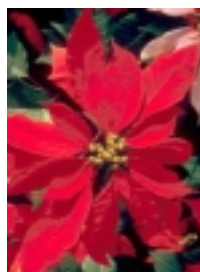




## Mission Statement

To provide horticultural and environmental research based information and techniques.  
To volunteer in area horticulture projects.



## POINSETTIAS—THE WINTER COLOR

**Winter** is the right time for festivities. The colors that are most closely associated with the Christmas holiday season are red, white and green. Some will say this is because of the red and green plants of wintertime contrasting with white snow. Early influence is thought to have evolved from our ancient nature-worshipping ancestors who decorated with holly. An Old Norse practice of burning evergreens encouraged the sun's return.

**Red** reflects our warmth and love for each other. It is also the color of greatest excitement. The holly berries, poinsettias, and spruce and fir cedar trees are winter plants traditionally used as Christmas decorations.

**Green** is the symbol for nature, youth, and life. Holly, pine trees, ivy, mistletoe are all plants closely associated with this time of the year.

**White** means purity and is represented by the crystalline form of water and the snowflake. They are available in red, pink, gold, white and variegated colors. Joel Robert Poinsett, amateur botanist and first ambassador to Mexico, first introduced the poin-

settias to the United States in 1825. He grew the plants in his plantation in Greenville, South Carolina. and gave them out as gifts to friends. There are many interesting facts, folklores, and entertaining trivia about Poinsettias.

- Aztecs called poinsettias "Cuetlaxochitl" and used them to control fevers and made a reddish dye.
- Poinsettia Day is December 12 in honor of the death of Joel Robert Poinsett in 1851.
- Poinsettias represent over 85 percent of the plant sales during the holiday season.
- Women purchase 80 percent of poinsettias.
- Ninety percent of all poinsettias are exported.
- 74 percent of Americans still prefer red.
- ..are the best selling potted plant in the United States.
- ..are commercially grown in all 50 states.
- ..are one of the longest-lasting blooming plants.
- 75 million poinsettias are produced every year in the United States, and sold within about a six-week period.

**Place your poinsettia** in a well-lit location, out of direct sunlight and drafts. Make a bottom hole in the decorative foil wrapping to allow for good drainage. Water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy.

—by Derald Freeman

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December monthly meeting will be on the second instead of the first Thursday for our annual Christmas celebration.

See page 2.

## FROM AROUND THE CORNER



### President's Notepad

We all have weaknesses, well at least everyone I know seems to have some weakness, but I'll call it a passion, that sounds better. I have a passion also and it should be no surprise that it is gardening but along with it is a "passion" for gardening books. I know people with rooms full of gardening books; I have a bookcase full myself and some are from years ago and from other English speaking countries.

Many common threads run through these books, they just use words that aren't the ones used today. Have you ever cut the tongues, pegged the layers, dis-budded, constructed a dry wall bed, used a dibber, planted half-hardy annuals, or used a carbonic emulsion as a fungicide in the summer?? All of these are things that are still done in our gardens they just have new names. One thing that seems to appear in many of the books is the idea of fall planting.

Elizabeth Lawrence writes about fall gardening in *A Southern Garden* written in 1942, and I quote "And fall is the season when there is the most work to be done. Fall, not spring, is the time to clear, renovate, start new gardens, plant seeds, set out perennials and shrubs." That is something that is regularly encouraged in our area today. So get out your dibber, construct a dry wall bed over some of that water loving turf, cut some tongues for propagating and enjoy the fall weather we have almost a winter long.

—Ginger Bason



### December 14, 2006 Monthly TCMGA Program

#### Celebrate!!

Okay, folks, it's time to get out your Santa shirts, reindeer socks, snow mittens and pom-pom hats and pretend that it's winter in Texas, even if for just a day, because we have planned a truly festive holiday celebration in honor of TCMGA's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

Our hospitality committee has been hard at work creating table decorations and special favors to mark the occasion; our activities committee is out buying all kinds of door prizes; our awards committee is checking once and then twice (sort of like Santa's list) the honors you have recommended be awarded to "the best of the best".

We'll have an historical review of the last twenty years and, all-in-all, a time to pat each other on the back and say, "Well done!" **Ben Oefinger**, our guru of the grill and resident sage, has graciously agreed to emcee the occasion, and your job is to bring good cheer for the finale of a remarkable era.

When: December 14, 2006 11:00 – 1:00

Where: Rivercrest Country Club  
1501 Western Ave.

If you haven't yet made reservations, contact Nancy Dozier (817) 731-1329 ASAP.

See you the 14<sup>th</sup>!

Submitted by Joy Lease



## **Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - November 2, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by President Ginger Bason. 165 members and interns were in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Elect Tammy Edwards. She reported that income received for the past month was \$6,529.67 with expenses of \$3,168.11. A copy of the Report was posted on the bulletin board for members review. Total assets of the Association are \$25,753.11. The new budget for 2007 is being developed and will be voted on in 2007.

Jim Nelson gave an update on the Community/Demonstration Garden. He cited the need for an additional \$625 to meet expenditures expected to be incurred until the end of the year. The request for these additional funds was approved. He invited members to visit and work in the Garden on Tuesday and Fridays.

President Bason asked that evaluation forms be completed and turned in. She also stressed the need for volunteers for the various committees within the organization. She also advised the time sheet is being revised and the revised sheet will be required for hours reported for the November 2006 – October 2007 time frame.

Members were asked to advise if they had received awards from other organizations. These awards can be useful in applying for State Awards for TCMGA.

The Ft. Worth Home and Garden Show will be held on 26-28 January 2007. Volunteers should contact Judy Sargent for time assignments.

TCMGA dues are to be paid as soon as possible in the amount of \$20.00 and can be mailed to Pat Lovejoy. The deadline for reservations for the Christmas luncheon at Rivercrest Country Club is December 1. Luncheon cost is \$15 and members should contact Nancy Dozier.

Steve Chaney advised that early registration has begun for the Master Gardener International Conference in Little Rock. This early registration will end December 31<sup>st</sup>. He also stated a few openings are still available for the Spring Intern Class. If anyone is interested in the Junior Master Gardener Program Training, they should contact him ASAP. A JMG class will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> on square foot gardening.

Steve introduced Denise Spitler from Brazos Bar Cross Nursery Grown Trees in Weatherford. She donated several trees for a drawing at the meeting. She sells 15 gallon trees for \$55.

—Submitted by Judy Butler

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## LEADERSHIP

President—Ginger Bason  
gbason@hotmail.com

1<sup>st</sup> VPresident—Joy Lease  
jlease@prodigy.net

2<sup>nd</sup> VPresident—Jim Nelson  
nelsonj2@swbell.net

Secretary—Joyce Quam  
dquam5@juno.com

Treasurer—Tammy Edwards  
tammy.edwards@gmail.com

Sharecropper—Derald Freeman  
grreatideas@sbcglobal.net

Submissions to Sharecropper—  
tammy.edwards@gmail.com

Birthdays—LaVonne Nowlin  
lavonnen@sbcglobal.net

Directory changes and  
Membership—Pat Lovejoy  
E-mail patlovejoy@att.net

Activities—  
S.Stanek—slstanek@charter.net  
J.Hetrick—pugmom3@aol.com

Steve Chaney  
s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Web site  
<http://www.tcmga.org>

817-884-1944

## Winter Honeysuckle, *Lonicera fragrantissima*

By Dr. William C. Welch

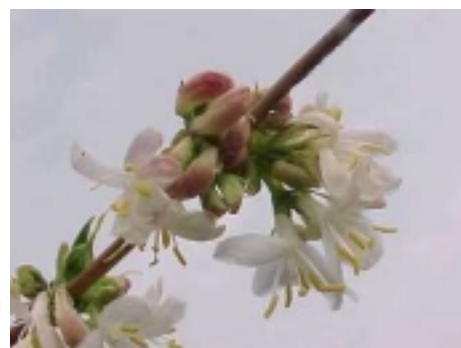
Professor and Landscape Horticulturist  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

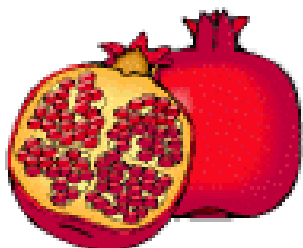
*Lonicera fragrantissima* is no newcomer to Texas gardens. It can be found growing unattended in old cemeteries and home sites where few other ornamental plants survive. The two most-often used common names are winter honeysuckle and standing honeysuckle, both of which provide useful insight into the landscape character of the plant. Robert Fortune, the great plant explorer from Scotland, found *L. fragrantissima* in China and introduced it to Europe in 1845. Soon thereafter, it appeared in American gardens.

The flowers are small and creamy white. They appear during midwinter and, although not outstanding in appearance, are highly fragrant. Foliage is rounded and bluish-green in color. In all but far South Texas, *L. fragrantissima* is deciduous, and the flowers occur on bare branches. It is unusually well-adapted, and can be found in far North as well as South Texas. Any good garden soil is sufficient, with quality specimens being found in either moderately alkaline or acid soils.

Maximum height is about 8 feet with an arching form to the branches. Red fruit in spring will often follow the winter flowers. Landscape uses include specimens, background plantings, or hedges. Winter honeysuckle is very cold- and drought-tolerant. Propagation is from seed, cutting, or division of older clumps.

Availability on a national scale is fairly good. *L. fragrantissima* is often sold as a packaged deciduous shrub during winter. Although not a spectacular plant, the form is nice. Its winter flowers and fragrance are welcome, and its hardy character is a real asset. Early Texans often placed a specimen of winter honeysuckle near a frequently-used gate to the garden so that the fragrance and flowers could be easily enjoyed. Stems are also nice to cut and bring into the home where partially-open buds continue to open. Like many of the plants popular in the last century, *L. fragrantissima* is enjoying a renewal of popularity. Few plants will thrive in Texas gardens with less attention.





## An old but almost forgotten fruit? Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)

By Steve Chaney

Pomegranates were brought over by the Spanish to America.

After Cortez conquered Mexico in 1521, Jesuit missionaries sent to work with the Indians brought the pomegranates from Spain. From Mexico, they were carried northward to missions in California and possibly east to Texas. They were also thought to be in the early-Florida city of St. Augustine. Some pomegranates have naturalized in coastal areas of the USA.

The pomegranate plant form is that of a small deciduous tree or a large shrub, growing up to 25 feet tall. Pomegranates are multi-stemmed unless pruned to a single trunk. Originally grown for their fruit, they are also known for the beautiful flowers that can occur for several months in the spring and early summer. Most commonly, they are red-orange, but white, pink, and variegated flowers may also be found. Double-flowering types have blossoms that are carnation like. Pomegranates have also been successfully used as large hedges, as their foliage is shiny and dark green, and the stems are somewhat thorny.

Native to Arabia, Persia, Bengal, China, and Japan, pomegranates are sometimes hardy as far north as Washington, D.C., but are best adapted to the Deep South. Pliny considered pomegranates to be among the most valuable of ornamental and medicinal plants. Theophrastus provided an early description about 300 years before the Christian era. Many legends concerning the pomegranate have been handed down by Asian people. The many seeds are supposed to be a symbol of fertility. Legend also says that the pomegranate was the 'tree of life' in the Garden of Eden, and from this belief it became the symbol of hope and eternal life in early Christian art. The erect calyx-lobes of the fruit were the inspiration for Solomon's crown and all future crowns.

Pomegranates were often found in nineteenth century Southern gardens and nurseries. In his "Southern Rural Almanac," and "Plantation and Garden Calendar for 1860," Thomas Affleck listed them in his Washington County, Texas nursery, and said,

"The pomegranate grows, thrives, and bears admirably."

For a period in the early 1900s, pomegranates were grown in commercial quantities in the U.S., but consumers have never really developed an appreciation of the pomegranate's fruit. One of the few varieties still available from this time is 'Wonderful', which if picked and aged at room temperature for a month or two, will develop the rich, sweet taste characteristic of better-quality fruit varieties. There is also a newer cultivar out now that is doing real well; it is called 'Sweet Pomegranate' which has a red blush on greenish skin when ripe.

Although of very easy culture, pomegranates prefer a sunny location and deep soil. They thrive in acid or alkaline soils, and tolerate heavy clay as long as there is sufficient drainage. Many forms exist, and not all fruit well. Generally, double-flowering types provide little, if any fruit. Mature specimens withstand drought well, but fruit often splits after rainy spells following extended dryness. Pomegranates may also be grown from seed or hardwood cuttings. During the winter dormant period 8-10" cuttings may be stuck in containers of potting soil or directly into well prepared beds in the garden. Commercial nurseries often root them under mist during the summer months. Propagating new plants from cuttings ensures same genetic material from cutting.

In addition to eating fresh (it is very seedy), the fruit may also be used in the preparation of syrups (especially grenadine), alcoholic beverages, and jellies. Plants of the dwarf and large-growing forms are sometimes available in the southern half of Texas. Plants tend to be long lived, but occasionally they freeze back to the ground. Interesting trials with pomegranates from Iran and Russia are being conducted in the Houston area by fruit specialists who believe that some of the plants may have superior fruiting, growth, and hardiness characteristics. Whether you grow these for fruit or just for a flowering bush or tree, I encourage you to try this ancient plant in your landscape. With the big fruit, and brilliant flower color I bet you fall in love with this old plant.



## Christmas Tree—O' Christmas Tree

King Tut never saw a Christmas tree, but he would have understood the tradition. The Egyptians were part of a long line of cultures that treasured and worshipped evergreens. When the winter solstice arrived, they brought green date palm leaves into their homes to symbolize life's triumph over death.

The Romans celebrated the winter solstice with a fest called Saturnalia in honor of Saturnus, the god of agriculture. They decorated their houses with greens and lights and exchanged gifts. They gave coins for prosperity, pastries for happiness, and lamps to light one's journey through life.

In Great Britain, Druids used evergreens during mysterious winter solstice rituals with holly and mistletoe as symbols of eternal life, and placed evergreen branches over doors to keep away evil spirits.

Late in the Middle Ages, Germans and Scandinavians placed evergreen trees inside their homes or just outside their doors to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. Our modern Christmas tree evolved from these early traditions of pagan, Christian and traditional customs.

The Christmas tree market was born in 1851 when Catskill farmer Mark Carr hauled two ox sleds of evergreens into New York City and sold them all. By 1900, one in five American families had a Christmas tree, and 20 years later, the custom was nearly universal.

Six species account for about 90 percent of the nation's Christmas tree trade. Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) ranks first, comprising about 40 percent of the market, followed by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) which accounts for about 35 percent. The other big sellers are noble fir (*Abies procera*), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) and white spruce (*Picea glauca*).

It is from Germany that we today get many of our customs, songs, images of Santa, pine trees and European hand blow glass ornaments. Until about 1700, the use of Christmas trees appears to have been confined to the Rhine River District. From 1700 on, when lights were accepted as part of the decora-

tions, the Christmas tree was well on its way to becoming a tradition in Germany. Then the tradition crossed the Atlantic with the Hessian soldiers.

How these traditions traveled to England is interesting. Queen Victoria often visited relatives in Coburg, Germany and while there she fell in love with a young Prince Albert. After they married and returned to England to raise their family, Prince Albert provided his family a tree in 1841 in Windsor Castle that was admired by all in England. This tree was

decorated in the finest of hand-blown glass ornaments. Since everyone liked the Queen they copied her Christmas customs including the Christmas tree and ornaments. By 1848 the Illustrated London News declared it a tradition. F.W. Woolworth brought the glass ornament tradition to the United States in 1890. From 1870s to 1930s, Germans made over 5,000 different molds for making ornaments. At the turn of the century there were over one hundred small cottage glass blowing workshops in Europe.

In the 1960s it was fashionable to have an Aluminum tree and all the same shape and color ornaments.

Another German decoration was wafer thin tinsel from the early 17th century.

Hours were spent by the young Victorian ladies of the house making small decorations from twists of colored and decorated paper shaped into horned cornucopias ready to be filled with stuffed dates or other delights.

Tree skirts were first used before burning candles were replaced with electric lights to catch the dripping wax and falling needles. Many people also decorate outdoor trees with food that birds can enjoy; using garlands of popcorn, cranberries, orange halves, and seed-covered suet cakes. In the 1980s some trees were sprayed with fluffy white flocking to simulate snow. European tradition prefers the open aspect of naturally-grown, unsheared trees, while in North America there is a preference for close-sheared, dense trees.



—by Derald Freeman

## Little Hands on the Farm 2006 Summary



Thank you, thank you to all of you who have helped to “pull off” Little Paws on the Prairie once again. Some of you have been there all 5 years and some of you are just beginning. As you each know, the tasks in preparation, recruiting enough volunteers, successfully working THE DAY and then clean-up are many and varied. All talents are needed!

Bill Keller, Bill Hall, Dick Oliver, Betty Floyd, and Eleanor Tuck (ET) went to the site a day early to steady the arbors and install them. This saved a mountain of time on planting day. But even before this, Mary Alice Renner (original designer of the garden) was busily reviewing the garden design and procuring (begging) hyacinth bean plants from a local nursery. First group of volunteers: Susanne Mills, Lisa Bratton, Camille Thomason, and ET helped to “up-pot” from 4” to 1 gal pots..

Following that was a few hours at Dr. Woodson’s greenhouse to up-pot other needed plants. Dotty and Steve Chaney asked nurseries to donate the plants we need. Our own Esther Proctor helps us with some donations of herbs. Before the crew arrived to do the potting, Steve had already made the rounds of nurseries to pick up the donated plants. This group included Hope Porter, Pam Jewell, Susanne Mills, and ET. (Plants are left in their pots with mulch mounded around them when installed at LHOFF.) When the Fair is over, the plants are dug up and dispersed to local MG projects. Planting day was much easier this year with the arbors already installed; however, John Blume went very early that day to ascertain that the arbors were still in place—otherwise the re-build crew of the Bills (Keller & Hall) were standing by to rectify any vandalism.

The Planting Day crew was supervised by Susan Stanek with Barbara Munn joining her as soon as she flew in from out of town (Definition of ‘dedication’: direct from airport to work on MG project!). Crew: Charlotte Berck and husband Wayne, Judy Butler, Tammy Edwards, Sandy Flory, Kay Gunn, Fatima Gamiero, Kathy Howard, Dawn Hancock, Kay Lewis, Carol Norfleet, Janice Newbrand and her son, Ann Phipps, Blas Villarreal, Lucurtis Williams and ET and Betty Floyd.

We had a few days off, but Opening Day came up very soon. This meant the County truck had to be

loaded at both Dotty’s greenhouse and at Mary Alice Renner’s home. This group of early risers (loading began at 7:30 AM) included Barbara Finholt, Demetra Larremore, Ann Phipps and Jerry Tuttle. They demonstrated they were up to the challenge.

Gathering in parking lots, carpooling, and then finding the proper Fair parking lot is next on Opening Day. Helping that day were: Claire Alford, Dottie Bucy, Rhett Cervantes, Suzi and Dick Gunkel, Nan Garvin and her husband Ron, Susan Houston, LaVine Horton, Cathy Hiles, Pam Jewell, Nancy Jarratt, Judy Jackson, Donna Jobe, Ken Knecht, Cathy Lawrence, Carol Lally, Barbara Munn, Carolyn Mercer, Nelda McGlinchey, Penny McCook, Sharon Nice, Joy and Charles Perry, Emily Reynolds, Rilla Ransier, Shari Stanfield, Bill Vandever, Lucurtis Williams, L.J. Williams and Betty Floyd and ET. And two of our members worked on a weekend: Sandra Plane and Harry Dehnisch.

Three weeks later, we returned to retrieve the plants, planted wagons, and hand decorated signs (thanks to Rosemarie Mercado for those beautiful signs). The arbors were washed down and stored in one of the barns. The stalwart ones for the task of dis-assembly: Nancy Bannow, Sandy Flory, Demetra Larremore, Benita Reese, Candy Umberson, Blas Villarreal, L.J. Williams, ET and Betty Floyd. Also, BIG THANKS to Dotty for getting up super early and making the trek to the Fair Grounds to retrieve items stored by her each year. This allowed us to Parcel out all the plants remaining to projects and save the county truck a run to Dallas. Your tax dollars saved!

Have you noticed that Betty Floyd’s name appeared every time we went to Dallas? And she never missed her assignments at Thistle Hill either!! Thank you Betty for your steadfast support.

In summary: 64 Master Gardeners, 3 husbands and 1 son donated 429.5 hours to this project. In dollars that translates to \$7,748.18. But more importantly, each of you contributed to the education of many children (and their parents!). Some of these children will not soon forget this experience—especially those who went thru several times!

If we have omitted any of you, please let us know—each of you was so very important to this endeavor.

Thanks to each of you, Eleanor Tuck (ET) and Betty Floyd

## RESOURCE CONNECTION COMMUNITY AND DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



A two acre area has been established as the site for the Community and Demonstration Garden. This garden is a joint effort of the Resource Connection and The Tarrant County Master Gardener Association for the express

purpose of providing an area for the staff of the Resource Connection and their clients to pursue a gardening experience with the hope that it will improve the health and quality of life of the people involved. To that end, the Resource Connection has allocated a two acre site which is located at the southwest section of the compound. The effort is planned in three phases.

As of November 2006, most of Phase One has been completed. This phase included the purchase of a large storage building at a deep discount from Tuffshed. The monies for this building and the cost of moving were provided by TCMGA, private donations, and The Resource Connection. The building was moved on-site in mid-October. Also, three of the planned 12 demonstration beds (4 ft. by 12 ft.) have been built and the basic structure of the donated greenhouse is partially in place. A donation from Pavestone of 600 stones has been made and delivered. These stones will be utilized in the building of six of the demonstration beds. Electricity and water are now available on the site.

Phase 2 will consist of erecting and enclosing the greenhouse. The design for the foundation for the greenhouse is being drawn, and completion of the foundation will be done in early 2007. A design of the patio for the front of the utility shed has also been completed. Chain link fencing is being donated by TKO Services and The Resource Connection. However, erection of the fencing and gates has been deferred until all construction within the garden is completed, possibly by February 2007. The efforts for Phase 3 are to be determined upon completion of the previous two phases.

TCMGA will be expected to provide project leadership, sources of funding and donations, and labor for most projects. The Resource Connection is providing land, utilities (water, electric, gas), materials as available and labor. A grant request initiated by TCU has been prepared and submitted in the amount of \$5,000. To date, funds (including TCMGA allocations, cash donations and in-kind donations) in the amount of about \$20,000 have been received for the project.

All TCMGA members are urged to visit the site and volunteer for various task as the work progresses. An update on the garden will be provided monthly in the Sharecropper.

— by Judy Butler

### MG Directory Updates

#### **Corrections:**

Linda Stuard - linstuard@charter.net

Berry Bock - jim\_and\_berry@hotmail.com

#### **E-mail changes:**

Kaeti Kleekamp - katekleekamp@yahoo.com

Carol Norfleet - canorfleet@sbcglobal.net

Marjie Nelson - marknelson@attwb.net

Jim Beeler - jbbeeler@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Mercer - sacmerc@sbcbglobal.net

Ann Firkins - firgoat@starband.net

Lauris Meisner - mimihouse1@yahoo.com

#### **Phone number changes:**

Betty Floyd - 817-478-2122

#### **Moved:**

Tina Castillo has moved to New York

Send updates to Pat Lovejoy

E-mail patlovejoy@att.net.



## ACTIVITIES WRAP-UP FOR 2006

Another year has come and gone, can you believe it? Let's see where we went and what we did...

Starting in January, your Activities Committee began sorting through many, many ideas of places we might take trips to. We wanted a good mix of MG home tours, nurseries, and of course LOTS OF EDUCATION! We also wanted to try to go to some different places, that MGs might not get to on their own. Here's what we came up with....

We started the year with a trip in April to the beautiful and unique garden of prominent Dallas landscape architect Robert Bellamy. His garden was featured on the 2005 Dallas Garden Conservancy Tour. Afterwards, we reconvened at North Haven gardens for lunch, followed by a tour of the nursery and some fun shopping. Thanks to Carla Pickens for putting together such a fabulous tour!

In May, we visited the fabulous garden of local garden writer Maggie McNeely. Afterward, Judy Butler once again did a masterful job of touring us through member gardens in west Fort Worth. Big thanks to Barbara Durnan for the use of her wonderful backyard for us to enjoy our box lunches. We are still all drooling over that ceramic table that Barbara created herself!

Our last tour for the spring was a trip to Dallas to visit the Asian Community Gardens. It was a fantastic learning experience to hear about the people who garden there, where they come from, what they grow, and what their challenges are. Lunch was at a local ethnic grocery store / deli and it was fabulous! From there, we ferried on to the Discovery Garden at nearby Fair Park. We received a terrific guided tour there and they were invited to shop the remainder of their fall plant sale. Too much fun! Barbara Durnan, you outdid you yourself on this trip!

Although the heat did not break as fall began, in September, we toured gardens in northeast Tarrant County. Jolene Hetrick and Carla Pick-

ens worked hard to select gardens that most MGs would not normally see, unless they paid for a public tour. We got to see them up close and personal, meet the homeowners, and ask questions. Lunch was at Toni Moorehead's home, and while the box lunch was super, the real treat was touring Toni's property. It is truly a labor of love and amazing that she has done all it herself! MG's are really talented folks!

We finished the year with a bus trip to Tyler in October. We timed the trip to coincide with the Rose Festival, and arrived the week before, when the roses were all in prime bloom. It was a feast for the eyes! The Smith County MGs, county extension agent Keith Hanson, and garden supervisor Craig Reiland were on hand to tour us around and answer our many, many questions. We lunched at The Potpourri House and then on to Blue Moon Nursery. Mary Wilhite and Sarah Smith, owners, were delighted to tour us around their demonstrations gardens, telling us stories of what worked and what didn't, what lived and what died, and learning things that you just won't hear anywhere else! We gave new meaning that day to the phrase 'shop 'til you drop' and literally filled the baggage compartment with many, many plants and even some trees! Our wonderful bus driver, Ben, was a good sport all day, and even toured the Rose Garden with us. He said he had hauled a lot of things, but never a bus load of flowers!

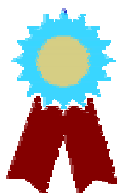
Many, many thanks to the fabulous committee members for 2006: Judy Butler, Barbara Durnan, Jolene Hetrich, and Carla Pickens. You made it all look easy, when I know how hard you worked behind each and every trip to make it come off just beautifully for MGSs.

Finally, we are already busy pouring over your feedback from the recent survey, making lists of places to consider for next year. 2007 is going to be fun!

Activities Committee Chair, Susan Stanek

### Thanks to Thistle Hill Docents

**Thank you** to the 31 Master Gardeners listed below who served as docents during the Designer Showcase at Thistle Hill. Many people worked multiple shifts and helped provide the finishing touches to the gardens. The event brought some nice publicity for our association and gave us an opportunity to show just one facet of what Master Gardeners do.



Thank you.. Emily Ward and Laura Hunter

Bill Hall	Durwood Barnes
Dotty Bucy	Mary McCoy
Charlotte Berck	Nancy Dozier
Peggy Falconer	Paula Wilbanks
Julie Florence	Ann Conrad
Joyce Hammill	Donna Jobe
Nancy Jarratt	JoAnn Hahn
Demetra Larremore	Mary Edholm
Betty Floyd	Ginger Bason
Connie Anderson	Claire Alford
Carol Lally	Susanne Mills
Berry Bock	Barbara Durnan
Sandy Williams	Susan Houston
Margaret Anderson	Carolyn Mercer
Vicki Morton	Kay Gunn
Rilla Ransier-Snedeller	



### Birthdays for this month

12-1	Carole O'Connel, Sharon Chastain, and Bill Keller
12-3	Mary Flanagan
12-5	Jerry Sorenson, Judy Childers
12-7	Ann Couch
12-8	Susann Draper
12-9	Mimi Mancuso
12-15	Candy Umberson
12-16	Julie Hames, John Serloff, and J. Howard Davis
12-18	Jolene Hetrick
12-19	Patsy Johnson
12-20	Sandra Johnson
12-21	Pam Sustaire
12-22	Nelda McClinchey, Susan Carter
12-23	Carolyn Critz
12-24	Kathleen McKinney
12-25	Rita Hottel
12-26	Dick Dobrovoiny, Susan Slagle
12-27	Esther Proctor
12-29	Joyce Quam, Earl Alexander
12-30	William T. Bryant
12-31	Mary Benavides

### Membership Dues

Don't forget your 2007 dues are due by December 31. Dues are \$20 with an additional \$5 if you want the newsletter mailed.

Send dues to Pat Lovejoy, 125 William Wallace Dr, Burleson, TX 76028 or pay at the December luncheon.

—by Pat Lovejoy

### Newsletter Articles

Master Gardeners are welcome to submit newsletter articles for consideration. Submit articles by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month to...

tammy.edwards@ gmail.com or  
derald@greatideas.com.

—by Tammy Edwards

## Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<b>Project Code &amp; Name</b>	<b>Work Days/Times</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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 <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
327 Gardening with Dotty	Last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401 Composting Demo	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat.	Charlie Shiner	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	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues Dec 5 & 12 1-3	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat. Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9-12		
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	2nd & 4th Thurs 9 am	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

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



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

<b>12/14/06</b>	<b>TCMGA Holiday Celebration</b>
<b>01/09/07</b>	<b>Graduation for Fall 05 MG Interns</b>
<b>01/12</b>	<b>Arlington House &amp; Organic Gardening Show</b>
<b>01/16</b>	<b>First day of Spring 07 MG Intern Class</b>
<b>01/16</b>	<b>Graduation for Spring 06 MG Interns</b>
<b>01/26 - 01/28</b>	<b>H&amp;G show at Fort Worth Convention Center</b>
<b>02/23 - 02/25</b>	<b>Neil Sperry H&amp;G Show</b>



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)