

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association—Tarrant County, Texas



February 2004

New Year Off to a Great Start!

Thoughts from JoAnn

This year is off to a great start! Ginger brought in two wonderful speakers for the January meeting. They were very knowledgeable, and the audience soon shared their enthusiasm. If you are missing these meetings, you are missing excellent learning experiences!

The intern classes have begun, and as always, you are invited to attend. The hours count as CEU's for re-certification. Check the schedule for the programs you would like to attend.

At our February general meeting, we will be talking about the State Master Gardener Meeting in Corpus Christi and other educational opportunities. Also, our 2004 intern class will be in attendance, so take a minute to welcome them. Let them know what a great organization they are joining!

JoAnn

HOSPITALITY NOTES from Joyce Quam

Huge THANK YOU to all the folks who brought goodies to the January meeting. Have you noticed that "snack time" has become a full-fledged brunch/meal? We Master Gardeners DO love to eat!!! We have 22 people signed up to bring food for the February 5th meeting. That may sound like a lot of people to bring food, but remember we will be hosting the new Master Gardener Intern class too. You know how "kids" love to eat! So I would suggest:

- lots of sandwiches, cut in quarters, wrap to keep cool
- pasta salads, wrap to keep cool
- egg strata-type dishes, wrap to keep warm

Anyone else who would like to bring food is welcome!

WELCOME 2004 INTERNS!

51 Interns started Master Gardener classes this month with enthusiasm and excitement. There are many long-time Texas natives, some who left and came back, and at least one who "got here as fast as he or she could." Most have gardened for many years with parents and/or grandparents.

One of the highlights of the first day was getting to know the backgrounds and interests of fellow classmates. They share the common bond of gardening, as we all do, and look forward to learning and sharing their knowledge. We have vegetable gardeners, a Hosta grower, a Cactus lover, one with an Iris farm, and several who love herbs.

They look forward to attending their 1st TCMGA meeting in February and getting acquainted with the Master Gardeners. This will be a perfect time for all of you to "WELCOME" the new Interns with a warm "HELLO" and introduction to our great organization.

Intern Advisors

Master Gardener Program

FEBRUARY is ROSE MONTH!

Everything is coming up roses at the TCMGA Meeting on February 5th.

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee
- 10:00 We all know Feb. is the month for rose pruning so come for Dotty's refresher course. Bring your tools and gloves for this hands-on instructional session!
- 11:00 Business Meeting and social time
- 12:00 Jim McCarty, a local rosarian who can even grow roses in the challenging soils of Wedgewood, shares information on Earthkind Roses. Jim is a rose judge, consultant and long time member and officer in local and national rose organizations.

Join us for this special early Valentine gift!

2004 Membership Dues—Pay by February 15th

2004 membership dues are due now. You will have an opportunity to pay at the February 5th meeting or you may mail your dues to Warren Tingley (2709 Park Place Court, Arlington, TX. 76016-5891). Dues are \$20, make check payable to TCMGA. Dues will be late after February 15th and a \$4 late fee will be assessed.

Membership Information—Any Changes?

Any changes to your personal information during the year should be communicated to either Becky Armstrong or Kim Snyder (Membership Co-Chairs). This would include name, address, phone or email address changes. These changes will then be passed

Upcoming Spanish Class

The next Spanish class is scheduled for May. Those interested should contact Mary Benevides.

102	Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Kim Snyder	817-732-1483
111	BRIT Activities	2 nd & 3 rd Tues	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
121	Composting Demo	1 st Sat	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2 nd Sat	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
124	FW Nature Center	various	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
125	Library on Hulen St	10 a.m., last Thurs	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126	TC SW Sub Courthouse	Feb 14 & Feb 24	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127	Veterans Park-Wildscape	Feb 7 & every Tues	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
129	Willow Park Demo Garden	2 nd Thurs	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
131	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon and 3 rd Wed	Sue Short	817-439-3202
132	Teen Challenge	every Wed	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
133	Thistle Hill	3 rd Wed	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
134	Union Gospel Mission	every Mon	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
171	School Garden Consultant sign up	MG Mtg	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
172	School & Community Gardens Bell Manor, Bedford		Linda Williams	817-907-5668
301	Children's Garden	Feb 4 th and Feb 18 th	Judy Sargent	817-923-9250

Call the project leader on each workday confirming that the work day is a "GO" for February.



Submitted by LaVonne Nowlin

Spread a little sunshine—The Sunshine Committee would like to remind everyone to stop by the Sunshine Committee table at the next Master Gardener meeting and share with us what you know about the needs of each other. We want to send cards to MG members and their husband, wife, children or parents in case of illness, hospitalization, or death. We are limiting coverage to these immediate members of the Master Gardeners family so as to prevent the task from becoming overwhelming. However, if you know of others members of a family needing a card, we encourage you to handle that individually.

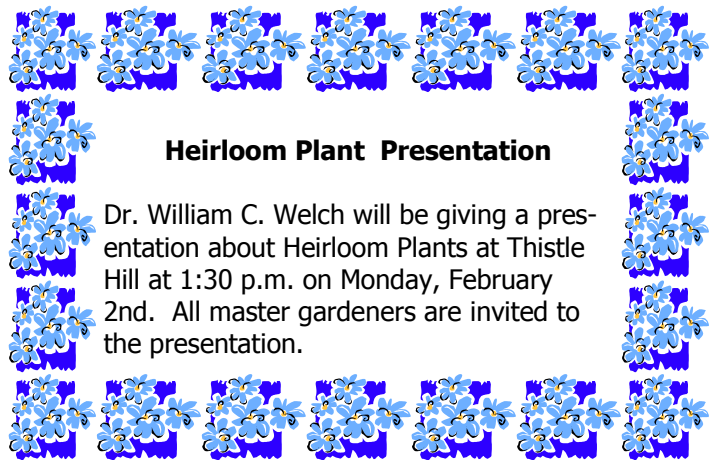
Between MG meetings, we ask that you call or email the following Master Gardeners so they can send cards, per above, on a timely basis. Membership is divided by last name, handled by the following committee members:

A—H Judy Ratzlaff;

I—R Mary McCoy
S—Z Ed Vaughan.

If the committee member is unavailable, call or email LaVonne. We are equipped with cards, stamps, and the desire to let folks who are ill, etc., know that "WE CARE" from the TCMGA. Please help us to be mindful of this.

Sunshine Board — There will also be a bulletin board at the MG meetings near the Plant Exchange table. It will be available for members to post anything pertaining to Master Gardeners such as announcements of weddings, births, graduations, reminders for workshops, or asking for a favorite recipe from something eaten at the meetings, etc. This is also a great place to post 'ads' for plant swaps - such as 'want seed for



Heirloom Plant Presentation

Dr. William C. Welch will be giving a presentation about Heirloom Plants at Thistle Hill at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd. All master gardeners are invited to the presentation.

Mission Statement

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

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

SUPER VOLUNTEERS!

Extension and Tarrant County are so proud to have so many super volunteers. Thank you for certifying and re-certifying. Master Gardeners are the strength of the Extension horticulture program in Tarrant County. Thank you for all you do!

Home and Garden Shows

Home and Garden shows provide individual contacts with 500 to 700 people per show. This is a time when we can visit with people about their individual problems. There are three shows Master Gardeners are scheduled to cover this spring: **Fort Worth Home and Garden Show** at the Fort Worth Convention Center, February 20-22, **Neil Sperry All Garden Show** at the Arlington Convention Center, February 27-28, and the **Fort Worth Home and Garden Show** at Will Rogers Complex, March 12-14. If you would like to volunteer at one of these shows, call **MG Berry Bock**, 817-924-4270. At the Neil Sperry All Garden Show, we will also have a **Children's Activity Area**. We will make Grass Heads, Know and Grow Sombreros and Butterflies. MG Eleanor Tuck will bring the insect boxes to share with the youth and adults. I look forward to seeing you at these shows.

Roses for Your Valentine

I always think of February as rose month. Valentine's Day is a great opportunity for you to give your Valentine a rose. Don't give just a bouquet; give your Valentine a rose bush that will flower all summer providing a reminder of your love with beautiful flowers with wonderful fragrance. Dr. Steve George has identified some hardy tough roses for our Texas landscapes. He calls them EarthKind Roses because these roses need very little pesticides. The EarthKind distinction was given to these roses after Dr. George tested over a hundred roses in the clay soil at the Dallas Extension and Research Center. He provided very little soil amendments, a small amount of fertilizer and water when needed. He was not nice to these test roses. After several years of growing, Dr. George selected the best performers. Tarrant County Master Gardeners have planted many of the test roses at the Resource Connection. MG Benita Reese and MG Patsy Johnson collected and reported data for these rose trials.

At this month's MG meeting on Feb. 5th, you will learn to prune rose bushes and learn more about the EarthKind roses. Take advantage of the mild Texas winter to prepare a "bed for roses."

Earthkind Roses

Found Roses

Annie Red
Caldwell Pink

Shrub Roses

Maggie
Belinda's Dream
Graham Thomas
Heritage
Sea Foam

China Roses

Mutabilis

Tea Roses

Marchesa Bocella

Polyantha Roses

Marie Daly
Perle d'Or
Fairy
Climbing Pinky

Floribunda

Else Poulson

Rugosa Roses

Sarah Van Fleet

Noisetta Roses

Blush Noisette

Bourbon Roses

Zephirine Drouhin

EarthKind principles base horticultural decisions on:

1. A deep, abiding respect for the environment
2. The latest scientifically-sound, research-based information.

Employ Earthkind techniques of plant selection and culture to avoid pest problems before they occur.

Use pesticides only as a last resort. If a pesticide becomes absolutely necessary, then select the most EarthKind or environmentally responsible product available. Putting EarthKind techniques into everyday practice will help your family, your community, and your environment. Remember "EarthKind to benefit Humankind." I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting to learn more about roses.

Note: Master Gardeners are welcome to submit articles to the newsletter for consideration. All non-regular features should be submitted to Linda Hardy at hardyjandl@netzero.net.

The newsletter editorial staff reserves the right to edit articles submitted for content, brevity, and correctness.

submitted by Eleanor Tuck

The Texas Master Gardeners Association meeting at Texas A&M on December 6, 2003 highlighted the year with Doug Welsh's report, approving amendments to the By-Laws and election of officers for 2004.

Our own Emily Ward will be State Treasurer next year. Other officers are: Joyce Jay, President, Big County (Abilene); Wayne Rhoden, 1st VP, Ft. Bend County; Jan Shannon, 2nd VP, Nueces County (Corpus Christi); and Jane Bartasiewicz, Secretary, Dallas County.

The By-Laws, as well as the reporting form for dues, are posted on the web at texasmastergardeners.com. The association is trying to get dues in more quickly, and the outgoing treasurer assured the members that refunds would be made to their local associations if they over reported their membership! (Note to all Tarrant County members, if your dues are paid, you are also members of the State Assn.) Reports on other local Associations are also on the web--look them up.

The Directors (ie. Delegates) were urged to make forms available to their local Association for ordering Master Gardener license plates. (These will be available at our February MG meeting.)

The next annual meeting will be in Corpus Christi on May 5,7,& 8, 2004. The conference hotel is Holiday Inn Emerald Isle, and there is a link to more info on the TxMG web site. The annual meeting for 2005 is tentatively set for May 5 in Denton.

The State Awards Committee who will be reviewing 2003 nominations are : Mimi Lyles, Chairman, Tarrant County; W. Rhoden, Ft. Bend County; Jan Shannon, Nueces County; Mary Jo Smith, Big County (Abilene); and Julane Goss of Vernon.



HENRIETTA CREEK ORCHARD

By Mary Alice Renner

This year Tarrant County Master Gardeners awarded Sue Short, "Educator of the Year."

Last September and October 6000 children came to the orchard for an outdoor classroom experience. There is no doubt that Sue has educated and provided school children with a memorable experience at Henrietta Creek Orchard.

Sue teaches apples from the first fragrant blossom to the first tasty bite of a freshly harvested apple. One example Sue relates is that "most people don't know that we can grow apples." In their apple orchard, harvest begins in August with the Gala apple and finishes in mid October with the Blushing Golden.

Master Gardeners participate in the learning and education process too. They guide the students through the acreage where they teach an enjoyable lesson in agriculture specially planned to appeal to the children. Students see a variety of things. One garden is planted with vegetables and herbs that provide the ingredients for one of their favorite foods, pizza. There is also a cotton patch planted with colored cotton. Beehives are located just beyond the pond. Children learn about the production of honey. Butterflies are attracted to a special garden featuring nectar and host plants. Chicks, ducks and dogs add to the colorful and exciting educational experience.

Sue and Ray Short share their enthusiasm and knowledge with others. They also compliment their information with Texas Cooperative Extension publications. They are unique educators in our urban environment.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2004

Submitted by Barbara Munn, Acting Secretary

TCMGA met at the Resource Connection on January 8, 2004. The President and Acting Secretary were present and there also being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by President JoAnn Hahn at 11:00 a.m.

The following Officer and Chairman reports were given:

- Minutes of our December, 2003 meeting were approved as printed in the monthly newsletter.
- Warren Tinsley, Treasurer, presented the 2004 Proposed Budget. Members were given a copy during registration and the budget was approved. He also reported that yearend income was \$19,668, with expenses of \$18,392. Cash on hand is \$13,860.
- Motion was approved that TCMGA donate \$250.00 to the Ft. Worth Regional Science Fair.
- An additional \$322.75 overage for the Christmas party expenses was also approved for payment.
- President Hahn presented the 2005 nominating committee: Wendi Carlucci, Chairman, Don Graves, Joyce Quam, Ken Barham and Sandy Williams. This committee was approved by the membership.
- Ginger Bason, Programs Chairman, announced that Dotty Woodson will provide our February program, which will be rose pruning. A hands-on demonstration will be given at the Resource Connection rose garden. In March, a garden-related garage sale and silent auction will take place to raise funds for the Association. No garden tour is planned for 2004.

Announcements:

- President Hahn announced that we will have a message board at each meeting with a "Come and Get It" area for those wishing to share their excess plants with others. She also encouraged the members to bring any excess plants for our seed/plant table.
- Patsy Johnson will chair the Activities Committee and will welcome names of members who would like to have their gardens shown during one of our field trips.
- Berry Bock will have the sign-up sheet for the upcoming garden shows. The organic garden show date was corrected and will be held from Jan 29th-Feb. 1st.
- Members were encouraged to sign up for raffle donations and to contact Joy Lease, Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.



MASTER GARDENERS AND JUVENILE DELINQUENTS PARTNER

Submitted by Mike Warren

What may seem to be an odd combination to some, has been a blossoming partnership to others. About three years ago, Juvenile Probation officer Mike Warren answered a request for volunteers at the Veterans Park native wild-scape. Master Naturalist Molly Hollar put Mike and several teenagers to work mulching a steep trail early one Saturday morning. And they came back to dig grasses, cut giant ragweed and privet, move and anchor railroad ties, wheel-barrow crushed granite, move rocks, and mulch two miles of trails.

Along the way seniors, middle-agers, and teenagers worked together in the native setting. Sweat, poison ivy, and rain were common elements in the experience. Teenagers experienced a native setting previously unknown to them. Adults witnessed the goodness in the kids despite the rough exterior.

During 2003, teenage probationers with Judy Sargeant composted the remnants of the Children's garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, and shoveled, leveled, stacked, and dug with Gay Larson at the Union Gospel Mission. They moved mulch with Sharon Chastain at Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE), and continued mulching and beautifying trails at Veterans Park.

Is your project in need of some muscle and kindness with adult supervision attached?

Are you willing to step away from what people say about today's kids and hear from them first hand? Would you like to share your love of gardening with the younger set?

If so call Mike Warren 817-531-6765, x224 or any of the Master Gardeners mentioned above. Let them tell you what these kids can do. Better yet, invite them out to see for yourself. You will be nurturing the earth and our youth.

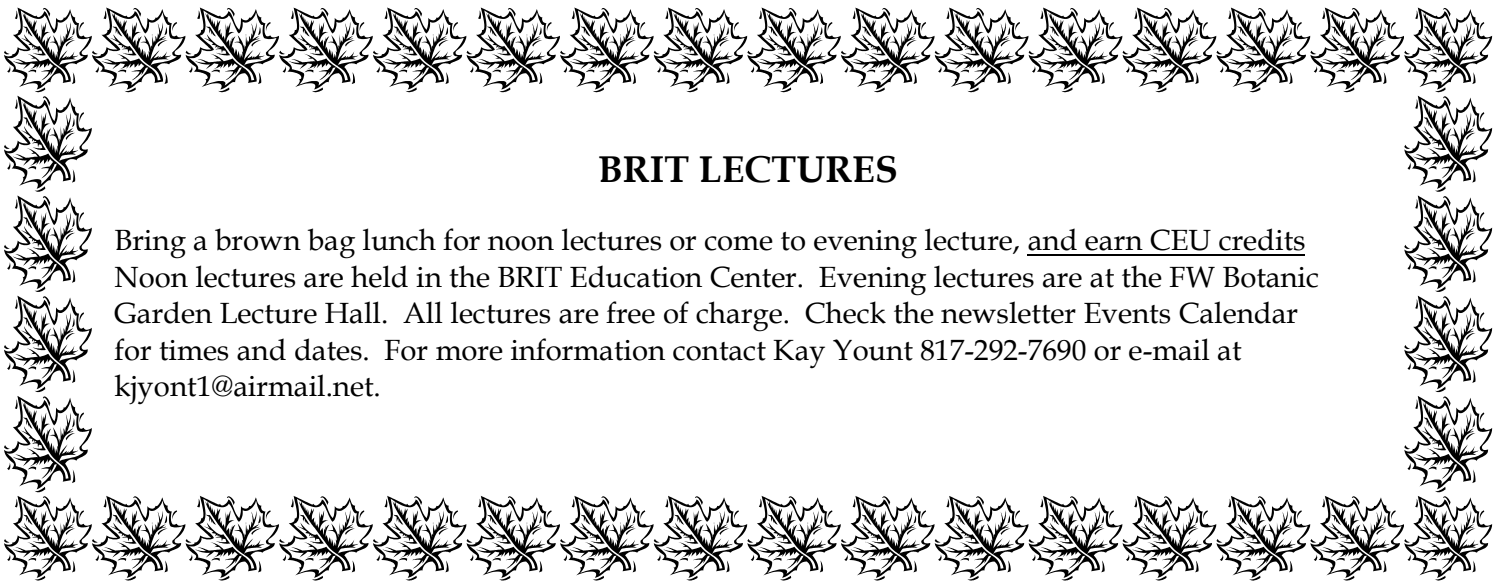
The MG timesheet has been updated 2004 and is now available to either download from the TCMGA website or pick up at either the next MG monthly or the Extension Office. Timekeepers for 2004 are:

Certifieds

A - C	Tammy Edwards 817-444-0298 tammy@wiacomm.net	M - R	Joyce Hallbauer 817-367-3582 jhallftw@juno.com
D - G	Judy Sargent 817-589-0221 srgntjud@msn.com	S - Z	LaVerne Henry 817-924-5505 lhenry 92419@prodigy.net
H - L	Dolores Geisel 817-446-4536 geisel1@charter.net		

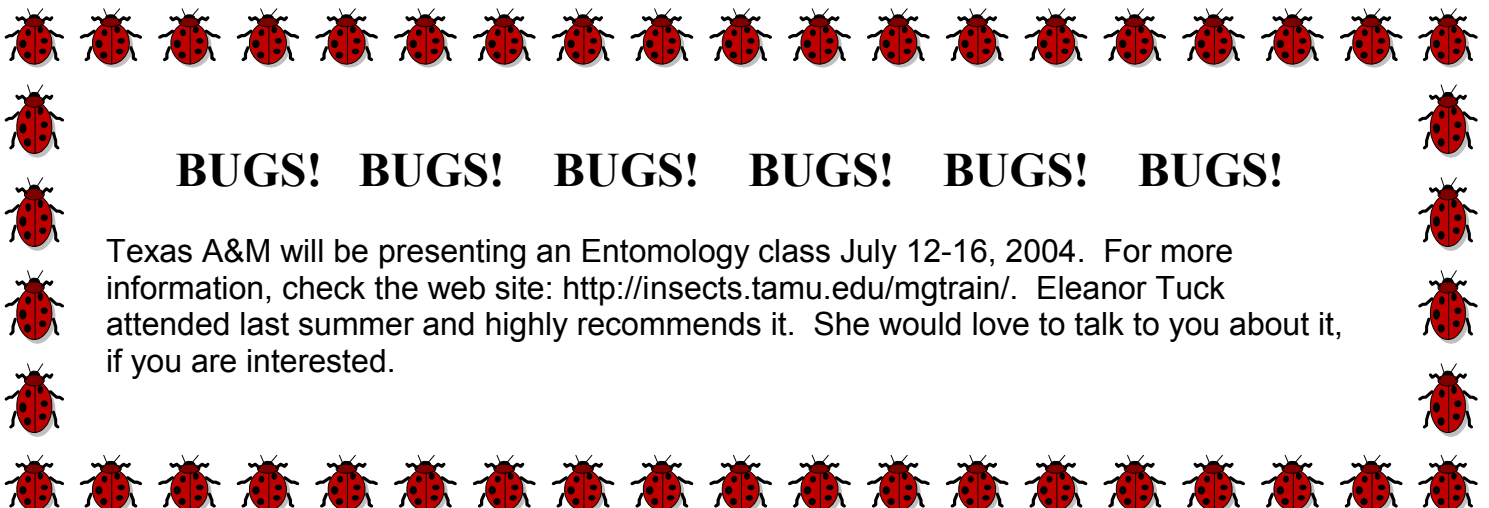
Interns

A - L	Nancy Bannow 817-483-5285 woswes@get21.net	M - Z	Shari Stanfield 817-685-9990 sstanfield99@aol.com
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BRIT LECTURES

Bring a brown bag lunch for noon lectures or come to evening lecture, and earn CEU credits. Noon lectures are held in the BRIT Education Center. Evening lectures are at the FW Botanic Garden Lecture Hall. All lectures are free of charge. Check the newsletter Events Calendar for times and dates. For more information contact Kay Yount 817-292-7690 or e-mail at kjyont1@airmail.net.



BUGS! BUGS! BUGS! BUGS! BUGS! BUGS!

Texas A&M will be presenting an Entomology class July 12-16, 2004. For more information, check the web site: <http://insects.tamu.edu/mgtrain/>. Eleanor Tuck attended last summer and highly recommends it. She would love to talk to you about it, if you are interested.

Ways and Means has many exciting opportunities for MGs at upcoming monthly meetings:

February	Taking Orders for Logo shirts, tee shirts, ball caps
March	Distributing logo shirts Taking Caladium orders Vendor Tables
April	Taking caladium orders Member Garage Sale--donations of any garden related item
May	Distributing caladiums
November	Vendor Tables

VENDOR TABLES

There will be VENDOR TABLES at the March 4th TCMGA meeting. Tables are available for \$15.00 and are only available to TCMGA members. Call Ann Couch 817-732-7103 to reserve your space.

LOVE A GOOD GARAGE SALE? ARE YOU A BARGAIN HUNTER? OR DO YOU JUST LIKE THE THRILL OF THE CHASE?

The April 1st TCMGA meeting will feature a members-only garage sale. Although April is two months away, we need you to start cleaning out your potting bench, workshop, garage and other places we gardeners hide away all of our gardening 'treasures.' You know the old saying about 'one man's trash'? We are counting you to help us turn all your unwanted garden items into 'treasure' for TCMGA. Please start now thinking about items you would be willing to donate. Items should be garden related only such as plants, seeds, pots, tools, and garden art. Members will price their own donated items.

Questions? Contact Ann Couch at 817-732-7103.

CALADIUM BULBS

It's time to order Caladium Bulbs. Bulbs are #1 size, healthy, and are a great buy for Master Gardeners. Orders may be turned in at our March and April meetings, or mailed, with payments attached, to Ann Couch, 2906 Rivercove Court, Fort Worth, TX, 76116, 817-732-7103. Deadline for ordering by mail is March 30th. Payment must accompany order form.

White Christmas (white)	Quantity _____
Postman Joyner (red)	Quantity _____
Rosebud (pink)	Quantity _____
Special Orders available on request	Quantity _____

Total # of bulbs _____ X .40 each = \$ _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

401 East Eighth Street



Winter 2004 Calendar of Events

February 5, 7:00 PM	BRIT Lecture – Prairie Restoration in Texas...
February 20-22	Home & Garden Show – FW Convention Center
February 27-29	Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show – Arlington Convention Center
February 25, noon	BRIT Brown Bag “The role of Tropical Forest Conservatories”
March 4, 7:00 PM	BRIT Lecture – Last Great Habitat-Biodiversity of S. Texas
March 12-14	Home & Garden Show – Will Rodgers Coliseum, FW
March 24	Ellis County 2004 Spring Expo
March 24, noon	BRIT Brown Bag “The Lewis & Clark Expedition...”

For up to the minute TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org
More state news: www.texasmastergardeners.com