400 years old, but is only 20 feet tall.

The gently rolling native grasses of the Fort Worth Prairie once stood between the two Cross Timbers. Settlers wrote of stark transitions from the prairies to the forests, describing them as "walls of woods". Post Oaks invaded the Fort Worth Prairie about the same time we did. Through the suppression of fire, agriculture, and ranching, the abrupt transition has been blurred by an invasion of woody species into the grassland. Many groups of Post Oaks and Black Jack Oaks grow in Fort Worth where there was once only prairie or sa-

(Post Oak Continued on page 7)

MGs in ACTION

Photos by Gay Larson

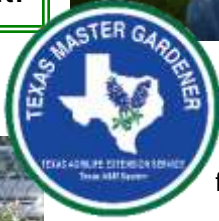


Photos by Gay Larson

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.



Photos from UGM
Far Left Top: Youth group from Atlanta helps mulch and weed.
Above: Carolyn battles nutsedge
Left: Ben gathers tomatoes from the garden



Right: WOW! Now that's a bad case of blossom-end rot at CG from too little or too much water.



Photos by Marilyn Sallie

"Three Sisters" planting at the Community Garden corn, beans, squash



Photo by Sue Ellen Schlitzer

Project Chair of the Resource Connection Community Garden, Pat Higgins, caught in a rare moment of actually sitting down to enjoy a moment with Nan Garvin.

LEADERSHIP

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TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>
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Project Profile: Little Hands on the Farm

by Eleanor Tuck, Project Chair

**Note: At press time (Aug. 13th) the fate of LHOFF was uncertain
Watch for more info next month**

Having been involved in Little Hands on the Farm since its inception, I want to share the history and statistics of our involvement. As one of the several volunteer entities, we can be very proud of our Tarrant County Master Gardener Association for consistently being there and adding to the educational enjoyment of so many children.

We first learned of Little Hands during our annual State Master Gardener Meeting in Wichita Falls, Texas. Sondra Wallace, Coordinator of Little Hands presented the idea and concept as being: to guide and encourage parents to teach their children about farming and other aspects of our food and clothing sources. Each child would be required to have a parent or guardian with them to enter so that the parents would be involved—we would be teaching not babysitting.

Sondra first saw a Little Hand at the State Fair in Indiana and began to convince the State Fair of Texas to buy the franchise. It took her nearly two years, but she accomplished the task. She gave extra emphasis to the idea of utilizing volunteers to staff the barns and overall program. Sondra felt that the enthusiasm of volunteers would further the idea of the children having fun while broadening their horizons.

Our LHOFF looked very different in that we had not only natural landscaping but then we added much plant life. Of course, TCMGA's big share of the site would be the children's garden, originally a pizza garden theme designed by Mary Alice Renner. Initially, our Agent, Dotty Woodson, procured plants for us from nurseries, we "up-potted" them from 4" to quart and gallon sizes and hauled them to Dallas to be buried in mulch. Vera Beck made our scarecrow and Rosemarie Mercado painted many of the original signs for the garden.

As our Association grew and developed skills, many of the plants were grown either in MGs' homes or at the Community Demonstration Garden. This year, all of the plants needed have been propagated and nurtured to almost maturity, only to learn of our dissolved relationship with Sondra Wallace and the Fair. **BREAKING NEWS:** At press time we received word that we would be doing LHOFF again, as usual, under new fair leadership. Plans to disperse the plants and arbors, first built by Frank Durda and Mary Alice's husband, have been cancelled for now.

The Opening Day in 2002 was our first assignment and soon Sondra was calling on us for subsequent days throughout the course of the Fair. Of course, other groups who share the philosophy of volunteering to help children learn were involved: 4-H, FFA and Master Gardener Associations from other cities. These

(LHOFF Continued on page 7)





President's Message

September 2009

Fellow MGs – how time flies! Can you believe that there are ONLY two membership meetings left (Sept - Oct) for recertification this year?

Although our TCMGA fiscal year runs Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, our 're-certification year is Nov. 1 - Oct. 31 (refer to page 37 in the current directory). These dates are set to facilitate recertification which is based on completion of 34 certifiable hours, attendance of a minimum of three monthly membership meetings and payment of annual dues, all completed and turned in by October 31st. (refer to page 36 in the current directory.)

King-size kudos to the majority that have already completed the certified hours and meetings requirements *and have turned in your time sheets*. You need now only pay dues at the appropriate time, and, *voilà!*, you are 'recertified' another year.

If you have completed your hours and meetings but not turned in your timesheets, please, please do so as soon as possible. It is simply not fair to our volunteer timekeepers to hold onto these. (If you have an extenuating circumstance, please know that we all know there are exceptions.)

October 31st as a deadline helps us determine how many members we have for the next year (state dues), helps get our directory printed in early spring, and is critical to our budgeting process (the next year's budget is based on dues collected from the previous year, as normally only a small amount of funds are carried forward).

So please be current on turning in your time. It is a courtesy each of us owes to our volunteer timekeepers. It is a tough, tough job to be a timekeeper. So now, hats off to all of you wonderful volunteers who keep track of our time!

Also, there will be some really, really super nice door prizes in Sept. and Oct. for those who have turned in time by the end of the previous month.

See you all in September at the next-to-the-last membership meeting that counts for recertification.

— Susan Stanek, President

September Monthly Program



For our September 3rd meeting, we will get to enjoy the birding experiences of Steve Woodward. He is an 18 year birder and demonstrates the phrase do what you love and love what you do. Many of his earlier years were spent in specialty retailing—he has taken that expertise and joined it with his love of birding. Steve is the owner and manager of the franchise for Wild Bird Center on Hulen Street. Since he started this center, he has become the bird seed supplier for both the Ft. Worth Zoo and the Ft. Worth Nature and Refuge Center.

Join us as he shares the secrets of attracting wild birds.

9:30 AM Coffee and visit
10:00 AM Steve Woodward
11:00 AM Break & Business Meeting
12: Noon Special Specialists (see below)



SPECIALISTS

In May, 2003, Doug Welsh, Ph.D., sent out an email describing an extended educational course which would expand Master Gardener's knowledge and offer the HRT Agents an extension of their services. Doug described it "...as a hands-on, intensive multi-day training that will empower MGs with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas Cooperative Extension efforts in educational programs."

This first program was in Entomology at A&M campus for 5 days. The course was directed by Dr. John Jackman with Dr. Bart Drees support. (They are the authors of the text in our library TEXAS INSECTS) Other professors were Drs Carlos Bogran and Mike Merchant. It was a very professional presentation and experience.

There are now multiple Specialist Courses and many of you have participated. Please check your directory for the rather long list of courses and all those who have completed courses.

On September 3rd, our afternoon Speakers will be representatives from a few of these Specialists training, what their training was and how they have applied their new learning. I look forward to seeing you there to share these wonderful learning opportunities.

— ET

TCMGA Meeting Minutes August 13, 2009

The program for the morning was Landscape Management for Invasive Pest Control presented by Laura Miller, Tarrant County Extension Agent – Commercial Horticulture. After lunch and shopping at the Garage Sale, two new projects were announced.

Kay Lewis and Bernice Ramsbottom presented information on the Peter Smith Hospital Baby Meditation Garden Project.

Jackie Peel announced the Heritage Outdoor Learning Center in NE Tarrant County.

President Susan Stanek called the business meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. with 165 members present.

Treasurer Carl Trehus gave the following Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2009.

Checking Account Balance	\$ 1,308.08
Money Market Balance	20,731.48
Total Assets	\$ 22,039.56

Joyce Quam announced the Nominating Committee nominees for 2010 officers as follows:

President:	Susan Stanek
1 st Vice President:	Nancy Curl
2 nd Vice President:	Bill Vandever
Secretary:	Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Treasurer:	Pat Higgins

Members can make further nominations at the September general meeting and then the nominations will be closed. The election will be held at the October general meeting.

Nancy Curl reported that the Community Garden has some vegetable plants in 4" pots available to the membership for \$.50 each. They can be purchased after the meeting at the Community Garden greenhouse. She also announced that there will be an on-line rose sale in the fall. More information will be available later.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. and after a short lunch break members were free to shop the Annual Garage Sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Bucy, Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

The TCMGA Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officers for 2010:

President: Susan Stanek
1st Vice President: Nancy Curl
2nd Vice President: Bill Vandever
Secretary: Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Treasurer: Pat Higgins

Our organization By-Laws require that the "Nominating Committee shall notify the membership of the selections, prior to the September meeting and shall present a slate of one candidate for each office at the September general meeting." (p. 47, 2009 Directory)

The membership may make further nominations from the floor at the September general meeting, after which the President will close nominations.

Election of officers will occur at the October general meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Quam, Nominating Committee Chair

PARKING

In our July meeting, Steve C. reminded us about the procedures for parking at the Extension office. The parking is not operated by Extension--it is a contractual arrangement with the County.

Steve reminded us that when we enter the parking lot at noon or after, we are asked for a \$4.00 fee. This fee will be refunded after you go the Extension office receptionist, have your ticket validated and return to the parking attendant for the refund of your \$4.00. (The parking attendant does not usually leave until 6:00 p/m/; however, it is wise to go back and ask for reimbursement while it is on your mind!)

— Notes from ET

SuperStar MG Profile

Lance H. Jepson

Class of 2008 Extra Mile Award



In His Own Words

My first activity after graduation was being elected by my classmates to lead a class project to complete an Enabling Garden. This turned out to be a large task. The class elected officers, organized committees and held meetings monthly after the regular TCMGA meetings. We traveled to Texas A & M to increase our knowledge of the project design, sent letters to local business to secure funds and worked every Tuesday for more than 6 months to complete the irrigation system, misting system, beds, pergola and finally, filling the beds with mushroom compost and mulch. I was very grateful to my fellow class members who contributed so much to the garden. From our class, 31 members contributed to building this garden from start to finish. I was very pleased that the TCMGA gave me the Extra Mile Award for my work on this activity.

I grew up on a dairy farm in Montcalm County, Michigan, going to Lakeview High School. I graduated with a Masters of Education in Agriculture from Michigan State University and spent 4 years as a vocational agriculture instructor at both the high school and community college level focusing on field and horticulture crops in Southwest Michigan. I was appointed by the Michigan State Board of Trustees as an agriculture agent in Ionia County. I spent the next five years working with dairy, beef and crop farmers developing the TelFarm Program,

an electronic record keeping program. My wife, Mary Ann and our three children then packed our bags for the first of 19 moves over the next twenty-one years to Barbados with Peace Corps and then to Mali, Senegal, Niger, and Haiti for assignments as an Agriculture Development Officer with the Agency for International Development. For 21 years we worked in countries with around \$100 per month per person income. We had the opportunity to travel to many African Countries and saw the good and the bad but never got discouraged in assisting people with their development problems. We also spent four years in Washington DC at the Department of State working on African Programs.

After retiring to Florida, I worked as a Peace Corps Recruiter, with ACTION and the State of Florida to reduce the toxins used in schools and with Florida A & M University on International Agriculture programs in South Africa. After spending 12 years in Florida we decided that we wanted to be closer to our grandchildren and moved to Arlington, Texas. My wife saw an article in the newspaper regarding the Master Gardener program and encouraged me to apply. I graduated with the Master Gardener class of 2008. As a part of the program I have volunteered at the Trial Garden, the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and the Community Garden at the Resource Connection completing 280 hours of volunteer service in 2008 and hope to exceed that in 2009.

In addition, I am Vice President of the Arlington Men's Garden Club, a Tax Counselor with AARP and volunteer 75 hours per year with the Arlington Teen Court program. This is the first time in my life that I have not worked for a salary and am thoroughly enjoying it.

I found the Master Gardner program interesting and challenging with opportunity for personal growth. I hope that I will be able to fully participate in the program over the next few years.

.....
• It is the dedicated Master Gardeners, such as
• Lance, 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.
.....

(LHOF Continued from page 3)



groups working together offered both quality and integrity while teaching interactively with parents and their children.

From the very first day, Little Hands, which I often called it Little Paws On the Prairie, was a success—we know: Tarrant County Master Gardeners were there. Almost immediately, the Fair Safety folks brought fencing to corral the waiting line for entry. Then we realized that one family had brought their children through five (5) times!! The comments from the parents were priceless as were some from the children: the little five year-old girl assured the tractor teacher that she needed no help—after all, she has “done this for years”. And the parents recognized the fact that we were volunteers and were there for their child.

HISTORY:

2002 39 Master Gardeners worked (several for multiple times), 2 spouses, 1 G'Son and 2 sons; 470 hours worked, 122 hours traveled @ \$14.30 per hr (Texas State rate) Value = \$6,721 + \$1,744 (travel time)

2003 49 Master Gardeners worked 453.75 hours + travel 154 hours x \$14.= \$8,508.50 of the 24 days of the Fair, Tarrant MGs were represented 14 days.

2004 81 Master Gardeners (15 more than once) + 9 "behind the scenes" (up-potting from 4" pots to quart or gallon, loading the truck, etc) Worked 993.5 hours and travel 237.5 hours

2005 44 Master Gardeners + 5 family members worked 384 hours and travel time 168.5 hours

2006 64 Master Gardeners + 3 husbands Worked 429.5 hours x \$18.04= \$7,748.18 (no travel time noted, but it takes each of us about 1-1.5 hours travel.)

2007 61 Master Gardeners + 2 sons and 1 husband worked 725 hours and travel time 199 hours

2008 72 Master Gardeners worked 744 hours and travel time 226 hours.

(For these past two years, I did not keep separate stats on who worked the Fair itself and how many worked behind the scenes to propagate some of our own plants and care for them daily, load the truck, initial preparation of putting up the arbors and myriad of other tasks.)

Thanks to all of you who have helped us so faithfully for so many years.

— Eleanor Tuck

(Post Oaks Continued from page 1)

vanna. As the oaks matured, their canopies closed and shaded out native grasses reducing the fire fuel load.

Post Oak may have been well suited to survive the rigors of the Cross Timbers or an effective opportunist at invading the prairie. However, it has not fared as well in modern urban developments. Post Oak cannot tolerate root disturbance of any kind. The tree grows so slowly it is unable to heal torn and ripped roots.

Many Post Oaks die in patches without apparent cause. Dr. Dave Appel, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Texas A&M University, has conducted some interesting studies on Post Oak decline. He discovered that much had to do with the depth to hardpan. Hardpan is an underground impermeable layer that is associated with water table depth. Since Cross Timbers Post Oaks grow under arid conditions in well-drained soils, trees over shallower hardpans have water more available during prolonged droughts. Trees less than a few hundred feet away that have a deeper hardpan may not be able to survive.

Dr. Appel also found just the opposite was true in urban areas. Post Oak is one of the least tolerant species to flooding. Post Oaks over shallower hardpans will be more susceptible to over watering than those over deeper hardpans. A new water loving homeowner, a new irrigation system, or a recent change in drainage patterns can be enough to tip the scale.

Post Oak death due to over watering will have symptoms of trees with root damage. Tips of branches will die back causing an abundance of epical sprouting (sprouting of small twigs along trunk and/or major limbs). Trees with root damage often take several years to die. As the tree uses up the last of its energy reserve, death can appear sudden after a flush of growth in the spring or acorn production in the fall.

You are fortunate indeed if you have a Post Oak in your yard. Because of their slow growth rate and their difficulty surviving transplanting you will never find one at a nursery. Your tree successfully took hold in the arid grassland or cross timbers and grew slowly and steadily. A lucky few survive construction and provide an abundance of shade for you and food for urban wildlife. If you are lucky enough to have a post oak under your care, like a cactus, it will be healthier if you simply ignore it. Don't over prune it or feed it, and avoid putting flowerbeds or driveways under the canopy where you will disturb its roots. Just enjoy its beauty and its shade. When your neighbor's exotic imported trees are wilting in the hot Texas sun, you'll be as happy as your Post Oak with your reduced water and electric bill.

SEPTEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	2 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald 7p Ladies Garden	3 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING 7p NCNPSOT	4 8:30a CG Veggie	5 9a Wildscape class - Cross Timbers Preservation by Steve Chaney Composting Demo
6	7 8:30a Alice Carlson	8 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	9 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald	10 8:30a Alice Carlson	11 8:30a CG Veggie FWBG Art in the Garden MG Rainwater Specialist Train- ing - Conroe	12 9am SW Crthse FWBG Art in the Garden MG Rainwater Specialist Train- ing - Conroe
13 FWBG Art in the Garden	14 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 3p Heritage Elem. 10a Japanese Garden Docent Training	15 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	16 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Hulen Library 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	17 8:30a Alice Carlson TCMGA Board	18 8:30a CG Veggie	19 8:30a Hulen Library Iris & Daylily Sale FWBG
20	21 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	22 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage 7p Organic GC	23 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9am SW Crthse 9a BG Children's 3:15p Fitzgerald TCMGA Field Trip - Cedar Hill	24 8:30a Alice Carlson	25 8:30a CG Veggie	26
27	28 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 3p Heritage Elem. Entomology Spe- cialist, - Conroe All week	29 8a Randolmill Pk Greenhouse 8:30a BG Trial 8:30a CG Veggie 9a BG Cottage	30 8a Veterans Park 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Hulen Library 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	31 8:30a Alice Carlson		

UP-COMING EVENTS

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

- Oct. 1 **TCMGA MEETING**
 Oct. 3 Wildscape Class - Saving Water & Money by Dotty Woodson
 Oct. 5 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
 Oct. 7 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
 Oct. 10 FWBG Fall Plant Sale
 Oct. 11 Garden Conservancy Flower Tour
 Oct. 14 TCMGA Field Trip - Granbury
 Oct. 16-17 MG Specialist Training Vegetable Gardens Georgetown
 Oct. 24-26 FWBG Fall Festival Japanese Garden
 Oct. 26 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
 Oct. 28-30 MG Specialist Training Greenhouse Mgt - Tarrant Co. Fort Worth
 Nov. 4 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
 Nov. 5 **TCMGA MEETING**
 Nov. 7 Wildscape class - No Child Left Inside
 Nov. 9 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
 Nov. 26 Holiday - Thanksgiving
 Nov. 27 Holiday - Day After Thanksgiving
 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
 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

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**

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>

CEDAR HILL FIELD TRIP SEPTEMBER 23rd

The first field trip of the fall, on September 23, takes us to an area many of us never get to see – Cedar Hill. Four very different gardens welcome us, two of them belonging to Ellis County Master Gardeners.

The first garden is beautifully designed with numerous areas, one opening into another. It includes a pond, a gazebo, raised vegetable beds, the beginnings of an orchard and the ultimate potting shed that doubles as an art studio. All of this was planned and built by this very knowledgeable and creative gardener.

All you rose lovers will enjoy the next garden. It has 150 roses, mostly old garden roses, David Austin roses, Buck roses and a nice collection of miniature roses. The design is a curving free form with raised beds placed randomly through the middle of the yard – a great stroll garden.

The next stop takes you back in time to a rural setting where roses, wild flowers and native plants are allowed to grow with abandon. Two rainwater harvesting systems, totaling over 5000 gallons provide much of its irrigation.

Then we visit a seven acre property the owners describe as a work in progress with plenty of space to grow. With drainage and flood control issues, they built rock terraces and planted extensive perennial gardens that include beautiful roses and lots of native plants. Mature trees lead down to a creek. The garden is designed to enjoy in all seasons with two outdoor fireplaces and a large deck, plus two Koi ponds.

BRING A SACK LUNCH (we furnish water), and plan to eat and shop because our final stop is at Petal Pushers, a nursery that has many of those hard-to-find plants! While we are eating, you are in for a treat because Vicky Thaxton, on their staff, will talk to us, and she is great on anything horticultural.



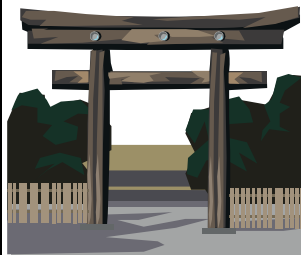
Get in on the fun and join us

There are three places to meet and CARPOOL:

- 9:00 – Leave parking lot of Linens ‘n’ Things (now closed) at Hulen and I-20.
- 9:20 – Leave Hobby Lobby parking lot at I-20 and Cooper
- 8:45 - Leave parking lot of Joanne’s Fabrics at 1250 William D. Tate in Grapevine. Take Highway 121 south. Exit at Highway 360 south and follow 360 to I-20 and turn east on I-20.

PLEASE CARPOOL and share in the gasoline expense because this tour involves quite a bit of driving. We should be back to the starting points by 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

JAPANESE GARDEN DOCENTS NEEDED



Share your love of the Japanese Garden in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden with others as a docent for garden tours. All during the year, tours are conducted for adult groups ranging from local social clubs to international visitors. Fall and spring are especially busy times for children’s groups. We have a particular need for Master Gardeners who are interested in knowing a bit about the vegetation in the garden. Docent orientation is scheduled for Monday, Sept 14 at 10 AM in the Garden Center of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden with small group demonstration tours for new docents to be conducted on an individually scheduled basis. Providing Japanese Garden tours is a certified MG activity. Sign up now by contacting Dolores Geisel by phone 817-446-4536 or email dolores.geisel@sbcglobal.net.

FALL 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

JMGs in Action

We are pleased to announce that 32 Junior Master Gardeners were certified using the Wildlife Program. They were 4th, 5th and 6th graders at Park Row Church of Christ Academy in Arlington lead by Louise Kelly-Bellew.

Louise will be leading the 4th, 5th and 6th graders starting again in the fall. They are planning on creating a Monarch Waystation that provides the butterflies a place to stop, rest and regroup during their migration to Mexico."



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: Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is responsible for recognizing the year's outstanding Master Gardeners for service and achievement. Each year we honor those who have enriched and shaped our organization through their service, leadership, and creativity. Traditionally the awards are made at the holiday luncheon in December.

Each year the awards format and the category titles change slightly. Last year those who accrued over 500 hours of service to the organization were recognized by a permanent plaque. The Intern of the Year was recognized as was the Master Gardener of the Year. Additional merit awards were given to our members who excelled in service, education, and project involvement. Dirty Glove Awards were given to an individual on each project who went above and beyond.

It is an honor to receive one of these awards, and one of our responsibilities as members to take part in the selection process. In the fall members of the Awards Committee solicit nominations from the entire membership and work with the time-keeper to determine service hours. The Awards Committee is a small one, but in reality the entire TCMGA holds a seat on this committee. We rely on nominations and suggestions from the membership. Historically it has been difficult to get our members to complete the nomination forms. Of course, we'd all rather be digging in our gardens than filling out paperwork, but it is crucial that the committee get recommendations from our members. In an organization as large as ours, no one can know everything going on in the various projects and committees.

The real work of the Awards Committee begins in August. We ask you, as members, to be thinking about the people you work with every week. You can drop me a line at any time about someone who needs to be recognized. You will definitely be hearing from us in the fall, and I hope you will take the time to fill out a nomination form. Please help us recognize those members who go that extra mile in making this a great organization!

— Sharon Chastain

Committee Profile: GARDEN RESOURCES EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

This committee, started about 8 years ago, consists of Dave Wilson and Ben Oefinger, and the entire membership of TCMGA. We ALL bring in seeds, plants, roots, cuttings, and put them on Dave's table.



Seed and Plant Exchange

Any member may then go by and pick up whatever they can use. Ben's table is for printed material - magazines, books, pamphlets, catalogues - which any member has received, read, and wishes to share. We do request that everything be GARDEN related. In addition to all this, Ben brings a mystery plant each month. Members examine the plant, write their best guess as to its identity and a drawing is held of all the correct answers. The winner gets the plant.

Every bit of these activities is FREE, FREE, FREE! We do depend on everyone to contribute to both tables. It's a great way to recycle any garden-related stuff, and we'd love to see you at the next meeting.

This is also a great question and answer area.

— Ben Oefinger



Magazine Exchange



Mystery Plant

Out and About

Just when we had decided to pronounce Last Rites over our lawns and gardens, Texas' unrelenting heat the murderous culprit, lo' and behold it rained. And not just a little, but a lot! And the temps were below 100! And in July! As with all good things, however, there is a price to pay. School project leaders report that weeds are in their glory, even more than last month, and MG volunteers are working double time to get their gardens ready for the students in September. ☼ One of Fort Worth's greatest treasures, the **FWBG Japanese Gardens**, inspires and awes us with its beauty and tranquility. **Dolores Geisel** has been named as Docent Coordinator for the Japanese Gardens and has announced that docent orientation is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Garden Center at the FWBG. If you are interested in volunteering in this spectacular setting and receiving MG certified hours as a bonus, contact Dolores at (817) 446-4536 or dolores.geisel@sbcglobal.net. Dolores tells us that the koi population has been reinstated with even more colorful and rare specimens following the devastating, accidental chlorine poisoning of the existing koi ☼ **Kate Kilmurray and Ron Schlitzer**, Rain Water Specialists, and **Sharon Chastain**, Project Leader at **Alice Carlson OLE**, are in the process of designing the site as a water harvesting demonstration garden, employing an unusual variety of collection and storage methods that can be duplicated by homeowners. All rain water specialists interested in participating in this exciting project are encouraged to contact Sharon at (817) 926-2575 ☼ What's happening where you volunteer? Give Joy a call at (817) 795-5133.

- Joy Lease

Directory Updates

Please note the following directory updates :

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

No change in telephone numbers
cell phone-817-239-9439
home-817-737-8316

New phone number for
Evaline Woodrey - 817-295-5281

Report changes or corrections to Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net or 817-294-1329

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

September Birthdays

- 1 Claire Alford
- 3 Jim Potter, Lema Worley (I)
- 5 Deirdre Pope
- 6 Kate Kilmurry
- 7 Debbie Whiteman (I)
- 8 Dinah Eivens
- 9 Sheri Stanfield
- 10 Maurine Wood
- 11 Sandra Keath, Betty Cupps (I)
- 12 Judy Sargeant, Allison Sonneberg,
Linda Hawkins (I)
- 13 Jennifer Trevino-Long
- 15 Rachel Clark, Rocky Deutscher (I)
- 16 Taddie Hamilton, John Tinsley
- 17 Mary Nell Hubbard, Elizabeth Snider
- 18 Steve Smith
- 20 Vicki Moore
- 22 L. J. Williams, Margaret Duncan
- 23 Barbara Mann, Patty Brown
- 24 Mercy Guerrero, Garrett Tucker, Jack Matthews
- 26 Lance Jepson, Nan Garvin
- 28 Danielle Page
- 30 Sally Porter, Marjie Nelson

In sympathy: Heartfelt condolences are extended to **Linda Stuard** on the death of her husband, George, on Saturday, August 1. Please keep Linda in your thoughts and prayers.
- Joy Lease

Rare flower

Have you ever seen the Sansevieria bloom? This popular house plant, also called Mother-in-Law Tongue or Snake Plant, responds to being treated badly - pot bound, drought stricken and ignored, it sends out night-blooming nectar dripping spikes of white spidery flowers that fade with the dawn.



Photo by Marilyn Sallee

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
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
313 BG Cottage Garden	Tues. 9-11:30 a.m.	Janet Riley	817-732-7837
321 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd 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:	Pat Higgins, Nancy Curl and Tom Scott		
	817-946-6278 817-319-1795 817-427-9009		
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Compost:	position open		
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:	Karen Kologe, kpk@charter.net - Fridays		817-924-6449
TCU students & Vegetable garden	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net Tues, & Fri. 8:30 a.m.		817-946-6278
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat. 2 nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-488-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 8:30 a.m. 3 rd Sat, 9:00 a.m.	Devanie Fergus Evaline Woodrey	817-861-1932 817-295-5281
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed. 9 a.m.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman 2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues. 8-11 am Randolmill Pk. Greenhouse Wed. 8-11 p.m., 2nd Sat, 8-11 a.m.	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
<u>School Gardens</u>			
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

Compost Corner at the Community Gardens By Sue Ellen Schlitzer and Ron Schlitzer

Work to resurrect the Compost Corner at the Resource Connection Community Gardens began in July, 2009. The three concrete "holding areas" overflowed with some good stuff: branches, leaves, plants, and even some compost where the materials had started to break down. There was also some not-so-good-stuff mixed in, including: diseased plants, weeds, such as nut grass and crab grass, Styrofoam, foil, plastic and stones. These latter items were separated from the compostable vegetation. Dodging HUGE flying roaches, spiders and other insects, the holding areas were emptied. The bulk vegetation was cut up with a mower and put back into two of the three concrete bins. For the time being, these two concrete bins will be used to hold compost material. The third bin has been designated as a holding bin where MGs can dump plant, vegetable and other compostable bulk materials. On work days, these materials will be cut up and added to active compost piles.



Photos by Sue Ellen Schlitzer

Raymond Pierce & Ron Schlitzer work on the composting area

Two shepherd's bins are at various stages of active composting. Workers have been watering and turning the piles, adding cotton seed meal and, thanks to Starbucks, coffee grounds. The piles are heating up (120 degrees).

Our goal is to provide compost for the CG community and have the area serve as a demonstration site of the composting process. With enough help, the goal should be attainable.

Raymond Pierce, a dedicated CG volunteer, has helped get this project started again. As you may know, our own Jim Nelson started the compost piles. Charlie Shiner was project leader for the compost area and tended it until he moved to Southlake.

We are compiling a wish list. We have a recently purchased a pitch fork and are using a borrowed thermometer to monitor the temperature of the piles.

Ron and Sue Ellen recently completed the Master Composter Training Program. We wanted to apply our new training to help get the compost area back in working condition. Whether you are an experienced composter or just curious about the process, we invite you to join us. We have designated Tuesdays as our work day.



Photos by Sue Ellen Schlitzer

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



Calendar of This Month's Events



- Sept. 2 Ladies of the Garden 7 pm
- Sept 3 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Sept. 11-13 FWBG Art in the Garden
- Sept 11-12 MG Rainwater Specialist Training - Conroe
- Sept. 12 Wildscape class - Cross Timbers Preservation
by Steve Chaney
- Sept. 14 - Docent Training for FWBG Japanese Garden
- Sept. 14 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).
- Sept 15-19 MG Specialist Training Entomology- Austin
- Sept. 19 Iris & Daylily Sale FWBG
- Sept. 23 TCMGA Field Trip - Cedar Hill Area
- Sept. 28-Oct. 2 Entomology Specialist, - Conroe
- Sept. 28 Heritage Elementary workday (new project).

Steve Chaney—For up-to-the-minute
TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org



More state news:
www.texasmastergardeners.com