



**November
2015**

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**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

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

N o v e m b e r 2 0 1 5



Creating a Unique Garden

By Joyce Hallbauer, 2002 MG

Maybe your yard is small and bland or full of concrete and hardscape. Or you have a large boring yard full of flat surface and grass. Even worse is a yard with slopes and low spots. So what can one do when one wants to garden but there's no place to do it? Mini gardens could be the answer. They can break up large flat expanses, fit in small spaces, add interest on stairs, create island gardens and soften hardscape. It takes a little more imagination and resourcefulness but the reward is a very unique landscape.

Do you have straight, plain concrete walkways? Soften the harsh lines and create a pleasant, natural path with a nice, curving garden along the edge. Any solid surface can hold soil including concrete, gravel or pavers. Edging probably will be necessary for the soil to be deep enough to plant unless only moss is used to form a ground cover.

How about using old patio tables, large rocks, wagons and wheelbarrows? All are common objects that can be used at the end of a useful life. Crates, platforms of any kind; lamp tables, tree stumps and even logs can be given new life by making them into beautified focal points in your yard. They are all perfect mini garden planting areas once they are placed and prepared properly.

The easy way out is using planters atop them but if you want a challenge, try using soil and grow the garden on the surface itself. For most walkways and tables it's as easy as putting down at least four inches of potting mix with water retention granules to cover the area you want to plant. If there's



(Continued on page 2)

Create a Unique Garden —cont'd

Page 2

enough room to berm the soil, larger plants can be used otherwise stick with smaller plants. On small tables or on other surfaces, an edging of some sort will again be needed. Only your imagination limits what you use—broken glass, driftwood pieces, small rocks, etc.

If a perforated metal patio table is used, just be sure to cover it with plenty of newspaper before adding the soil.

The last question is what to plant in these mini gardens. Depending on the soil depth anything from cactus to small trees and shrubs can be planted. Four inches of soil will be plenty for moss, ferns, succulents, shallow rooted grass, hardy ground covers, and bromeliads. In nine inch soil plant herbs and vegetables, vines, leafy medium size plants with longer roots. The small trees and dwarf shrubs will grow well in 16 inches of soil. Some like Nandina, Rosemary, and Japanese maples will do just fine.

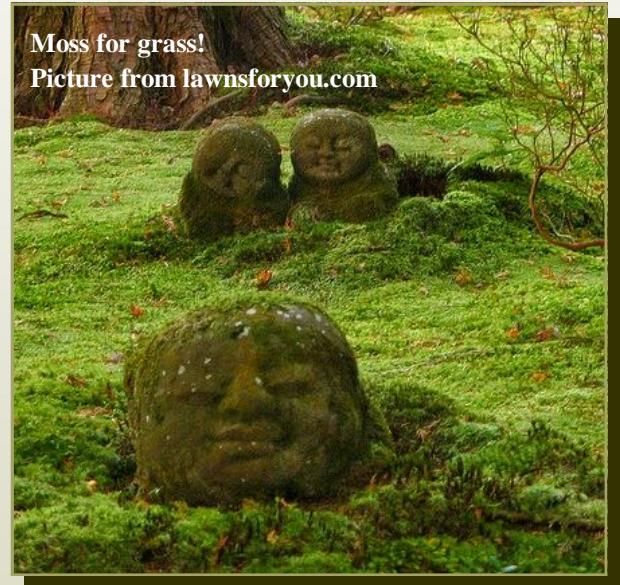
Of course, the location will help determine the plant choices—sun, shade or both; as will the wind and weather exposure. Start by planting the outer edge with small plants then place the larger ones behind them or in the center of the surface. Once

planted, water and fertilize like a potted plant. Every few weeks fertilize with diluted liquid, and water as needed to keep moist until they are established. Add a few extra elements of interest (little rocks, or really small pots) to enhance the garden and don't forget to prune plants as needed to keep them in their space as they grow.

With a lot of imagination, whole scenes can be re-created in your mini garden: sticks become fences, sand and pebbles become streams and moss looks like grass. Just let your love of nature go wild. Finally, sit back and enjoy your creation and be sure to share pictures with family and friends.



Stick Garden Fence
Picture from helpfulgardener.com



Moss for grass!
Picture from lawnsforyou.com



**Marilyn Satterfield,
TCMGA President**

President's Message

Pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere!

My favorite season of the year. The weather is cooler, the garden and flower beds are cleaned up. Plants have been dug up, divided, replanted or shared with others. The gardening chores are winding down for winter. We have made it through another Texas summer.

What a time to be thankful! I am so grateful for family, friends and all the Master Gardeners that I have had the opportunity to spend time with this year.

Each one is such a wealth of knowledge, I am constantly learning and appreciating the wisdom you share. Working and sharing as a team is what makes our Master Gardener Association the Biggest and the Bestest!

Thank each of you for all your hard work and dedication!

I look forward to an even bigger and better year in 2016!

**Marilyn Satterfield
TCMGA President**



TCMGA PROJECT FEATURE:

THISTLE HILL

By Patsy Miller, 2010 MG



Fort Worth historic home Thistle Hill is a testimony to a bygone era and Tarrant County Master Gardeners play an important part in keeping that history alive.

Located at 1509 Pennsylvania Ave on Fort Worth's near south side, the 1904 mansion was one of several large homes built by early cattle barons in an area known as Quality Hill. Nowadays it sits next to Cook Children's Hospital. Instead of horse-drawn carriages passing in front, the serenity of the majestic columned home and expanse of lawn is occasionally pierced by screaming ambulances and humming helicopters overhead.

"To me it is like being in the country," says Project Lead Sue Fair. She started volunteering in 2010 as an intern and worked her way up to project lead. MGs take care of the planted beds, some of which include 100-year-old roses. Sue has a diagram of the original beds and plantings and is trying to include as much of the original plants as she can.

The beds along the west side are not original. Sue says they were added around the early 1990s. A young girl won a contest and she used her winnings to landscape that area.



Thistle Hill, the first Fort Worth home to earn the Historic and Cultural Landmark designation in 1978 and named to the National Register for Historic Places in 1975, is a popular site for weddings and other events. Master Gardeners play an important part in keeping the grounds "picture perfect" for the many photographs that are taken in the gardens. Thistle Hill staff looks to MGs for advice on the landscaping.

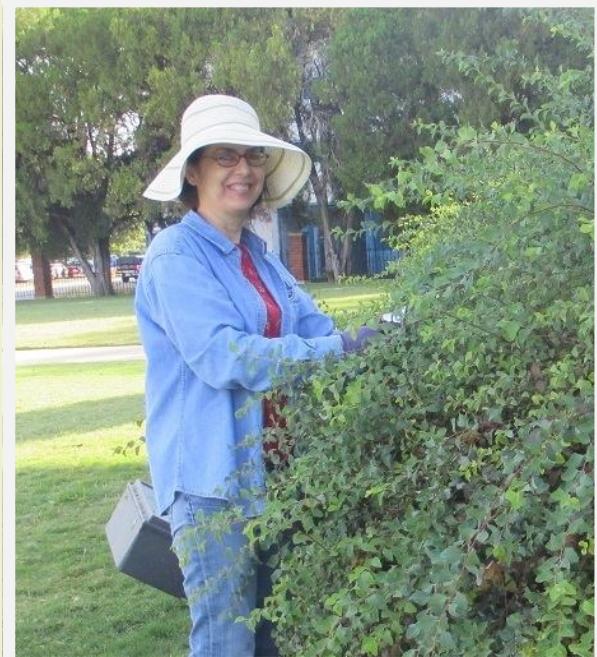


Thistle Hill—cont'd

It is not all about working in the garden. Sue and her volunteers recently made a presentation on the perennial Cashmere Bouquet to a group from Allen who was touring the mansion.

Each month the volunteers have an educational program – most recently on composting – turning their pruning into valuable compost.

Volunteers are always needed. The work day is each Wednesday, 9 a.m. –noon. Hours may vary according to the season. For more information, contact Sue Fair at lsalfair@sbcglobal.net or 817-284-7392



SCHOOL SEEDS

By Claire Alford, 2005 MG & Propagation Specialist

Isn't life great being a Tarrant County master gardener? You may have an idea how to educate the public about gardening but many times it is another master gardener or one of the projects that help you find your "spot". In 2009, at the Resource Connection Demonstration Garden hoop house, we had plants that were to be delivered to a project that fell through. While talking with Eleanor Tuck and Susan Stanek I asked if we could contact the school projects to see if they could use the tomatoes and herbs. Thus began the wonderful project of School Seeds.



That next year, Sharon Chastain, lead master gardener of Alice Carlson at the time, asked if our propagation team would help cut the cost of their buying fall vegetables. She supplied seeds and our team started, bumped them up, fertilized them, and happily helped load them in her car for transport.

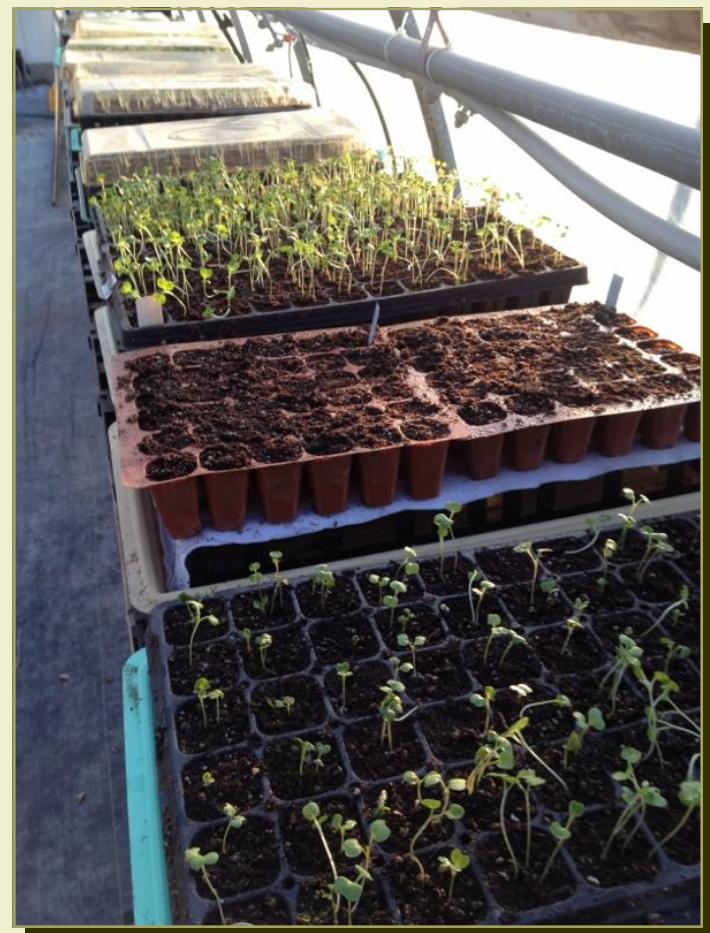


In 2011 she asked if we could start a plant for each child in the school to plant. That was about 400, four inch pots. What a project! They had plants in every bed of the school. Even around the flagpole. Students measured them even researched what insect was eating their plant and wrote thank you notes to the master gardeners about their plants.

Fitzgerald, Heritage, and Durham have participated almost every year as well as a few other projects. You see, we start seed at the greenhouse, like most of you we are there only one day a week so they don't get pampered like seeds we plant at home. We have always started more seeds than requested to account for die-off.

This allows us to offer plants to projects like Samaritan House, Lance Jepson's community garden project, Tammy's project in Arlington, Eleanor's Saturday demo, and our own community garden demonstration beds.

We start the seeds in plug trays on syphon mats. Raymond Pierce showed us how to make our syphon trays, helping us save money at the greenhouse.



School Seeds—cont'd

But once they are bumped up to four inch pots, someone must then make a trip out during the week just to check the watering cycle. Donna Morris, Pat Higgins, Pat Lovejoy, and Sue Kelley have been a few of those extra helpers. Each year we struggle with at least one pest. One year it was the soil gnats, and for two years it has been grasshoppers.



What a great project to be associated with these past six years, supplying seedlings to schools and projects. This year we supplied seven projects with a total of 780, four inch fall vegetable plants.

Our master gardeners helped sort, sterilize, fill with medium, water, bump up, fertilize, label, weed out the eaten/dead, and help load them into their prospective vehicles.

Because of so many of you stepping up to help with the seedlings we are able to offer vegetables to the North Tarrant Food Bank.

Keep your eye out next year in July for our fall school seed starting times.

Ok, I admit it was hard to find pictures with people in them, most of mine are of four inch pots!

Respectfully,
Claire Alford Tarrant Co Master Gardener



Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Trial Garden

Best Perennial Performers of 2014

From Susan Miller, Trial Garden Project Lead and 2006 MG

BED #	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	AVG. HT."	BLOOM SEASON	FLOWER COLOR	DONOR
A 3	<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie Phlox	16	Apr-Nov	pink	
A 7	<i>Salvia farinacea 'Henry Duelberg'</i>	Mealy Sage	36	Apr-Oct	blue	
A 12	<i>Sedum 'Elsie's Gold'</i>	Stonecrop	10	Jun-Nov	pink	
A 21	<i>Salvia greggii 'Pink Preference'</i>	Autumn Sage	28	Apr-Nov	pink	
A 27	<i>Phlox paniculata 'Victoria'</i>	Summer Phlox	37	Jun-Oct	pink	
A 28	<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i>	Chocolate Flower	24	Mar-Sep	yellow	
A 34	<i>Salvia greggii 'Sierra Linda'</i>	Autumn Sage	30	May-Nov	pink	
A 36	<i>Salvia microphylla 'Orange Door'</i>	Littleleaf Sage	40	May-Oct	red-orange	
A 41	<i>Salvia 'San Luis Red'</i>	Autumn Sage	50	May - Nov	red	
A 45	<i>Poliomintha longiflora</i>	Mexican Oregano	36	May-Oct	lavender	
A 70	<i>Lantana urticoides</i>	Lantana	42	May-Oct	orange and yellow	
A 72	<i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> Brakelights ®	Brakelights Red Yucca	18	May-Nov	red	
B 1	<i>Salvia 'Indigo Spires'</i>	Indigo Spires Sage	42	May-Oct	dark blue	
B 8	<i>Salvia 'May Night'</i>	Perennial Sage	15	Apr-Nov	dark blue	
B 15	<i>Lavandula x intermedia 'Grosso'</i>	Lavender	18	May-Oct	lavender	
B 20	<i>Dyschoriste linearis</i>	Snakeherb	10	May-Aug	lavender	
B 25	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Little Spire'</i>	Russian Sage	36	Jun-Oct	light blue	
B 46	<i>Helianthus 'Lorraine Sunshine'</i>	False Sunflower	23	May-Oct	yellow	
B 58	<i>Salvia 'Blue Hill'</i>	Perennial Sage	18	Apr-Nov	blue	
B 61	<i>Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus'</i>	Purple Coneflower	18	May-Oct	pink	
C 1	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian Sage	36	May-Oct	light blue	
C 3	<i>Salvia greggii 'Coral'</i>	Autumn Sage	30	Apr-Oct	coral	
C 5	<i>Salvia greggii 'Pink'</i>	Autumn Sage	32	Apr-Oct	pink	
C 7	<i>Salvia greggii 'Red'</i>	Autumn Sage	30	May-Oct	red	
C 11	<i>Salvia greggii 'White'</i>	Autumn Sage	36	Apr-Oct	white	
C 16	<i>Tetranervia scaposa</i>	Four-nerve Daisy	9	Mar-Nov	yellow	
C 19	<i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i>	Flame Acanthus	72	Jun-Oct	orange	
C 23	<i>Salvia 'Silke's Dream'</i>	Perennial Sage	42	May-Oct	red	
C 30	<i>Salvia farinacea 'Augusta Duelberg'</i>	Mealy Sage	36	Apr-Oct	white	
C 33	<i>Agastache 'Blue Fortune'</i>	Anise Hyssop	32	Jun-Oct	light blue	
C 35	<i>Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'</i>	Perennial Sage	48	Jun-Oct	blue	
C 39	<i>Hymenoxys acaulis</i>	Angelita Daisy	8	Mar-Oct	yellow	
C 46	<i>Lantana 'Dallas Red'</i>	Lantana	42	Jun-Oct	red and orange	Stegall's
D 1	<i>Salvia greggii 'Variegata'</i>	Autumn Sage	33	Apr-Oct	red	
D 3	<i>Salvia farinacea 'Victoria'</i>	Mealy Sage	30	Apr-Oct	light blue	
D 4	<i>Salvia leucantha</i>	Mexican Bush Sage	30	Jun-Nov	purple	
D 6	<i>Coreopsis verticillata 'Golden Gain'</i>	Threadleaf Coreopsis	24	May-Sep	yellow	
D 13	<i>Echinacea 'Pow Wow White'</i>	Coneflower	14	Apr-Oct	white	
D 15	<i>Salvia greggii 'Raspberry Royale'</i>	Autumn Sage	23	May-Nov	deep pink	
D 16	<i>Pavonia hastata</i>	Spearleaf Swampmallow	48	Jun-Oct	light pink with dark eye	
D 22	<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>	Rockrose	60	Jun-Oct	pink	
D 28	<i>Verbena rigida</i>	Sandpaper Verbena	18	Apr-Nov	purple	Stegall's
D 38	<i>Salvia darcyi</i>	Galeana Sage	30	May-Oct	red	
E 4	<i>Canna 'Orange Punch'</i>	Canna	48	May-Oct	orange	
E 6	<i>Cuphea hyssopifolia 'Allyson'</i>	Mexican Heather	12	Jun-Nov	lavender	
E 11	<i>Salvia x 'Red Velvet'</i>	Red Velvet Sage	32	May-Oct	red	
E 12	<i>Verbena 'Tiger Rose'</i>	Verbena	12	Apr-Nov	pink	
F 2	<i>Tradescantia pallida</i>	Purpleheart	22	May-Oct	pink (grown for foliage)	
F 4	<i>Delosperma 'Cooper's Pink'</i>	Ice Plant	6	May-Oct	pink	

Cultural Notes: The perennials are grown in full sun (6 - 8 hours) in raised beds which vary in height from 6 to 24 inches. The soil is primarily clay mixed with composted organic matter. A three-inch layer of mulch helps retain moisture and inhibit weed growth, and an automatic irrigation system provides water to the plants. Tarrant County Master Gardeners and Garden volunteers weed, prune, and otherwise maintain the plantings three times a month. They also evaluate the perennials once a month, recording detailed data on each plant's growth, performance and overall landscape appeal. At the end of the year that data is analyzed to produce this list.

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Trial Garden MG Volunteers Recording Data

From Susan Miller, Trial Garden Project Lead and 2006 MG



Linda Mitchell and Carol Norfleet



Otto Witt



Laurin McLaurin and Diane Hughes



Sandy Simmons and Betsy Booth



Carole O'Connell and Laurin McLaurin



Carol Vance and Valerie Stowe

MGs at the Carnival de Salud at the Health Dept.



MGs Eleanor Tuck and Lena Goff



Darlene Myatt, Nutrition Extension Agent at Texas AgriLife, took pictures of Lena Goff, Debby Stevenson and Eleanor Tuck showing bugs at the Carnival de Salud at the Health Department, Saturday, 10/3/15. Our MGs gave away 13 flats of herbs and veggies which came from the TCMGA Demo Garden, Backyard Vegetable Garden and from Trip Smith at Ft. Worth Botanic Garden.

Also a big hit, were hundreds of seeds brought by Melody Young, 2014 Intern! The seeds were donated by Home Depot in Mansfield.

2015 Programs

November 5, 2015

Dr. Barney Lipscomb of BRIT
Topic-Poisonous Plants



November/December 2015

11/5	Jackie Heidinger
11/6	Vera Ellen Carr, Barbara Tucker, Dick Oliverm Sandra Totty
11/8	Ruth Martin
11/11	Connie Montoya
11/12	Judie Porter
11/13	Bill Sargeant
11/15	Hester Schwarzer
11/16	Carol Norfleet
11/17	Peggy Harwood, Sue Kelley
11/18	Patti Maness
11/19	Beverly Crawford, Dianne Sterling
11/20	Nancy Craig
11/21	Anne Dyson, Barbara Lind
11/22	Warren Tingley (Over 80), LaVonne Nowlin
11/26	John Sammons
11/28	Linda Carver
11/30	Gus Guthrie
12/1	Sharon Chastain, Carole O'Connell
12/4	Claire Brown
12/5	Larry Sorenson
12/7	Memie Hardie
12/9	Earl Alexander, Connie Taylor, Mimi Mancuso
12/13	Cyndi Hill, Jim Jeter
12/15	Wendy Sheets, Hugh Lefler
12/16	Angeline Depauw, Jack Gerloff, Cindy Sims
12/18	Cynthia Bradford, Mercy Kettler
12/19	Edward Forrester
12/22	Mary Rose Schwartz, Susan Hughes, Anne Mcvey
12/23	Bryan Bruton, Rita Hottel
12/24	Claudia Cimma
12/26	Suzi Cook, Richard Dobrovolny (Over 80)
12/27	Millie Nunnallee
12/28	Wilda Turner
12/29	Joyce Quam
12/30	JoAnn Glenn, Maudia Hamilton Lavine Horton

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.



2015 TCMGA Holiday and Awards Luncheon Thursday, December 3, 2015

10:30am-Meet & Greet, 11:30 – Buffet Lunch, 12:30pm -Program

Where: Texas Star Golf Club
1400 Texas Star Parkway
Euless, Texas 76040
Cost: \$25.00 per person

**Make your reservations at the November meeting
Or mail your check to:**

Eleanor Tuck
8328 Patreota Drive
Benbrook, TX 76126

TCMGA

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NEEDED!!!!!! NEW SHARECROPPER EDITOR!

TCMGA is looking for a MG to assume the role of producing the TCMGA Sharecropper newsletter!

It is a wonderful volunteer opportunity that contributes to our organization by utilizing research, technology and word processing skills!

Writing skills are not necessary, but can be a plus!

This person will work with the TCMGA Media Committee to produce the newsletter each publication. It is definitely a team effort and a great way to earn hours!!

Working knowledge of Microsoft Publisher, or equivalent software, is required.

If you are interested in assuming this auspicious role, please contact:

Marilyn Satterfield at
fitchfield@yahoo.com

or

Jackie Heidinger at
jackieheidinger@verizon.net

ATTENTION!

THE SHARECROPPER NEWSLETTER
WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN
DECEMBER!
PUBLICATION WILL RESUME
JANUARY 2016

Tarrant County Master Gardener
Community Demonstration Garden presents

Papercrete



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



2 hours CEU credit for
Master Gardeners



Thursday, November 5
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

TCMGA Garden
Resource Connection
of Tarrant County
Circle Drive, Fort Worth 76119

Instructors: TCMGA Papercrete Girls!

Learn how to make a container using Papercrete!
Assorted container molds will be offered.

Cost: \$15

Class limit: 20

Pre-registration required online

https://TCMGA.formstack.com/forms/2015_papercrete_class

Or contact Billie Hammack bhummack@ag.tamu.edu 817-884-1296
Office Hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Membership/Background Investigation Update

We will started collecting Membership dues at the August monthly meeting. Dues are \$20. If you are over 80 years of age, the dues are \$10. You can pay in cash or by check made out to TCMGA. Dues must be paid by Oct 31, 2015.

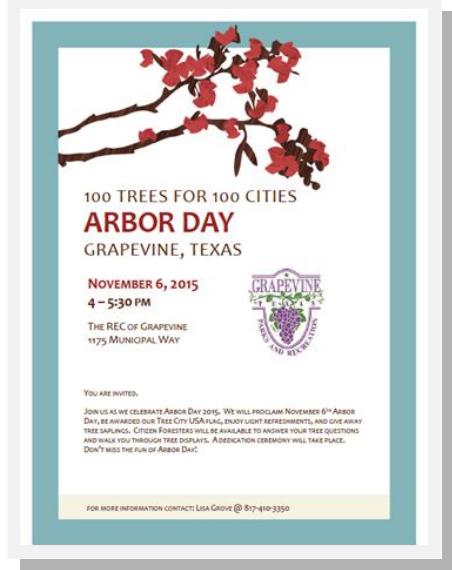
Please note that some TCMGA members will owe an additional \$10 for an update to their Background Investigation. This update is required every three years. You will be notified by e-mail if you require a Background update. If you have questions, please call Steve Purdy.

If you have changes in you address, phone number or email, please let Steve Purdy know.

Steve Purdy - Membership

Upcoming Events

November

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 | 9 am social
10 am- meeting | TCMGA Meeting
Vendor Meeting and potluck lunch! |
| 5 | 1 pm—3 pm | TCMGA Papercrete Class
To register go to
https://tcmga.formstack.com/forms/2015_papercrete_class |
| 6 | | Arbor Day  <p>The poster features a blue background with a white border. At the top is a stylized red cherry blossom branch. Below it, the text reads "100 TREES FOR 100 CITIES" and "ARBOR DAY" in large, bold letters. Underneath that is "GRAPEVINE, TEXAS". At the bottom, it says "NOVEMBER 6, 2015" and "4 - 5:30 PM" followed by the address "THE REC OF GRAPEVINE 1175 MUNICIPAL WAY". A small logo for "GRAPEVINE" with a grape cluster is on the right. A note at the bottom left says "YOU ARE INVITED" and describes the event as a tree planting ceremony with light refreshments and a dedication ceremony.</p> |
| 12 | 9 am | FWBG Trial Garden Guided Tour |

December

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | 10:30 am
Meet and Greet
11:30 am
Buffet Luncheon | TCMGA 2015 Holiday and Awards Luncheon
To make your reservation, mail your \$25 check
to Eleanor Tuck |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|