

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M System



OCTOBER
2011

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If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact

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Special Feature—Crape Myrtle Scale: New to US?

From *Insects in the City*—May 2010



Heavy infestation of *Eriococcus* on Crape Myrtle

A relatively new insect pest is troubling crape myrtle in north Texas cities and backyards. Although an official name has yet to be given, this insect is thought to be an exotic pest that has somehow found its way to north Texas.

In the genus *Eriococcus*, the scale is a type of felt or bark scale. It's closest cousin is the Azalea bark scale, but that species has never been associated with crape myrtle before. Current evidence suggests that the scale may be a migrant from Asia, *Eriococcus lagerstroemia*, which is common on the timber tree *Lagerstroemia indica* in Japan and China.

One of the first signs of an azalea bark scale infestation is a black (sooty mold) coating that appears on the bark of the trunk and on the branches of crape myrtles (see picture). Leaves and limbs may feel sticky from byproducts of the insect's feeding. The insects appear as white, waxy encrustations likely to occur anywhere on the plant, but often near pruning wounds or in branch crotches. Up close, the azalea bark scale-insect is white to gray in color. Larger female scales "bleed" a pink liquid when crushed. Careful examination may reveal dozens of pink eggs under some of the larger white scale covers.

Control recommendations for azalea bark scale are still being developed; however, our current best suggestions for control of this

(Continued on page 2)

insect include:

For heavily infested plants wash the trunk and reachable limbs with a soft brush and mild solution of dishwashing soap. This will remove many of the female scales and egg masses and make insecticide control more effective. Also, washing will remove much of the black mold that builds up on the bark on infested trees.

Horticultural oil has not yet been shown to be effective against this insect, however a winter application of dormant oil to the bark and crotches of the plants where scales shelter may be beneficial. Winter is an especially good time to treat for scales because a higher (winter) application rate can be used without damaging the plant. Thorough coverage of the tree is especially important when treating with oil.

Application of systemic insecticides as a drench applied to the root zone of plants to be protected has shown the most promise in tests to date. Imidacloprid ([Merit® or Bayer Advanced™ Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control](#)) and dinotefuran ([Greenlight Tree and Shrub Insect Control with Safari](#)) has shown best control when applied between May and July. When drenching the soil with a systemic insecticide, allow several weeks for control as the products needs time to spread throughout the plant.

To date, the crape myrtle bark scale has only been observed infesting crape myrtles in north Texas, in the north Dallas area, and more recently spreading to south Dallas and the mid-cities area. If you live outside this region and believe you have an infestation of this scale,

please let us know. Pictures or samples can be submitted through your county Extension office or you can leave a message for me through the comments section of this update.

For more general information about scale insects and their control, see [Extension publication B-6097](#), Scale insects on ornamental plants.



Photo by Kim Schofeld



Dear Gardener Friends,

We finally experienced relief with cooler temperatures as we move away from one of the hottest summers on record. Now we look forward to the return of rain as well before it is erased from our memories.

As we head into fall, our lives become busier than ever. **Deadlines are looming.** As gardeners, we want to take advantage of the best time of year for planting in our gardens while we complete MG tasks, and participate in projects and events throughout the month. It sounds impossible to do it all, but step by step, we can do it!

The **deadline** for 2011 volunteer hours is **October 31**. Complete your phone duty before the end of the month. **Volunteer hours** must be turned in to your timekeeper as soon as possible. To confirm or check how many hours you have accumulated, contact your timekeeper. They will be glad to help.

Membership dues are due. The deadline for 2012 dues is **October 31**. 4-H background checks paperwork and payment deadline is December 31. Remember, checks must be separate.

The general membership will vote for the **2012 TCMGA officers** during the **October** general meeting. The new board will be installed during the December meeting and luncheon.

The deadline to register for the **2011 International Master Gardener Conference** in West Virginia is October 1. Go to <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu> for information.

Don't forget to come to the TCMGA Demonstration Garden at the Resource Connection workday on September 24. Enjoy time with gardener friends while we provide maintenance in our garden and enjoy a cookout too!

Keep sending positive thoughts that our flowers will be blessed with rain soon! Come on Mother Nature...you can do it!

See you in the garden!

**Nancy Curl, President
Tarrant County Master Gardeners**

President Nancy Curl called the business meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. with 179 members, interns and one guest in attendance.

Steve Chaney spoke on hardscape during the morning session. For the afternoon portion of the program, Steve gave a demonstration on tool sharpening.

Executive Board Reports

Secretary, Sue Ellen Schlitzer noted a correction to the August minutes. Paragraph two, sentence three is amended to read, "President Curl welcomed invited guests in attendance from the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Master Gardeners from Ellis, Denton, Johnson Counties and Lake Granbury."

Treasurer, Pat Higgins, continues her recovery from knee surgery. In her absence, Nancy Curl read the Treasurer's Report for August, 2011.

July 31, 2011 Money Market Balance:	\$29,364.49
July 31, 2011 Checking Account	<u>2,045.93</u>
Total Account	\$31,410.42
Deposits during August, 2011	2,814.05
Checks written during August, 2011	<u>(541.71)</u>
Money Market and checking balance at August 31, 2011	<u>\$33,682.76</u>

1st Vice President, Bill Vandever's report on the next general meeting was given by Susan Stanek. The October speaker will be Chris Wiesinger, The Bulb Hunter. Chris will be available to sign copies of his books.

Way & Means Committee requests members pick up items that were ordered.

Advisory Committee Reports

Activities, Pam Braak, reminded everyone the last field trip of the year will be on Tuesday, September 20th. Attendees will visit Seville Farms in Mansfield. From Seville Farms, members will travel to Grand Prairie to visit The Summit, a state of the art community center for 55 and older, where lunch will be served. Pre-orders for lunch are being taken at today's meeting. A short presentation featuring the City of Grand Prairie's projects will be featured.

Garage Sale and Auction, Nancy Curl reported August proceeds from the following activities:

Individual Project Silent Auction Items	\$ 1,013.00
Ways and Means	\$ 60.00
General Auction	\$ 765.16
Barbeque Luncheon by Dave Wilson	\$ 708.00

Note: Monies from Individual Project Silent Auction items will be returned to the project that donated the items.

Proceeds from the general auction and BBQ lunch, as mentioned above, will be divided among 10 qualifying projects and distributed. Available funds will be available for immediate use. Money from the 2011 monthly raffles and the November BBQ lunch will be divided among the projects requesting a budget for 2012.

Another barbeque luncheon is planned for our November meeting. The date is Thursday, November 10th. **Please note the November meeting is scheduled for the second week in November.**

Hospitality team was recognized for setting up a fine dining area. A food sign up sheet is being circulated for the October meeting.

Membership, Steve Purdy is collecting dues (\$20) and 4-H background check applications (\$10). Separate checks required. Payment may be made today. Payment for dues must be received by October 31st; background check payments are due by December 31st.

Nominating Committee chair, Mike Warren introduced the 2012 officer nominees:

President:	Nancy Curl
1 st Vice President, Programs:	Claire Alford
2 nd Vice President, Ways & Means:	Linda Hawkins
Secretary:	Donna Morris
Treasurer:	Pam Braak

Mike recognized his committee members: Rocky Deutscher, JoAnn Hahn, Sally Harris and Eleanor Tuck.

A call for nominations from the floor was made. No nominations were made. Nancy announced that the nominations are open until October. Members may nominate in October; voting will take place at the October meeting.

State Directors' Meeting, JoAnn Hahn gave a brief overview of the August 6th meeting. A copy of the minutes from the meeting will be filed with this report. A copy of the minutes will be posted on the bulletin board at the October meeting.

Steve's News and Updates

Upcoming **specialist classes** are: Greenhouse Management, Vegetable and Entomology. These classes will be held in the area. Check the Sharecropper and website, www.tarrantmg.org, for more information.

Steve reported Eleanor Tuck is doing well since her recent back surgery. E.T. sent a message stating she looks forward to her return.

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Announcements

- Now to 9/23** The **Fall Rose Sale** orders are being accepted until September 23rd. Roses will be available for pick-up at the Community Garden after the October meeting.
- Now to 10/6** Orders for the **Fall Bulb Sale** are being taken today and at the October meeting. Orders will be available for pick-up at the November meeting.
- 9/15-16** A **Parliamentary Law course** is being offered.
- Sat., 9/17** **Arlington's EcoFest** can use your help to build 250 Rain Barrels with Dottie Woodson. Sign up with Ron Schlitzer at ron.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net.
- Sat., 9/17** **Euleless KidsFest**, 10 am-1:00 pm. An opportunity to teach kids how to make Plant People or Seed Heads. Sign up with Billie Hammock blhammack@ag.tamu.edu or 817-884-1962
- Sat., 9/24** **Community Garden Work Day**, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. All members are invited. Bring your tools and plan to stay for lunch. Steve will grill hamburgers.
- Sat., 9/24** **A Day in the District at the Botanic Garden** and BRIT event, with TCMGA and other local associations. All museums are FREE!
- Sat., 9/24** **Wildscape Native Plant Sale**, Randol Mill Park Greenhouse, Arlington, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Sat., 10/1** **Plant Exchange**, Watauga Public Library.
- Sat., 10/1** **Water event** in Wichita Falls.
- Sun., 10/9** **Garden Conservancy Tour** in Fort Worth. Seven gardens will be featured for the price of six. Tickets are available at www.gardenconservancy.org or Calloway Gardens. Tickets are \$25 to visit seven gardens. Tickets may also be purchased at each garden on the day of the tour. Garden hostesses are: Wendy Carlucci, Tammy Edwards, Peggy Falconer, Kay Gunn, JoAnn Hahn and Camille Thomason.
- 10/11-14** The **International Master Gardener Conference** will be in West Virginia. Registration is open until October 1st. Check the website <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu> for details.
- Anytime** Fort Worth Botanic Garden needs help hand-watering plants. Contact Larinda Smith by e-mail at L.Smith@fortworthgov.org or by phone at 817-871-7966 if you can help.

All 2011 volunteer hours must be completed and turned into your time keeper by October 31. All phone hours must be completed by October 31 also. Schedule your time today; phone schedules fill up quickly at the end of our reporting year.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Secretary

2011 LEADERSHIP

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Summary of a class on Weed Control, by Mark Renz, Assistant Professor, Agronomy, UW-Extension Weed Specialist.
Written by Marilyn Sallee

We have several ways of controlling those unwanted plants in the established lawn and garden. Understanding how these methods work and the science behind them helps to make sure we are using them effectively. So here are three good weed control methods explained at the grassroots level –er, um, basic how-and-why level.

Pre-emergent herbicides

The basic idea here is to lay down a barrier so weed seeds can't sprout in the first place. This can be done with either chemical or organic products. Dispersion of the product should be even to form the best barrier on the soil surface.

How it works: The product causes dormant seeds that germinate to die before they reach the soil surface. To work, the layer must be put down BEFORE the seed sprouts; it has no effect on growing plants. Some other points to consider – this works best only on small to medium-size seeds. Weeds with large seeds can resist the penetration of the killing agent to the seed embryo.

Timing is important with pre-emergent; it only works on un-sprouted seed.

Hand-pulling

If you are going to hand-pull weeds, it is important to know the plants and their root system before you pull. Hand pulling works best for plants with a single taproot that does not regenerate. For example, bull thistle is easily cut or broken off at the base and will not return because it can't re-grow from the tap root. Portions of the dandelion taproot can regenerate into a new plant, so it is important to get as much of the root as possible.



The worst plants to try to hand-pull are those that actually benefit from being ripped from the ground. While Bull Thistle has a tap-

root, a close look-alike, Canadian Thistle, has a perennial root system. The more you break those roots, the more plants you get. If the weed you are pulling has lots of thick, fleshy rhizomes or stolens that stay in the ground, you may be helping the plant to spread by pulling it out. Each root piece left in the ground can grow into a new plant.



Deadheading

A good way to reduce annual weeds, which die each year, is to make sure they don't make seeds at all. This works with biennials too. You can even enjoy their flowers this year if you make sure those flowers don't progress to seed pods. Some annual lawn weeds can be effectively controlled by mowing frequently when they are in bloom.

The added benefit of deadheading plants is that it saps their growth energy. A plant that is about to make seed has put all its energy into that process. Repeated deadheading makes the plant do that work again and again. Even perennials can be weakened by repeated deadheading before pulling it out of the ground.

If you are making new beds or completely re-doing an area, there are other methods, such as solarization, lasagna-layers or glyphosates to sterilize the entire patch. But for regular maintenance, try the above methods, and then mulch-mulch-mulch.

September is the time for the third, final, and *most important* fertilization of the year. Put organic fertilizer down at the rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet on lawns and all flower/shrub beds. *If you can only afford to do one fertilization a year, this is the one to do.*

If you want to use the organic version of “weed and feed,” use Corn GLUTEN Meal in your lawn areas. The latest application recommendation is to **apply CGM three times at two-week intervals** (Click [here](#) to read article in Texas Gardener magazine.) CGM is also a very good fertilizer, so if you go this route, you do not need to use additional fertilizer for your lawn (you will need organic fertilizer for your shrub/flower beds, though). Corn gluten meal goes down at the rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet, as well. Using the powder form of CGM is more effective than the granular, spreadable kind. Do not put corn gluten meal in any flower beds where you want seeds to germinate.

1. **PLANTING/TRANSPLANTING:**

Fall is THE BEST time for planting trees, shrubs, and perennials. Even though the upper part of the tree, shrub, or perennial may be dormant during the winter, the roots will continue to develop throughout the winter, and your plants will be very well established before next summer's heat inferno. Nurseries usually have great sales going on this time of year, too! Fall is also a great time to transplant shrubs and divide and transplant perennials, if needed. Make sure the soil/root ball is very moist when planting, and keep soil moist until the plant is established. If you need to transplant a tree, wait until it is completely dormant, usually January.

Before you plant or transplant anything (except trees – see instructions below), be sure to prepare the beds with lots of compost. Add the compost and till it in with a tiller or just a shovel. If you have heavy clay soil, till in expanded shale, as well.

- **Herbs and Vegetables:** Fall is a great time to plant cool-season herbs and vegetables: cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, beets, beans, spinach, leaf lettuce, radish, parsley, cilantro. Click [here](#) for complete vegetable planting guide for North Texas.
- **Wildflowers:** September/October is also time to plant wildflower seeds (Larkspur, poppies, bluebonnets, etc.) Just scratch the soil and scatter the seeds, making sure they have good soil contact. Cover with no more than ¼-inch of compost. The wildflowers will germinate this fall and winter, and will bloom in the spring. I have lots of somnifera poppy seeds to share. If you would like some, just let me know. Wildflowers need full sun (at least 6 hours)
- **Bulbs:** Plant bulbs in a hole 3 times the height of the bulb. *Daffodils, do not need pre-chilling* and can be planted anytime after October 1st and through mid-January. A few good varieties of daffodils are: Ice Fol-

lies, Carlton, and Fortune. Also try Spanish bluebells, Byzantine gladiolus, leucojum, species tulips, petticoats, fall crocus, and lycoris (red spider lilies). *Tulips, Hyacinth, and Crocus need to be pre-chilled* prior to planting. Store bulbs in the refrigerator at 45°F for 45 to 60 days; then plant in late December, early January, when soil temperatures reach 45-50°F.

- **Annuals and Containers:** It's still a little bit early for planting pansies and other winter color. If your spring/summer annuals in beds and containers are either totally fried or at least a little tired looking and you want to add a little color now, try petunias, marigolds, and garden mums. It is best to buy plants in bud, not full bloom. Wait until it is consistently cooler (75 degrees-October/ November) to plant winter color.

For late fall and/or winter annual color, plant: Pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, dusty miller, alyssum, mustard, Swiss chard, kale. From my experience, pansies, kale, and dusty miller are the only annuals that will survive a freeze if left unprotected. The other plants will need to be covered and protected if a hard freeze is expected. Pansies are susceptible to a soil-borne disease if the soil is too warm, and they can die very quickly, so be sure to wait until it cools down.

2. **WATERING:**

Most cities in our area are under mandatory water restrictions. Watering is limited to twice a week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. I have been following these restrictions before they were made mandatory because I feel this is just a prudent use of water. Twice a week watering should be sufficient for most landscapes (and even less for true xeriscaped gardens). Watering more frequently develops shallow root systems and just sets your landscape up for failure when water restrictions are enforced. The best tip I can offer in these brutal conditions is to do the "cycle and soak" method. Run all zones of your sprinkler system, wait 15 to 30 minutes, and then repeat the cycle again. This gives the first run cycle time to soak in before it runs again. This requires either a Program A and B or multiple start times on your controller.

As the temperatures start to cool down, you will not need to water as often. Once a week will be sufficient in the fall; and in the winter months, if we do not get rain for a two-week period of time, then it is time to run the sprinklers. Do not water at night, if at all possible. Dark, cool, and wet = fungus! It is best to water early morning. Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deeper root development.

3. **MULCHING:**

Mulch, mulch, mulch!!! Mulching all bare soil conserves moisture, helps moderate soil temps, and helps keep the weeds to a minimum. I prefer native cedar mulch, but any mulch is better than nothing. Please don't skimp on mulching; it is so important. Be careful that you don't mulch up around the trunks of trees or shrubs.

4. MOWING:

Until the grass goes dormant, continue to mow regularly, cutting no more than one-third of the grass height per mowing.

As it cools down this fall you may see fungal problems appearing in your St. Augustine, spread ½ to 1-inch layer of peat moss over diseased areas. Another option is to spread a thin layer of compost over the area.

As the leaves start to fall, just mow them and leave the clippings on your lawn. If you have an abundance of leaves, you can rake them up and throw them in the compost pile. Adding cotton seed meal and some water to the pile of leaves will turn them into rich compost quickly.

5. PRUNING:

- Trees: If you need to prune your trees, winter is the best time to do that while the trees are dormant. Also, it is best to prune oak trees during winter months to avoid the spread of oak wilt disease.
- Shrubs: All major pruning of shrubs should be done in mid-February. Mark your calendars now so you remember to do major pruning in February. If you need to prune now, prune selectively and lightly. Shrubs that were hard pruned in the spring, like Burford Hollies, may be sending off erratic growth right now. Go ahead and trim that erratic growth to keep a tidy shape.

6. PERENNIALS: If you have a question about a specific perennial, just let me know. The following are just a few tips.

- Continue deadheading blooming perennials until we have a hard freeze.
- Fall is like a second spring with all of the fall blooming perennials. Some great fall blooming perennials are: Mexican Bush Sage, Fall Aster, Salvia Greggii, Chrysanthemum, Mexican Mint Marigold, Turk's Cap, Copper Canyon Daisy.
- *Purple Coneflower, Black-Eyed Susan, Shasta and Ox-eye Daisy* -- Prune spent flower stalks to the ground.
- *Salvia Greggii* – Give it a slight haircut if blooming has slowed. This is a prolific fall bloomer!! Save heavy pruning for February.
- *Salvia leucantha (Mexican Bush Sage)* – After a hard freeze, cut down to the ground, then mulch.
- *Mexican Mint Marigold* – same instructions as Mexican Bush Sage.
- *Aster oblongifolius (Fall Aster)* – You can cut to ground after a freeze, or wait until mid-February for winter texture and interest.
- *Chrysanthemums* – same instructions as Mexican

Bush Sage.

- *Salvia farinacea (mealycup sage), Russian Sage, Salvia guaranitica* – After a hard freeze, you can cut down to the ground.
- *Loosestrife and Lantana* - cut to ground after freeze
- *Daylilies* - pull browned foliage
- *Zexmenia* - after a hard freeze, cut to the ground
- *Purple Heart* - after a hard freeze, cut to the ground.
- *Canna* - right before a hard freeze, cut to the ground. You can wait till after the freeze, but stems will be mushy and messy.
- *Hardy Hibiscus* - After freeze, cut stems to the ground, then mulch.
- *Blackfoot Daisy, Calylophus, Pink Skullcap, Dianthus, 4-nerve Daisy* - No need to prune.
- *Dwarf Mexican Petunia (Katie's Ruellia)* - after a freeze, on a dry day, just stomp on them and break the stems off at the ground and remove browned foliage.
- *Ornamental grasses* - After a hard freeze, the grasses will turn tan, but just leave them alone until February. The grasses add texture and interest in your garden during the winter.
- *Columbine* - They should start putting on new growth as the weather turns cooler. They will be evergreen through the winter and will bloom in the spring.
- *Powis Castle Artemisia* - Wait until February to cut it back.
- *Datura* - Cut to ground after hard freeze.
- *Ferns* - Holly Ferns and Autumn Ferns are evergreen – don't cut back. Wood Ferns and Japanese Painted Ferns will turn brown after a freeze. Cut them to the ground and mulch.
- *Summer Phlox* - After freeze, cut to ground.
- *Hydrangeas* - Do not prune. The only time to prune is immediately after they finish blooming. Pruning now or in the spring will sacrifice next year's bloom.
- *Roses* - BEFORE mid-September cut shrub roses back by about a third, then fertilize and mulch. They will put on new growth and will bloom again in October. This must be done late August or early September. Do not wait until late September to do this.

QUESTIONS? Please email me at: signaturegardens@verizon.net

Happy Gardening this fall :-) We survived the Summer of 2011 !!

For more details and additional gardening tips, please go to the TCMGA website, tarrantmg.org or to Toni's blogsite, signaturegardens.blogspot.com

Cool breezes will be here before we know it!. October is a great time to get bulbs in the ground for spectacular color in the spring.

The 10 bulbs offered in the 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.

The graphic below provides a list of the bulbs offered at this years bulb sale. The bulb order form is online at <http://tarrantmg.org> and can be sent in to the Extension Office. Bulbs can also be ordered at the September and October monthly meetings. The deadline for ordering is Thursday, October 6, 2011. All orders must be pre-paid. Orders can be picked up at the November 10th meeting.

Questions? Call Jeanie Browning 817-478-2006.

— Jeanie Browning

2011 Tarrant County Master Gardener Bulb Sale				
 <p>Narcissi Geranium (Tazetta) 12"-24" inches tall Showy southern heirloom perennial with white perianth and bright scarlet-orange cup. Full sun to part shade. 4 to 6 flowers per stem. Sweetly fragrant. Zones 5-9</p>	 <p>Narcissi Ericheer (Double) 12"-14" inches tall Double white blossoms with light yellow flecks. 15-20 florets per stem. Great naturalizer. Very fragrant. Zones 3-8</p>	 <p>Narcissi Tahiti (Double) 14"-16" inches tall Very showy award winning with soft yellow perianth and double cup with orange center. 14"-16" Zones 3-8</p>	 <p>Narcissi Falconet (Tazetta) 12"-14" inches tall Bold beauty has yellow perianth with orange cup. 4-8 florets per stem. Fragrant. Ideal for Southern gardens. Zones 5-9</p>	 <p>Muscari armeniacum Grape Hyacinth 4"-6" inches tall Circa 1878 Native to Turkey Naturalizes. This original Blue Grape Hyacinth is bright cobalt blue. Normally deer proof. Zones 5-8</p>
 <p>Ipheion uniflorum Wisley Blue Star Flower 3"-6" inches tall Circa 1836 sweetly scented Naturalizing star-shaped flowers are deep blue. Plant 4" apart 4" deep Blooms early to late Spring Zones 5-9</p>	 <p>Dutch Iris Rosario 18"-22" tall Aster-violet standards with a pink flush and matching falls with bronze-yellow blotches Linear form Blooms late Spring Zones 5-8</p>	 <p>Dutch Iris Blue Magic 18"-22" inches tall Dutch Iris were hybridized in the early 1900's from a 16th century native Spanish variety. Deep heliotrope-blue with yellow blotches. Linear form Blooms late Spring Zones 5-8</p>	 <p>Hyacinthoides hispanica Excelsior Spanish Bluebells 12"-15" tall Very adaptable. Circa 1601. Produces 15-20 bell shaped flowers on long stems with strap-like foliage. This 1906 award winner is blue violet with darker marine-blue mid veins. Shade tolerant. Naturalizes. Zones 4-10</p>	 <p>Leucojum aestivum Summer Snow Flake 12"-15" inches tall English native circa 1759 Bell shaped white flower with green tips. Strappy grass-like foliage. Hardy naturalizer. Zones 4-9</p>



TCMGA September Meeting Speaker

Our speaker for October will be Chris Wiesinger, “The Bulb Hunter”. Chris will speak in the morning and afternoon. Chris will bring copies of his new book, Heirloom Bulbs for Today, and will be happy to autograph them. The cost will be \$34.

“Mr. Wiesinger makes a living finding pretty things in ravaged places. In 2004 he started the Southern Bulb Company with the aim of reintroducing flowers long out of vogue, committing himself exclusively to those that have ably asserted themselves against the particular cruelties of exceedingly hot weather for decades, even centuries.”

NY Times Feature Article, July, 6 2006

Since the New York Times story of his life as a bulb collector and farmer, Chris has been known nationally as “The Bulb Hunter.”

What started as a personal passion and college project turned into a lifestyle and profitable business. In addition to running his business, he has gained attention for his motivational, educational and entertaining speeches on the challenges of small business life and the passion of reclaiming heirloom flower bulbs that had once fallen out of fashion and

Help Support The Raffle!

If you are like me you have another chance!

Please bring items for the October Raffle. Our Projects need your support!

All proceeds go to the Projects!

**Susan Stanek
Raffle Committee**

TCMGA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

In a beautiful setting!

Thursday, December 1, 2011

10:30a—Coffee, 11:30a—Lunch, 12:30p Program Starts

Where: Diamond Oaks Country Club

5821 Diamond Oaks Drive

Haltom City 817-834-6261

Cost: \$20 per person

Make your reservations at the

October or November meeting, deadline is November 15

Or mail your check to

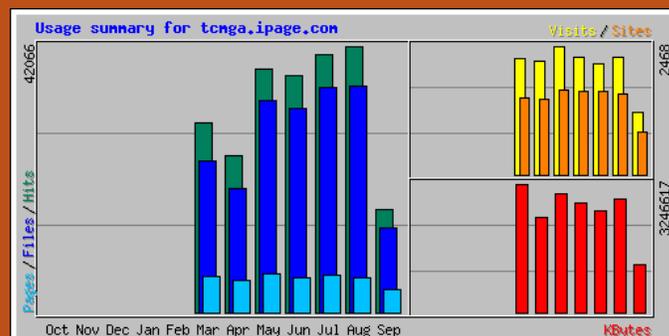
Eleanor Tuck

8328 Patreota Drive

Benbrook, TX 76126

817-244-1722

TCMGA Website Update

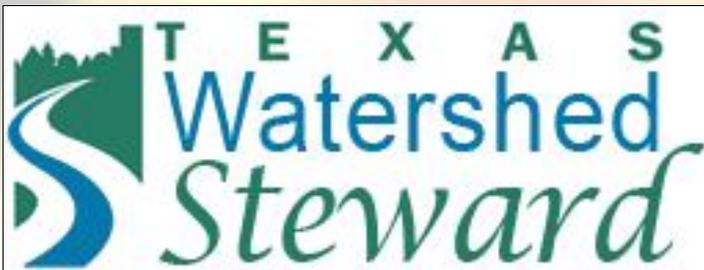


Ever wonder if the TCMGA website (www.tarrantmg.org) is being utilized by the public and TCMGA members? Each month a report is prepared to understand the number of “hits” and “visits” to the TCMG website. There are other statistics measured such as file usage, number of kilobytes and pages, etc. For now, we are focused on the “hits” and visits” to determine the web’s statistics.

The graph above shows the year-to-date usage for these measurements. Please take note that the number of “hits” for the TCMGA website is increasing with the month of August having over 42,000. The number of “visits” is over 5,200 for the month of August.

A “hit” represents the total number of requests made to the website during the given time period (month, day, hour etc..).

A “visit” occurs when some remote site makes a request for a page on the website for the first time. As long as the same site keeps making requests within a given timeout period, they will all be considered part of the same Visit. If the site makes a request to your website, and the length of time since the last request is greater than the specified timeout period (default is 30 minutes), a new Visit is started and counted, and the sequence repeats. Since only pages will trigger a visit, remotes sites that link to graphic and other non- page URLs will not be counted in the visit totals, reducing the number of false visits.



AgriLife Extension will host a pair of day long workshops of the Texas Watershed Steward Program:

Wednesday, November 9th, 2011.

Dallas AgriLife Research and Extension Center (17360 Coit Road Dallas, Texas 75252).

Thursday, November 10th, 2011.

Cedar Valley College (3030 North Dallas Avenue, Lancaster, Texas 75134).

The Texas Watershed Stewards is a one-day workshop offered free of charge. To register, visit <http://tws.tamu.edu>. Please see the attached fact sheet for more information about the Texas Watershed Steward Program.

2011 Volunteer Hours Report

Unfortunately, due to a system problem, the timekeeping report that shows the hours a member has submitted for this year is currently not available.

The problem is being investigated. Once the problem is resolved, the report will be posted to the TCMGA website for your review.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GARDENERS!

October Birthdays

1 Nancy Searl
 7 Steve Chaney
 9 Jim Woodlief
 13 Gailon Hardin, Catherine Sabin
 14 Karen Simmons, Mary Jane Goad
 16 Susan Houston
 17 Dottie Bucy, Jeanie Browning
 18 Frank Durda, Donna Jobe
 19 Bill Hall, Elena Bartzat
 20 Betsy Kalina
 26 Pat Wiszneaukas
 27 Hope Porter
 28 Nancy Hunter
 30 Bill Vandever

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact **Doris Hill**, (817) 337-8484 or email artanddorishill@verizon.net.

Membership & Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your membership directory:

There are no directory updates this month.

Report any changes or corrections to Steve Purdy at spurdy06@sbcglobal.net or at 817-545-7888.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 8am Compost Demo—Veterans Park 8:30a Common NRH
2	3 8a Heritage Elem.. 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	4 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	5 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9:30a Thistle Hill 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald	6 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial TCMGA Monthly Meeting	7	8 8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—River Legacy 9am SW Crthse FTW Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale
9 Garden Conservancy Tour	10 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 	11 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day 2011 Intl MG Conference	12 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald 2011 Intl MG Conference	13 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial 2011 Intl MG Conference	14 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden 2011 Intl MG Conference	15 8:30a Common NRH
16	17 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	18 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	19 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a FW Hulen Lbry 9a Bob Jones Nature 9:30a Thistle Hill 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald	20 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	21	22 8:30a Common NRH
23	24 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	25 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	26 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Park 8:30a Common NRH 9am SW Crthse 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald Earth-Kind Specialist Training	27 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial Earth-Kind Specialist Training	28 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden Earth-Kind Specialist Training	29
30	31  Happy Halloween!					

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, September 20th – 10 a.m.
Seville Farms and lunch at The Summit

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Greenhouses



Tour poinsettias while they are in bloom



Tour the greenhouses and see the orchid collection

Activities Committee

MG Specialist Training

2011 MG Vegetable Specialist Training

September 26—28

Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Ft. Worth, TX

Registration Fee: \$235.00

Payment is due **NO LATER** than **September 22, 2011**.

Registration form can be found at http://tarrantmg.org/linked/volunteere_background_check.pdf

**International
Master Gardener
Conference 2011**



October 11-14, 2011
in Charleston, West Virginia

West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association have been granted the honor of hosting the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. Over 1,200 gardening enthusiasts, horticulturists and industry leaders will gather for this four day event. Our guests are invited to participate in pre-conference and post-conference tours of area gardens and some of West Virginia's cultural treasures. Key-note and other speakers include leading horticulture professionals from throughout the country. Lectures, workshops, and educational sessions will be offered daily during the conference.

For More Information, visit the IMGC website at <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>

Community Garden Classes

Upcoming Classes:

TBD

Contact Nancy Curl at nl_curl@yahoo.com to register.

Texas Master Volunteer Entomology Specialists



Location: Dallas County

Date: September 26-30, 2011

Full Registration: \$350.00

Daily Registration: \$25.00

Do your friends think you a little eccentric because of your interest in creeping/crawling things? The Texas [Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Program](#) may be just the thing for you. Offered annually, this year's program will be held at the Research and Extension Center in Dallas. It's a great opportunity for any Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners with a special interest in *insects* to get a week of in-depth entomology training. The training will earn you certification as a specialist through your statewide Master Volunteer program.

[Registration](#) must be completed and submitted online, but the form must also be printed and mailed in with registration, per instructions on the website.

Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Specialist Training

October 26 – 28, 2011

Johnson County – Cleburne, Texas

Registration Fee: \$175.00

[Registration Form](#) with payment is due **NO LATER** than **October 1, 2011**.

The National Earth-Kind® Specialist Training Course is designed to provide advance training and resources to Master Gardeners to certify them to be part of a state and national corps of Earth-Kind® experts and educators. To become a certified National Earth-Kind® Specialist, participants are required to attend the National Earth-Kind® Specialist training course [[Agenda](#)] to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet the service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

A large variety of native plants grown organically at the greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers including ground covers, perennials, shrubs, vines and trees

When: Saturday, September 24, 2011
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Randol Mill Park Greenhouse
1901 W Randol Mill Rd.
Arlington, TX
(The greenhouse is in the rear of the park behind the swimming pool.)



Aesculus pavia
Red Buckeye

For more details, map and pictures: www.thewildscape.org

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Events

October 8, 2011, 9:00am—2:00pm Fall Plant Sale at Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Wide assortment of trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, ground covers, perennials, vines, and spring-flowering bulbs. African violet, begonia, iris, daylily, cactus & succulent, and daffodil societies will also be selling their plants. (Maybe I should say, “Recover from the drought by buying new trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, ground covers, perennials, vines, and spring-flowering bulbs”!)

March 3—April 8, 2012: 10:00am—4:00pm Butterflies in the Garden

Thousands of live, tropical butterflies in the conservatory of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Order tickets online at www.fwbg.org.

April 21, 2012, 9:00am—2:00pm Spring Plant Sale at Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Wide assortment of annuals, perennials, citrus trees, ornamental grasses, shade plants, shrubs, trees, tropical plants, and vegetables.

Ft. Worth Garden Conservancy Tour

Sunday, October 9—Garden Conservancy Tour of six gardens.

The Garden Conservancy recognizes that exceptional gardens most often begin as private affairs, the life work of passionate, dedicated and remarkably talented gardeners and that a select number of these are capable of flourishing for generations as public gardens.

Its mission is to raise awareness of gardens as a significant piece of our cultural and environmental heritage. It provides horticultural, technical, management, and financial expertise, helping to raise awareness that often turns endangered private gardens into public treasures.

Invite family and friends to take a peek into some local, exceptional private gardens during the Garden Conservancy Fort Worth Open Days Program Garden Tour, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., October 9.

The Fort Worth Open Days Program Garden Tour, which benefits The Garden Conservancy, is held every two years and this year features seven private gardens instead of the usual six.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners will be hosts at the gardens and some locations will offer information on composting, insects, propagation and tool sharpening. There will be a signup table at the September MG meeting. Shifts are 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost of the event is \$25 for all seven gardens or \$5 per garden; children 12 and under are free. Tickets will be on sale at Calloway's Nursery locations closer to the event. The public can call The Garden Conservancy toll-free at 888-842-2442 or visit www.opendaysprogram.org for more information.

For detailed information on each garden to you can tour, please go to go to <http://tarrantmg.org/>

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call Chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 8:00 am	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Trial Garden	Thurs. 8:30-11:30am	Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net	817-261-1420
303 Community and Demo Garden Chair	Steve Chaney, s-chaney@tamu.edu		817-884-1945
Project Leads			
Community Garden, Tuesdays			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting	Ron & Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Community Vegetable Beds	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Demonstration and Enabling Beds	Kim Freeman bamagirlntx@sbcglobal.net		817-292-3775
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Lance Jepson ljepson@aol.com		817-557-6122
Enabling Garden	Frank Durda		817-292-2270
Greenhouse/Propagation	Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com		817-481-8861
Herb Garden , Tuesdays	Rita Hottel, rnhottel@att.net		817-295-2883
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard	Renee Beckum, jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		817-790-8575
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-838-7321/817-923-9250	
Plant Sales	Carol Lally & Linda Winn lallyca@sbcglobal.net, mwinnclan@aol.com	817-656-2736/817-581-4486	
Potting Shed	Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Rain Barrel Construction	Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net		817-444-2247
Rose Garden, Tuesdays	Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com		817-477-2867
304 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 am	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 am	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
304 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 am	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
304 Common Ground NRH Community Garden	Wed. & Sat 8:30a-12n	Linda Hawkins Pam Braak	817-791-4295 817-488-5665
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Fri. 8:30am	Bernice Ransbottom	817-485-6631
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden			
Docents	Call Chairman	Rachel Clark, Co-Chair Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair	817-488-003 817-481-4398
<u>Environmental Projects:</u>			
305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington 2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin Charlie Shiner	817-581-1850 817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5281
305 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat., last Wed. 9 am	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
305 Southlake Liberty Garden	Call Chairman 2nd Tues., 8-11 am	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Wed. 8-11pm, 1st Sat., 8-11 pm	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	3rd , Wednesday, 9 am	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190
<u>School Gardens:</u>			
306 Alice Carlson OLE	Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald OLE	Wed. 3:15 pm	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10am	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977



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



Important Websites to Know!



Our local TCMGA website:	http://www.tarrantmg.org/
State MG Website and TMG news:	http://www.texasmastergardeners.com
State Newsletter:	http://www.tmgnewsletter.org
Our RC Demo Garden Website:	http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123
Native Plant Society of Texas	http://txnativeplants.org
Aggie Horticulture:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
Earthkind:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind
Texas Superstars:	http://texassuperstar.com
Fort Worth Botanic Garden:	http://fwbg.org
Wildscape:	http://thewildscape.org
Urban Solution Center:	http://urbansolutioncenter.tamu.edu
Botanical Research Institute of Texas:	http://www.brit.org

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any of our meetings are encouraged to contact our office at 817.884.1945 for assistance.