



Mission Statement

To support and assist Texas Cooperative Extension by providing the community with information on horticultural practices consistent with Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations.



President's Notepad

"Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it." — author unknown

The enthusiasm of the TCMGA members is amazing. There were almost 200 members at the last meeting; that means 2/3 of our members attended. What a great show of enthusiasm and support. Now that Spring seems to be here (and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Old Man Winter is long gone) we can all begin to put our backs to the test and do some gardening in the great weather we have been having. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other early bloomers are making all of our gardens come alive with Spring colors and that really tempts us to go full speed ahead in the garden. What a great time of the year.

There are a lot of hard working, yet "low profile" people in our group that go unnoticed. A well deserved "THANK YOU" goes to all of them for what they do for TCMGA. One of those people is Dave Wilson who puts out and takes up the directional signs for the meetings, brings the ice for our lunch, mans the exchange table and cleans up what's left. He also lets all of us use his dolly to bring in and take out a number of items and other things every month, and smiling all the while he is doing it. THANK YOU Dave!!!!

Be sure to register for the STATE CONFERENCE in May and keep your fingers crossed!!!!

—Ginger Bason



April 6th Monthly TCMGA Program

Close to 200 in attendance, vendors, hotdogs, new interns and garden design ideas – could any meeting beat our March Master Gardener Day? When you see them, say "Thanks" again to **Ben Oefinger** for his inspiring presentation on Sanctuary Gardens and his yummy hot dogs and to **Jim Nelson** and his helpers for arranging all the vendor tables and selling the logo items. We may not see **Landry Lockett** for a while, but equal thanks are extended to him for challenging us to have fun with roses in our gardens.

To answer the opening question, the April meeting will equal, if not exceed, the fun and information of our last get-together. A "celeb" in regional gardening circles, **Maggie Ross McNeely**, will be our presenter for both morning and afternoon sessions. She will issue the challenge to "learn how to turn your yard into a garden with the illusion of outdoor rooms, living walls, terraced spaces, mixed borders, sculpted knots, accessible parterres and shady arbors. Wildscape gardeners, vegetable growers and flower gardeners will all be inspired by learning how to let form follow function with classical applications".

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Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - March 2, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Ginger Bason at 11:00 a.m. There were 196 members and interns in attendance. It should be noted this is the largest attendance ever for a TCMGA meeting.

President Bason welcomed members of the new intern class.

The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to state the members of the Nominating Committee had been proposed not approved.

Treasurer Rita Hottel gave the Treasurer's Report stating that the organization has \$30,296.02 in assets.

A motion was made to approve the Nominating Committee comprised of the following members: JoAnn Hahn, Judy Butler, Ben Oefinger, Susan Stanek and Tammy Edwards. The motion was approved by the membership.

The membership approved paying the additional fee of \$25 for 5 executive board members, 2 delegates and 2 alternate delegates. It is to reimburse them after they attend the State Convention at A&M in May.

Project Chairs were reminded that they would need to provide displays of their projects at the meeting in April.

Members were reminded to bring items for the garage sale next month of any garden related items. The sale will be held prior to the business meeting. Proceeds benefit the organization.

The Activities Committee has a tour planned on April 21st to the Robert Bellamy Garden and North Haven Gardens in Dallas. Lunch can be ordered. Carla Pickens is taking reservations.

Gay Larson advised that Kim Freeman and Pat Higgins were selected as Master Gardeners of the Year for the Union Gospel Mission. Gay and her husband were also acknowledged by the Union Gospel Mission for their efforts.

An announcement was made regarding a rose garden being developed in Parker County in memory of Neil Collins. Donations can be made to Gay Larson.

Steve Chaney advised of the following: EarthKind On-Line Training; The State Conference at A&M on May 3, 4, and 5 and telephone coverage was needed at the Extension in March and April.

—Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

(Continued from page 1)

Also, don't forget that April is our garage sale month, so start cleaning out the old, price it, and bring it to sell. Profits will go to TCMGA.

Finally, project chairpersons will have their exhibits displayed for the new interns as well as the rest of us who haven't visited the sites in a while.

- 8:30 Set up for garage sale
 9:00 Sign-in, coffee and shopping
 10:00 GARDENING HISTORY THROUGH
 THE CENTURIES
Maggie Ross McNeely
 11:00 Business meeting, shopping, and social
 12:00 CLASSICAL DESIGNS for the HOME
 GARDEN
Maggie Ross McNeely
 1:00 Finish shopping and cleanup

Come to learn, come to shop, and come to visit with good friends. See you April 6th!

—Joy Lease



Master Gardener Logo Items And Caladiums

The Master Gardener Logo items: T-shirts, long and short sleeve khaki and denim work shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts and other items that your ordered last month will be available at the April TCMGA meeting.

We will also have the Caladiums from the February orders.

Any questions on picking up your order?
 Contact James Nelson, 817-467-2304
 nelsonj2@swbell.net

April 21 – TCMGA Field Trip

Join us to tour the beautiful and unique garden of prominent Dallas landscape architect Robert Bellamy. His compound (as he refers to it) was featured on the 2005 Dallas Garden Conservancy Tour and has been featured on numerous TV programs such as Interiors by Design and A Gardener's Diary, as well as numerous magazines and newspapers.

His garden is comprised of four lots where he has been gardening for twenty years. His property includes a studio with a glass ceiling, an outdoor shower, fountains, fireplace, bat houses, vegetable garden and birdbaths. He uses found and unique items in ingenious ways. You will be amazed at how cleverly Mr. Bellamy has designed his garden and we are certain that you will return inspired. Check out his website at <http://www.bellamy-design.com/>

After touring Mr. Bellamy's garden, we will lunch at Northhaven Gardens. Jason's Deli will deliver box lunches to us. Money for lunches will be collected at the April meeting.

The field trip date is Friday, April 21st. We will have two departure locations: TGI Friday's at 1524 N. Collins Street in North Arlington and 4300 South Bowen Road by Cracker Barrel in South Arlington. Meet by 8:30 a.m. at each location. If anyone would like to lead a group from the Botanic Garden to either the north or south meeting location please call Carla Pickens at (817) 319-2508.

Please sign up at the April monthly meeting. Money for lunches must be collected in advance.

Questions? Contact Carla Pickens.
 (817) 319-2508

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name		Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301	BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311	Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312	Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
312	Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
313	BG Cottage Garden	Call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321	Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322	Union Gospel Mission	Every Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323	Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324	Mansfield Main St. Project	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325	Weston Gardens Docent	Call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326	Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
399	Gardening with Dotty	Last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401	Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
402	FW Nature Center	Call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403	FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 10 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404	SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405	Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406	Veterans Park-Wildscape	First Sat. 9-12 Tuesdays 9-12	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
408	TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601	Alice Carlson	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602	Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603	Brewer	Call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604	Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605	Oakhurst	Call chairman	Margaret Hare	817-763-5054
611	Children's Garden	Call chairman	Judy Sargent	817-589-0221

TCMGA 2006 ACTIVITIES

- April 21 Dallas: Robert Bellamy Garden,
Lunch and North Haven Garden
Sign up at April Meeting
- May 19 Maggie McNeely's Garden
Lunch and Tour of member gardens
in west Ft. Worth
- June 8 Dallas: Asian Community Garden
Lunch and Texas Discovery Garden
- Sept 19 Tour of member gardens in north-
east Tarrant county
Lunch at Liberty Garden
- October (TBD) Bus tour to Tyler: Rose Garden
Lunch and Blue Moon Nursery

2006 Activities Committee:

Judy Butler, Barbara Durden, Jolene Hetrick,
Carla Pickens, Susan Stanek (chair)

—Submitted by Carla Pickens

MG Directory Updates

Welcome new member: Lucurtis Williams
5125 Locke Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76107
817-877-9994 hudiroy@yahoo.com

Address change: Donna Morris
4614 Ridge North Rd.
Ft. Worth, TX 76125
817-560-7767

E-mail changes:
Pam Jewell - pjewell@uwmil.com
Susanne Mills - bmills1014@aol.com
Janice Richardson - jhigbyrich@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Searl - nancy_searl@msn.com
Sue Ann Spurlock - sueannie@sbcglobal.net
Jane Dunkelberg - janedunkelberg@charter.
net

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

- 4-1 Charlotte Berck
- 4-2 Lucy King
- 4-3 Durwood Barnes
- 4-8 Ted Ayres and Sandra Plane
- 4-9 Steve Prenger
- 4-10 Fatima Gameiro
- 4-13 Margaret Anderson
- 4-14 Susie Earnest
- 4-15 Anna Anderson
- 4-17 Debbi Luhr
- 4-20 Linda Turner
- 4-24 Raelene Darling and Debbie Bollinger
- 4-25 Mary-Sheba Graves, Berry Bock, and
Teresa White
- 4-26 JoAnn Hahn
- 4-29 Cathy Lawrence
- 4-30 LeeAnn Rosenthal

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because LaVonne Nowlin does not have it.

Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.



Garage Sale

Our annual MG garage sale will be held during the April meeting. All proceeds of the garage sale go to funding our TCMGA projects.

Price and bring those items you no longer use or think another Master Gardener would like: pots, plants, books, tools, and anything related to gardening. We will have a silent auction for items deemed to be of great quality or interest.

—Judy Butler

SANCTUARY GARDENING

"Creating a Place of Peace for Man and Beast"

by Ben Oefinger

So how much pain and agony can you take? Frustration, aggravation, irritation add up day after day. Eventually, we need to find peace, blessed peace. But where? In our own landscapes, that's where! Create a sanctuary space for yourself, regardless of the size of your lot, by incorporating the following elements into your design.

1. **Entrance** - a special place requires a special entrance so we realize things are different on the other side. We are entering a safe haven and meandering pathways beckon.
2. **Water** - Water is key, vital to ensuring that this is a safe haven for all beings. The cleansing source of life, associated with fertility and abundance, water quenches our thirst and awakens our inner child. How can you include it in your sanctuary space?
3. **Color & Light** - Sunlight and shade, along with color, create mood. Softer hues of pinks, whites, blues, purples, yellows produce a gentle, soothing effect. The healing color of green, in all its myriad shades, is the cornerstone of the sanctuary garden.

4. **Sitting** - STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! There is great comfort in being, rather than doing. Sitting still allows us to be in touch with the internal and eternal heartbeat of creation. "Sitting in your garden is a feat to be worked at with unflagging determination and single-mindedness." (Mirabel Oster)
5. **Natural Materials** - Whenever possible, use the elements of creation itself, rocks and stones, wood in all its forms, even the wind to anchor yourself to the earth. Fences, trellises, arbors, gates, benches, paths, and wind chimes are all opportunities to connect with our environment.
6. **Garden Art** - Our sanctuary space is an open canvas for the thoughtful addition of well-crafted art of all kinds. This is an opportunity to add imagination and personal creativity to our surroundings.
7. **Wildlife Habitat** - "Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace." (Albert Schweitzer) We must see ourselves not just as gardeners, but as co-creative partners with Nature, loving keepers of the web of life.

For additional ideas and greater depth, read *The Sanctuary Garden*, ISBN # 0-684-84637-3

HIDDEN GARDENS

The Hidden Gardens of Fort Worth Tour is coming up soon, and Master Gardeners are needed again this year to provide gardening expertise at each one. The five gardens are beautiful and are located in the Rivercrest and Westover Hills areas. Sponsored by Historic Fort Worth, the proceeds benefit Thistle Hill (a MG project) and the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House.

Dates: Saturday, June 10, and Sunday, June 11
 Shift Times: Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday - 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Orientation: Tuesday, May 30, 12:00 to 1:30 (the opportunity for a quick private preview of each garden)

Two Master Gardener volunteers are requested for each shift at each house for a total of 30! As you can see, we really need your help. To sign up, please contact Kay Gunn by e-mail, ledgestone@msn.com, or phone, 817-346-7261. Also a sign-up sheet will be available at the April 6th MG meeting.

—Submitted by Kay Gunn

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER STATE MEETING REPORT

The quarterly meeting of the TMGA was held February 25th, at Texas A&M. Doug Richards, our state webmaster, stated that the web site highlights the 2006 State Master Gardener Convention which is to be held at Texas A&M, May 4-6. Information about the programs, speakers, field trips, hotels, and cost is listed. You can register on-line or download a registration form that can be sent regular mail. The website address is: <http://tmgc.tamu.edu/>.

The 2007 convention will be held in Kerrville. And Abilene's MGA proposal to host the 2008 convention was accepted.

Dr. Doug Welsh, the Texas Master Gardener Coordinator, has updated the Texas Master Gardener Management Guide to include guidelines for background checks, emeritus status, and dismissal of a Master Gardener volunteer. These guidelines are located on the tamu website: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>.

Texas Master Gardener Associations have sent 119 submissions for state awards. These have been forwarded to extension agents in Arizona, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, and South Carolina for judging. Winners will be announced at the state convention.

This spring three classes will be held for Specialist Training. The state association voted to help offset the cost by reimbursing \$25.00 to Master Gardeners who take the course in 2006 and complete the certification requirements.

---Submitted by Jo Ann Hahn

BRIT LECTURER SERIES

From Jane Dunkelberg

The BRIT spring 2006 Distinguished Lecturer series *Plants that Changed the World* co-hosted by the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, the Fort Worth Garden Club, the Fort Worth Botanical Society and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a great event for our county.

The March 9 speaker (Mark Pendergrast, a

southern born Harvard graduate) kept the audience laughing as he explained to them the role coffee has and still does play in the world's economy. Our morning cup of brew is the second most valuable exported legal commodity on earth, and has dominated and molded the economies, politics and social structures of entire countries. Both the American and French revolutions were planned in coffee houses. Kings closed coffee houses not because of the bad coffee but because of the poetry written in them about the bad kings.

If this southern born Harvard grad can do this with coffee think what the director of the Munson Enology (that's grape study) Center can do for Texas's own T.V. Munson who saved the French grape thus saving the French wine industry. Where would we be without that? Please come April 6 at 7:00 P.M. at the botanical gardens.

In May the program is on CACOA, the tree of CHOCOLATE!!!

For more information contact Jane West Dunkelberg at 817-838-0639 or Janedunkelberg@charter.net

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER 2006 STATE CONFERENCE

May 4, 5, & 6, 2006—College Station, Texas

The Brazos County Master Gardener Association invites you to the State Conference at Reed Arena on the campus of Texas A&M University. Registration is open to all Texas Master Gardeners

Register Early!

Late fees must be paid on registrations postmarked after April 14. Tours and seminars are first-come, first-served. Reservations will be confirmed by email/mail.

For questions regarding registration, call Hand & Hand Conference Services at 979.324.1669 or e-mail: j-hand@cox.net

For conference details visit the Texas Master Gardener 2006 State Conference website: <http://tmgc.tamu.edu/>

---Submitted by Tammy Edwards

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-5504



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 21	Dallas: Robert Bellamy Garden, Lunch and North Haven Garden
April 8	Spring Plant Sale – FWBG
April 15	Earth-Kind Rose Symposium – FWBG
April 22	Earth-Day
April 28	Clean Air Day
April 29	Wildscape Plant Sale
May 2-5	Pizza Ranch
May 4-6	Texas Master Gardener State Conference in College Station
May 4-7	Mayfest
May 11-12	Plant Prop Specialist Class
May 20	Fort Worth Herb Society Festival
May 19	Maggie McNeely's Garden
	Lunch and Tour of member gardens in west Ft. Worth
June 8	Dallas: Asian Community Garden
	Lunch and Texas Discovery Garden
June 10-11	Hidden Gardens Tour
Sept 19	Tour of member gardens in northeast Tarrant county
	Lunch at Liberty Garden
October (TBD)	Bus tour to Tyler: Rose Garden
	Lunch and Blue Moon Nursery

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