



Sharecropper



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

May 2015

May
2015

Pest Profile—Sphinx Moth (Pollinator)

From 2012 Bugs and Weeds—TCMGA CD

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Sphinx Moth

Description: This caterpillar is one of the “hornworm” species, having a prominent black spine on the back end of the body. The caterpillar has a shiny black head and grows up to 3 inches long. Although body coloration and markings change as caterpillars grow, lengthwise yellow or green and black stripes become more apparent in larger caterpillars. This night-flying adult hawk moth has long, narrow gray or brown wings, which have a wingspan of about 3 inches, and robust, spindle-shaped bodies. Folks often

mistake sphinx moths for a bird, a bee or even a flying crayfish when they see their first one. The moths, like hummingbirds, use their proboscis or long tongue to probe flowers for nectar. They can even fly backward and forward like a hummingbird does. Hornworm caterpillars of the whitelined sphinx, *Hyles lineata* (Fabricius), feed on leaves of apple, azalea, chickweed, elm, evening primrose, portulaca, purslane, Virginia creeper and many other plants. Caterpillars grow up to 3 1/8 inch long, have yellowish-orange heads and their bodies are generally green with two black stripes along their sides. A black form with yellow stripes also occurs. Adult moths have a wingspread of about 3 inches, with long narrow brown and black forewings marked with white veins, borders and a broad white and stripe running cross the middle. Hind wings are dark brown with a rosy white band across the middle, and the moth's body is brown and white stripes on the head and thorax, and bands of black and white spots on the abdomen. These moths fly in daylight and evening hours, with hovering flight resembling that of hummingbirds as they sip nectar from flowers. This is one of the most commonly observed sphinx or hawk moth species.



White-lined sphinx caterpillar

Life Cycle: Winter is spent in the pupal stage, which appears naked, brown and spindle-shaped, 2 to 3 inches deep in the soil. Adult moths emerge in the spring and mate. Female catalpa sphinx moths lay clusters of up to 1,000 white eggs on catalpa tree leaves, usually in April or early May. Tiny caterpillars hatch from these eggs in about 10 to 14 days and feed together (gregariously) for the stages (instars). Caterpillars molt several times during development before they crawl down the tree trunk and pupate in the soil. Adults emerge several days later. There may be 4 to 5 generations per year in Texas.



Catalpa Sphinx caterpillar

Habitat and Food Sources(s): Caterpillars having chewing mouthparts Adults have siphoning mouths. Caterpillars feed on leaves only of catalpa trees. Caterpillars can be collected from host plants by hand-picking. They can be used live or frozen as fish bait. Adults are attracted to lights.

Pest Status, Damage: Catalpa trees are occasionally planted intentionally to produce caterpillars, sometimes called “Catawba worms” for fish bait; caterpillars, immature stages of a hawk moth feed on leaves. High numbers of caterpillars can defoliate ornamental catalpa trees, making them appear unsightly.

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Jackie Heidinger jackieheidinger@verizon.net



**Marilyn Satterfield,
TCMGA President**

President's Message

Hello Gardeners,

While on the Texas Master Gardener website (<http://txmg.org/>) I discovered they have started an Extension Master Gardener blog. The Master Gardener Coordinators from across the country will be blogging about project ideas and other topics of interest with the national Extension Master Gardener community. Through the blog, Extension Master Gardeners will be able to comment and discuss a multitude of different topics.

Another focus of the blog will be to communicate with volunteers across the nation about Master Gardener projects. With close to 100,000 Master Gardeners in this country, it will be exciting an opportunity to learn about different gardening methods and ideas from other volunteers like you and me.

The link for the blog is under newsletters on <http://txmg.org/>.

With the warmer weather and spring rains, our yards and gardens have really come alive. I hope you are taking time to smell the flowers while you are pruning, cleaning, fertilizing, mulching and all the other gardening chores that keep us so busy. Enjoy the fruits of your labor!

Until next time,

**Marilyn Satterfield
TCMGA President**



MAY GARDENING TIPS

By Steve Chaney

“The only good bug is a dead bug” is NOT a good motto. Imperative is the understanding that most insects are harmless to humans and animals, and many insects provide great benefit to the natural environment and the home landscape and garden. Insects benefit the landscape and garden in several ways:

- They pollinate flowers of many fruit and vegetable crops, as well as ornamental flowers.
- They destroy various weeds in the same way they may injure desired plants.
- They improve soil conditions by tilling and burrowing through the soil while consuming organic matter and debris; dead insects and insect dropping also serve as fertilizer.
- Perhaps most important, they serve as predators and parasites of many of our insect pests.

WATER

- Irrigation starts in earnest this month for most people, so be sure and check with your city to see what level of water restriction you're in. Yes, we have had lots of rain earlier this spring, but that only managed to bring the dangerously low levels back up a small amount. So stay focused on letting the plant tell you when to water.
- Water thoroughly every time you water. Apply 1 inch of water weekly to soak 6 inches deep in clay soils and 12 inches in a sand or prepared garden soil. Make multiple short applications (soak and cycle) of water to reach 1 inch without having water runoff down the street.

BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

- Provide water for the birds with birdbaths, fountains or bubblers. Don't forget, butterflies need water but they need some stones or something to land on and then drink.
- Plant heat tolerant, butterfly attracting plants, such as buddleia, butterfly weed, lantana, penta, salvia and verbenas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Article from Mountain Valley Growers Inc.

SALVIA OR SAGE?

Sages are hardworking, well-known, utilitarian herb plants. The many shades of culinary sage appear regularly in gourmet magazines, gracing bottles of vinegar and platters of turkey.

Say **Salvia**, though, and many times a blank stare comes your way. Or, the conversation turns from cooking to landscaping where visions of tubular red flowers hypnotic to hummingbirds take center stage.



In truth, all **SAGES** are **SALVIAS**. Over time, though, the term sage has been closely aligned with cooking or medicinal use and the term salvia has been given to the more ornamental members of this genus. Nevertheless, Salvia is the Latin name, or Genus, given to all

these plants. So, while the everyday common nickname may be **Tricolor Garden Sage**, its real name will always be **Salvia officinalis Tricolor**.

Article from:

<https://www.mountainvalleygrowers.com/salviaarticle.htm>



Fitzgerald Elementary School

By Patsy Miller



The windmill at Fitzgerald Elementary School hasn't been around very long, but it has some stories to tell.

It all began with a windmill blade that Richard Kurth uncovered in his garage. He had brought it along with his move to Texas. Always involved in renovation projects and working with wood, he knew he would put it to use sometime.

As he started volunteering regularly at Fitzgerald, he could see the need for a decorative windmill in the wildflower section. It was a basic windmill, nothing too fancy. Alas, it didn't take too much of a spring wind to knock it over and the blade to break off.

The windmill laid on its side for many months while other projects at Fitzgerald took precedence. Then Richard set about to build a better, sturdier windmill. The new version had more braces

on each side and a decorative stairway. He topped it with the plain metal blade and texted a photo to his Master Gardener friends. They quickly let him know that it was not a true Texas windmill without a replica of the Texas flag on the blade. How was this boy from Alaska to know?

So he researched and painted the red, white and blue colors of the Texas flag in their proper spaces. But as some noticed, he had omitted the Texas star on the blue block. The flag will have to remain incomplete as the blade parts interfere with adding a star.

Nevertheless, says Project Lead Leeann Rosenthal, "the windmill is a great teaching tool for the kids."

TCMGA Committee Update



MEDIA COMMITTEE - VIDEO MAKING

You too can be a YouTube video star!!

We all like a challenge in Master Gardeners but that usually means learning to grow something new or identifying a voracious bug. But opportunities to learn a new skill happen all the time in Master Gardeners. The Media Committee was asked to make educational videos which would be available to anyone via YouTube and on our website and the learning process has begun. Our director Patsy Miller fortunately has experience from her former paid job and is guiding the process. Wendy Sheets is handling the camera work and Jackie Heidinger has learned an entirely new skill: video editing.

Our first video is in the can. "How to Become a Tarrant County Master Gardener" is available on YouTube and on our website. Our latest video about the best tomato varieties for Tarrant County, with host Harold Annis, will be available soon.

Do you have a hankering to be in videos or have a topic idea? Contact Patsy Miller.



2015 Program

Upcoming 2015 Programs

June 4, 2015 Garage sale and breakout sessions-TBA

July 2, 2015

Dr. Brooke Best of BRIT

Topic- What We Have Learned from the Living Roof

August 6, 2015

Melinda Adams of the Forestry Service

Topic- Care of Trees during Drought Conditions

September 3, 2015

Dell Perry of Dallas Iris Society

Topic-Iris Types and their Cultivation

October 1, 2015

Marilyn Simmons of the Cowgirl Gardeners

Topic-Perennial Gardening

November 5, 2015

Dr. Barney Lipscomb of BRIT

Topic-Poisonous Plants

**Marianne Levine
Program Chair**



Donald R. Graves

1927 - 2015 | Obituary [Condolences](#)

Donald R. Graves, 87, went to be with his wife of 63 years, Carolyn, on Sunday, April 12, 2015. Funeral: 10 a.m. Friday at First United Methodist Church Arlington. Interment: 2 p.m. in Chapel Cemetery, Fort Worth. Don was proud to say he grew up in Fort Worth, where he graduated from TWC, worked for Sinclair Oil and Gas for 15 years and then General Dynamics/Lockheed for 25 years. He then taught at TCC for 11 years after becoming a master gardener and master composter. The volunteer hours, as well as the trees planted in neighborhood yards, parks and greenways, some anonymously, are too many to count.



May 2015

- 1 Jennifer McSpadden
- 2 Jackie Peel
- 3 Sally Lloyd
- 4 Carol Tucker
- 7 Glenn Dickerson
- 8 Joe Sanders
- 9 Joan Schmidt, Lynn Hayes, Marjorie Day
- 10 Dorothy Launius
- 11 Richard Kurth
- 12 Judy Ratzlaff, Pam Braak
- 13 Pat Higgins
- 21 Robert Craig
- 25 Susan Cullen
- 26 Gay Larson, Caryn Hutchinson
- 27 Judith Kelly, Sandy Schierling, William Winston (I)
- 29 Debby Haberly
- 31 Chris Senerote

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

If you know of anyone who is ill in the Master Gardener Association and/or deaths in their immediate family, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

Also we are in need of cards to send to our membership. If you could bring any extras you can donate, please bring them to the meetings; it would be so appreciated.

LaVonne Nowlin 817) 581-1850 or email lavonnen@sbcglobal.net.



Our Annual Garage Sale

At the June 4th MG Meeting, sign up sheets to work sale will be available during April Meeting.

Garden related donations will be needed and appreciated.

More information to follow.

Contact - Susan Houston @ 972-298-6562

2015 DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please note the following directory updates: Change the addresses, phone numbers and emails of the following Master Gardeners:

- Earl Alexander address - 1300 S. Harrison St, Room 228, Amarillo TX 79101 806-640-7286 egalex2015@gmail.com
- Linda Carver address - 1307 Eagle Bnd, Southlake TX 76092
- Lorraine Castorina address- 1909 Kingsbridge Ln.Keller TX 76262
- Henry Cole email - Henrycole0908@verizon.net
- Suzi Cook phones- 817- 249-7755 or (817)637-8783
- Donna Fry address - 1300 Keller Pkwy, #1817, Keller
- JoAnn Glenn address- 2400 Fox Rd., Millsap TX 76066
- Carolyn Gordon address - 6209 Winter Park Dr., N. Richland Hills TX 76180
- Joe McCreary address- 2501 Museum Way, Apt 522, Fort Worth TX 76107-3088
- Rachel Perlich address - 6224 Blossom Dr., Watauga TX 76148-1338
- Jerry Sorenson phone - 817-269-9916
- Avis Sorenson phone - 817-266-4374
- Melody Young address - 561 Bretts Way

Contact Steve Purdy for questions spurdy06@sbcglobal.net

WATERAMA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

May 11—13, 2015

Email blhammack@ag.tamu.edu to volunteer and let me know what size shirt you will need.

For further information, please call 817-884-1296

SOUTHLAKE GARDEN TOUR—MAY 3, 2015

Volunteers needed for the SOUTHLAKE GARDEN TOUR, Sunday May 3, 2015.....

The Perennial Garden Society of Southlake needs Master Gardener volunteers to help with the Southlake Garden Tour as docents. We will have five gardens on tour in the Southlake area and will need 4-6 volunteers per house with morning and afternoon shifts. We will have a table for sign-up at the April Master Gardener meeting, or you can contact:

Renie Stricklen rstricklen@1scom.net
Shari Worsham sworsham@verizon.net
Diana Berg dmborg1006@aol.com
<http://perennialgardensociety.org/>



Vendor Day May 7

We will have a vendors day at our May meeting. Anyone who wants to rent a table can contact.

Marilyn Satterfield,
fitchfield@yahoo.com,
817-914-6676.



TCMGA publishes first website video!

"How to Become a TC Master Gardener"
Video can be viewed at tarrantimg.org



Texas Native Plant Sale

Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter

NOTE: New sale location - this spring only

5111 W. Arkansas Lane (Redenta's Garden – go to designated area behind outdoor greenhouse), Arlington

Date: May 2, 2015

Time: 10am – 2pm

Cash, Checks, credit cards.



Save the Date August 29, 2015

“Vegetable Gardening in North Texas: Fall is a Great Time To Start”

Learn the basics of vegetable gardening in this part of Texas and why the fall is the best time to plant a garden. Topics to be covered include:

- *It Begins With the Bed*
- *Best Vegetable Varieties*
- *Insects and Diseases*
- *Vegetable Garden Alternatives*

Held in Building 2300, Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth. Off Campus Drive. 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Then move over to the Tarrant County Master Gardener Community Demonstration Garden, 1801 Circle Drive, for demonstrations and displays:

- *Vegetable Beds*
- *Composting*
- *Irrigation Systems*

and much more

Registration will begin around July 25. Cost is \$30. Look for more information on topics, fee and registration signup at www.tarrantmg.org. Or call the Master Gardener Help Desk at 817-884-1941. Lunch will be available for purchase.



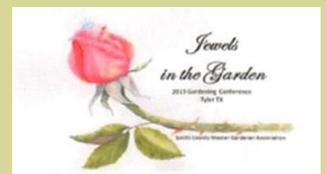
Upcoming Events

May

May 2		Smartscape Plant Sales at Home Depot – Mansfield
May 2	9 am - 3 pm	Colleyville Garden Club Plant Sale The Webb House, 100 Main Street, Colleyville, Texas
May 2		Native Plant Society Plant Sale Redenta's Garden, 5111 West Arkansas Lane, Arlington, TX
May 3		Azle Garden Tour—3 TCMGA members' gardens on tour
May 3	10 am - 4 pm	Perennial Garden Society Garden Tour
May 5		TCMGA Herb Sale for Tarrant County Employee Appreciation Day 100(E) Weatherford, on the lawn of the TC Administrative Building
May 7	9 am social 10 am meeting	TCMGA Meeting—Vendor Day! (DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR CALADIUM ORDER!)
May 7—9		MG Propagation Specialist class, Ft. Worth
May 13	9 am	FWBG Perennial Garden Guided Tour
May 14	9 am	FWBG Trial Garden Guided Tour
May 16	10 am – 4 pm	Mansfield Garden Club plant sale Mansfield Activities Center, 106 So. Wisteria Street, Mansfield
May 16		Smartscape Plant Sales at Home Depot Arlington
May 16	9 am - 3 pm	Herb Festival – FWBG Moncrief Center
May 16	9 am - 1 pm	BRIT's Prairie Days – Celebrating our Prairie Heritage
May 17	12 n - 6 pm	Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth Garden Tour. Tickets at Archie's Gardenland & CC's Touch of Nature
May 23	9 am - 12 n	TCMGA Beekeeping 101—Beekeeping for Beginners Class Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Conservation greenhouse classroom/Backyard Vegetable Garden 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd., Ft. Worth TX
May 30		Smartscape Plant Sales at Home Depot – South Freeway
May 30	9 am - 5 pm	Fort Worth Orchid Sale – FWBG

Notable Upcoming Events

June 4	9 am — social 10 am- meeting	TCMGA Meeting— GARAGE SALE!
June 6	8:30 am	Jewels in the Garden Conference Tyler Rose Garden Center 420 Rose Park Drive, Tyler, Texas 75702 More info at http://txmg.org/smith/jewels/
June 6	9 am - 3 pm	N. Texas Daylily Society Flower Show – FWBG Moncrief Center
June 7-13		National Garden Week
August 29	9 am – 1 pm 1 pm - 3 pm	TCMGA Regional Conference "Vegetable Gardening in North Texas: Fall is a Great Time to Start" 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth and 1 - 3 p.m. Community Demonstration Garden, 1801 Circle Drive



SPECIALIST TRAINING

Plant Propagation – Tarrant County
May 7, 2015

More info can be found at:
<http://tarrantmg.org> or <http://txmg.org/?s=specialist+training>

Tarrant County Master Gardeners presents

Beekeeping 101 Beekeeping for beginners



Saturday, May 23
9 am – 12 noon



3 hours CEU credit for
Master Gardeners

Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Conservation greenhouse classroom
& Backyard Vegetable Garden
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd
Fort Worth 76107



Instructor: Trip Smith

Beekeeping for beginners.
Learn how to start and keep honey bees.

Cost: \$20

Max. 25 participants

Pre-registration required online
https://TCMGA.formstack.com/forms/2015_tcmga_beekeeping_class
Or contact Billie Hammack blhammack@ag.tamu.edu 817-884-1296
Office Hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm