



## 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

**"He (she) who plants a garden believes in the future." unknown**

This has to be true or why plant??? Even though our Texas weather doesn't always give our gardens what they need we continue to plant our gardens with hope and a belief in what will happen. That is true in many things we do in life and that is one of the many qualities that make a TCMGA member an extra special person. Projects are worked, meetings are attended, ideas are abundant and plans are made for months to come and TCMGA gets better and better. Fall is close at hand and we are all ready for some cooler weather, fall planting, mulching and clean-up. Maybe we will even have some time to spend in our personal gardens. There is always something new to keep us happy and busy in our gardens.

Speaking of the future: Committees are working hard on the Open Days Tour in Oct. 2007. We have commitments for four of the six gardens. The Demonstration Garden plan is developing. The first thing we need is fencing since there are lots of plant loving critters around the Resource Connection. If you know of any available fencing, please contact Dave Wilson.

—Ginger Bason



## August 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly TCMGA Program

Well, after our education in "Identification and Management of Oak Wilt in Texas" followed by landscaping tips to make our homes more resistant to wildfires, we may be sitting back, feeling pretty smart. But, hold on . . . there's more!

This time our program is from our own **Leeann Rosenthal**, a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, who has prepared an outstanding program on building a backyard habitat. **Leeann's** presentation will emphasize how we may give back to nature some of what has been taken away through good landscape management and conservation practices. She describes her talk as teaching how to "maximize the good, minimize the bad and create a beautiful landscape in the process." So, come to raise your I. Q. points even higher!

9:00 Sign-In, coffee and socializing  
 10:00 "Backyard Habitat: Landscaping for Wildlife", **Leeann Rosenthal**  
 11:00 Business meeting, lunch, socializing  
 12:00 Continue with morning topic

See you on August 3<sup>rd</sup>!

—Joy Lease



## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - July 6, 2006

The meeting was held at the Resource Connection with 136 members and interns in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Ginger Bason.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

Treasurer Rita Hottel gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report, and advised a copy was on the Bulletin Board plus she had copies for anyone who wanted one.

President Bason announced the following awards from the State Conference:

Master Gardener Association of the Year to TCMGA, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

TCMGA Liberty Garden in the Project Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Water Feature Video, Mass Media Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Fitzgerald School Learning Environment, Poster Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

20 Year History of TCMGA, Display Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Emily Ward presented a gift to Monte Swatzell to thank him for the drawings he did for the 20 Year History of TCMGA Display.

Community and Demonstration Garden at the Resource Connection: A drawing of the area to be utilized for this garden was on the bulletin board and members were invited to examine it. 400 feet of fencing will be required for this garden. Members were requested to advise Dave Wilson of any available fencing. Different types of fencing will be used.

Garden Conservancy Tour for October 2007: President Bason announced that 4 gardens have been selected so far for the Tour. A total of 6 gardens will be needed.

Phone coverage for the office is still an on-going issue. Members were requested to sign the clipboard reserving their time on the phones. Computer use is not a requirement.

Beth and Cary Hardin, previous owners of Green Mama's Garden Shop, have moved their operation to Decatur. As they had donated all the water for the Garden Conservancy Tour in 2005, thanks were in order. Members have been invited to visit their new store, Main Street Home & Garden, in Decatur.

Steve Chaney :

He advised the Extension Office will be moving on July 28 to 200 Taylor Street (the old Radio Shack Building by the Library). The parking issue is still being reviewed.

Master Gardener Level II classes start Aug. 1 and end Aug. 31. They will convene on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is in the \$100 to \$125 range.

There are still openings for the September 19<sup>th</sup> Master Gardener Intern class. The spring class orientation will be held on September 5.

Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

### THANK YOU

From Ginger



Our THANK YOU is over due to Cary and Beth Hardin, former owners of Green Mama's, for furnishing water at last years Open Days Tour.

At that time they were working hard to open their new business, Main Street Garden and Home, in Decatur, TX. Since the new location was not open at the time I wanted to wait until they opened so that we could thank them and provide the "advertisement" that was due.

The new location is well worth the short drive to Decatur.

— Ginger Bason

### MG Directory Updates

#### E-mail changes:

- Toni Moorehead - antonice@verizon.net
- Linda Stuard - lstuard@charter.net
- Joe Sanders - sanders-joe@sbcglobal.net

Send updates to Pat Lovejoy

### RAFFLE THANKS

Thank y'all for finding the new location of the Raffle Tables.



We appreciate your donations to this project and we are looking forward to seeing you in August. Bring all your stuff!

Barbara and Joyce

--by Joyce Colegrove

### FALL FERTILIZER SALES

We will be taking the fertilizer orders at the August 3 TCMGA meeting for pickup at the September 7 meeting. The fertilizer will be 28-0-0 partial slow release. This is the same fertilizer that we offered to TCMGA members this past spring. The price is tentatively \$12.00 per 50 pound bag. A firm price will be available by August 3.



Payment to TCMGA must be made at the time the order is taken. If you have any questions, or if you cannot be at the August meeting and wish to place an order, contact Jim Nelson at

nelsonj2@swbell.net or 817 688 2842.

#### From Steve Chaney

Wanted, a volunteer supervisor for the Home & Garden Shows,

Pay is low but the rewards are great!!!

Contact Steve @ (817) 884-1945

## Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code &amp; Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 Perennial Garden	7:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
312 Trial Garden Data	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
313 BG Cottage Garden	Call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	Call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs, 8:30 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues, 8-11 a.m.	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 8-11 a.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. 8-11 a.m.	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
408 TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon. or 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
606 South Davis	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 9 am	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

## Crape Myrtle Care

By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

This article appeared in the May 2002 web issue of *Horticulture Update*, edited by Dr. William C. Welch, and produced by Extension Horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas



Summer in Texas would not be complete without the abundance of crape myrtle flowers now beginning to be conspicuous over most of the state. Proper fertilization and pruning usually result in a long display of flowers of three months or more.

Fertilizer recommendations are best made after reviewing soil test results, but a general recommendation of 2 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of root area is sufficient for most trees and shrubs. This can be repeated again in the late fall. The first application should be made just before new growth begins in the spring. The number of square feet in the root area is determined by the branch spread of the tree.

The most significant disease affecting crape myrtle is powdery mildew. This can be controlled by spraying with Benomyl or Funginex, used according to label instructions. Mildew is usually less of a problem if plants are located in open sunny areas where air circulation is good.

Pruning is best done in late winter before new growth begins. The structure and trunks of crape myrtle are among their chief assets; therefore, pruning should normally involve only removing dead and twiggy growth to expose the sculptural character of the tree.



For dwarf varieties or in shrub borders where crape myrtles may be grown only for their blooms, severe pruning will help insure larger and more prolific flowers. The pruning of faded and seedy blossom heads will usually promote repeat blooming late in the summer.

For something different, try some of the dwarf type crape myrtles in tubs or pots on the terrace. They do best in sunny areas, and are as satisfactory for container use as they are in the ground.

## Creating a Butterfly Garden

By Steve Chaney

The first step to creating a butterfly garden is observation and identification. Determine what types of butterflies reside in your area or neighborhood. Observe them in your own backyard, in parks and in the gardens of others. Identifying your local butterflies can be challenging for the beginner, but several resources are available to you. Visit local libraries and book stores for field guides and attend some of the local butterfly festivals in your area to see them in person. The internet is a wonderful source of information on butterflies and butterfly gardening.

Many butterflies are residents of specific habitat types, such as deep forests, grassy prairies or mountain meadows. Consider whether your garden can imitate the habitats of the butterflies you observe locally. Butterflies also live within specific temperature ranges: temperate vs. tropical, for example. It won't do you much good to provide the ideal habitat for Zebra Longwings (a tropical species) if you live in West Texas; because West Texas simply doesn't have the proper temperature range for their survival.

Field guides will provide much information about the habitat needs of your local butterflies. It is also important to realize that some butterflies are more plentiful at certain times of the year; so, your butterfly population will probably change throughout the season. Observe the local butterflies throughout the season to learn what they feed on at different times.

The second step in creating a butterfly habitat is researching potential garden plants. Chances are you can grow the right plants if you've seen these plants flourishing in your neighborhood, but it's always a good idea to educate yourself on new plants before making large financial investments. Use caution when adding "weedy" plants like morning glories and thistles. If they are allowed to go to seed, your neighbors will not appreciate the added work they have to do to keep their gardens weed-free.

The third step in creating a butterfly habitat is design. Evaluate your current garden design, to see if there is a need to renovate and evaluate the vantage points and the desired focal points of the garden. The ideal site is un-disturbed by people and pets, yet open to your view. Learn where a particular butterfly species likes to lay their eggs, whether it is sun, dappled shade, etc., and place appropriate plants in the desired sites in your garden. Hanging baskets and other containers can also be used to create a butterfly garden in an area you might not have thought would support one, such as urban areas and small balconies in apartments. Window boxes or hanging baskets on a fence may make it easier for you to see your butterflies.

The fourth step in creating a butterfly habitat is construction. Modify your site if necessary and plant all the wonderful new plants you've decided to include in your new garden. Be aware that your butterfly garden probably isn't going to be perfect the first year. Your knowledge will change, so you may realize that you should have done some things differently. And just because the books say a given butterfly species uses a certain plant in your area doesn't mean the butterflies have read that book. They may thrive on something entirely different in your neighborhood. Watch what's happening in your garden and bear in mind that changing the garden is half the fun. Remember, a good garden is never totally finished it's always a work in progress.

Remember that after all this hard work and money, simple little things can cause everything to go haywire. First and foremost are pesticides, they can poison what you're trying to attract. If you feel you must use some form of pesticide, use it very carefully and only on the problem insect. Some organic products are just as devastating to butterflies and other beneficial insects as they are to targeted insect pests. Instead of a chemical, try the option of releasing ladybug

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beetles or other predatory beneficial insects that naturally feed upon unwanted visitors like aphids.

Remember as well to not fret over plants that have been munched upon by caterpillars. Hungry caterpillars are an unavoidable fact of life if you are going to have beautiful butterflies in your garden. It is important to remember that you can't control butterflies. You can't make them come to your garden and you can't make them stay. They are a lot like your children, you can only encourage them and hope they will. Happy butterfly gardening and remember to have FUN!



### Birthdays for this month

- 8-1 Toni Moorehead, JoAnne McClendon
- 8-2 Ashley Moncrief
- 8-3 Kitt Sukup, MiMi Lyles
- 8-4 Becky Armstrong, Ken Barham
- 8-5 Pat Durda
- 8-7 Lisa Bratton, Rich Haddaway
- 8-9 Ron Kerwin, Curtis Dickenson,  
Emie Stewart, Janice Richardson,  
and Gary Hames
- 8-10 Sue Short
- 8-11 Lynette Ledoux
- 8-15 Sandy Williams, Cindy Woelke
- 8-16 Johnna Reed, Connie Anderson
- 8-17 Fritz Kingeter, Sandy Williams
- 8-18 Julie Florence
- 8-19 Margaret Hare, Francine Babril, and  
Janice Gray
- 8-28 Patty Cravener
- 8-29 Kathy Howard.

## Activities Committee Spring Recap

The attendance of our spring tours speaks for itself! In April, Carla Pickens and Jolene Hetrick headed up a tour to Dallas to visit the gardens of Robert Bellamy, a prominent local landscape architect. Afterward, we had lunch at North Haven Gardens and shopped. 37 MGs were in attendance.



In May, Judy Butler organized a fantastic tour which began with the garden of Maggie Ross McNeely, then moved on to the Alice Carlson OLE (a MG project). We finished the afternoon with lunch in Barbara Durnan's lovely shaded backyard and then continued with home gardens on Fort Worth's west side. We had 55 MGs on this tour!

We rounded up our spring tours in June with a trip to Dallas headed up by Barbara Durnan. The heat was close to 100 degrees that day, but we still had 21 MGs brave the heat. We first toured the Asian Community Gardens and learned a lot about community gardening and Asian vegetables. We had a lot of fun touring two local grocery stores and lunch at Jimmy's Italian Grocery and Deli was excellent. We ended by having the opportunity to purchase discounted plants from the previous weekend sale at the Discovery Garden in Fair Park. You know us MGs - we NEVER miss a good plant sale!

Come join us this fall for a tour. Put these dates on your calendars: September 19 - North East home tours and Liberty Garden, October (date TBA) - bus trip to Tyler Rose Garden and Blue Moon Nursery.

Have a great summer!

—Susan Stanek MG Activities Committee

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



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## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**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**

—Steve Chaney

For up-to-the-minute TCMGA news visit: [www.tcmga.org](http://www.tcmga.org)  
More state news: [www.texasmastergardeners.com](http://www.texasmastergardeners.com)