

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association



JUNE 2010 IN THIS ISSUE

Agent's Corner	1
MGs in Action	2-3
President's Message	4
Leadership	4
TCMGA Meeting Minutes	5-6
TCMGA Announcements	7
Mystery Gardener	8
Birthdays	8
Directory Updates	8
June 2010 Calendar	9
Upcoming Events	10-11
MG'er Speaks Out	12
Project Spotlight	14
Volunteer Opportunities	15
Important Resource Links	Back

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

Jackie Heidinger
rheidinger@tx.rr.com

Your input is always welcome!



Agents Corner

Naturally Cool

By Laura M. Miller, County Extension Agent,
Commercial Horticulture



Summertime officially begins in June, but here in North Texas it can start early and end late. Keeping cool is a priority for many Metroplexians and air conditioning units work round the clock to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures.

However, there is another way, and it is literally green. Use plants to keep cool this summer.

Plants cool us down in two ways. They provide shade and they transpire. Shade is a valuable commodity in warm climates where well over half of residential energy consumption can be attributed to air conditioning. Transpiration is a little more complicated but still provides significant cooling benefits.

Forecasting Sunshine with a Touch of Shade

Strategically placed deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in winter) can reduce cooling costs in the summer while allowing for passive heating from the sun in the winter.

An American Forests study in Dade County (Miami) Florida, a very warm and humid place, found that trees provided direct energy savings equaling 3.3% of total consumption. The same study estimated that the addition of one mature tree in the right place per residence would provide an additional 6.4% energy savings.



Dr. David Laband, Professor of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
(Continued on page 13)

Master Gardeners and Interns in Action

Photos Courtesy of Sharon Chastain and Devanie Fergus



MGs and Interns Helped out at Alice Carlson and SW Library

Interns at SW Library: in no particular order, Evaline Woodrey, Rocky Deutscher, Nancy Craig, Bob Craig, Rebecca Danvers, Patti Maness, Jessica McCraw, Joe McCreary, Rosalinda Osborn, June Gernhauser, John Gernhauser



Master Gardeners In Action

Photos Courtesy of Gay Larson

MG Volunteers at April 2010 Plant Sale



President's Message

June Newsletter



The May membership meeting was too fun! If you missed it, then you really missed it! Fabulous speaker on not just green roofs but green roofs using native plants and bringing the country back into the city. What a neat, neat idea!

The vendor tables were wonderful and lots of fun. Thanks again to all of you who came with a table full of treasures to share. I think I've been to five plants sales now and ... well, don't you just love a good plant sale?

Speaking of plant sales, major kudos to all involved in our own second annual plant sale! It is incredible what we can do when we all work together. And speaking of all working together...

Our efforts produced a virtual wheel barrow full of awards at the state conference. Our association as a whole was awarded second place in the state overall! So each of you give yourself a big pat on the back for a job well done. We all contributed to those hours and many hours to individual projects and items which won other awards.

This association is special not because of its sheer size but because of our understanding of service to our community. The majority of you are 'plugged in' somewhere and serve regularly – that's the largest part of it. Thanks also to the ones who have the time and freedom to sometimes drop and come on short notice – you know who you are. Extension knows they can always count on Master Gardeners to show in force or to fill the gap.

June will be a fun time to just relax and socialize at Henrietta Creek. I've been there several times and look forward to going again. It's like a visit to a familiar and well loved nursery – you just love going. Thanks in advance to Sue Short and husband for opening the orchard, proving the 'educational' portion of our meeting, and sharing, well really, their lives with us.

And thank you all for sharing your lives with each other and our community.

Hope to see you at Henrietta Creek on June 3rd!

Susan Stanek,
President

LEADERSHIP

President: Susan Stanek
slstanek@verizon.net

1st VPresident: Nancy Curl
n1_curl@yahoo.com

2nd VPresident: Bill Vandever
bvandever@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Pat Higgins
ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor: Jackie Heidinger
rheidinger@tx.rr.com

Website: Kate Kilmurray
webmaster@tarrantmg.org

Activities: Pam Braak
p.braak@verizon.net

Birthdays/Sunshine: Doris Hill
artanddorishill@verizon.net

Membership: Carl Trehus
c.trehus@gte.net

Hospitality: Natalie Wistrand
nattie57@yahoo.com

Bulletin Board: Joan Schmidt

Historian: TBA

Acknowledgements: Pat Lovejoy
palovejoy@att.net

Garden Resource: Dave Wilson
ldwilson98@yahoo.com

Photo/Publicity: Derald Freeman
ggreatideas@sbcglobal.net

Raffle: Rhett Cervantes
r2b2cervantes@yahoo.com

Advisor: Steve Chaney
s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2010

The program for May, *Inviting the Fort Worth Prairie into the City* was presented by Dr. Tony L. Burgess, a Professor of Professional Practice in Environmental Science at TCU.

President Susan Stanek called the business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with 212 members and interns in attendance.

The April minutes were approved as published.

The Treasury Report was not presented as Pat Higgins, Treasurer, is out-of-town. The report will appear as an addendum on the June minutes.

Kim Freeman, Activities, reminded the membership of the tour on May 13, 2010. Members will tour the Farmers Branch Rose Garden, followed by lunch at the pavilion. Members are encouraged to bring a sack lunch or pick up lunch at one of the nearby eateries. A visit to Strong's Nursery is planned for after lunch.

Taddie Hamilton, Plant Sale Chair, reported Plant Sale profits of over \$7,000. Percentages of distribution were determined based on the services provided by the CG as well as the use of the facility. Taddie thanked all who contributed to the success of the Plant Sale.



Ginger Bason, Awards Committee, reported Tarrant County ranked 2nd in the State for the number of awards received. Awards presented to Tarrant County at the State Conference were:

First Place:



Publication—*My Garden Book of Vegetables – Coloring and Activity Book* (prepared by Masters Gardeners for use at Union Gospel Mission)

Second Place:

Educational Program – Educational Curriculum Tarrant County Community/ Demonstration Garden

Display - Tarrant County Master Gardeners New Projects/Programs

Graphic Presentation – *Native Plants of the DFW Area* (PowerPoint prepared by Marilyn Sallee)

Mass Media - *S.P.I.N. (Southlake Program for Involvement of Neighborhoods) into Spring's Local Gardens* (News article about Southlake Garden Tour, co-chaired by Wendy Carlucci)

Master Gardener Association - Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Newsletter - *The Sharecropper* (Newsletter Chair and Editor, Marilyn Sallee)

Third Place:

Project - STOP Garden (An educational garden at Tarrant County Juvenile Detention Center)

Honorable Mention:

Poster - Heritage School Outdoor Learning Environment

Steve Chaney congratulated the membership

(Continued on page 6)

TCMGA Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

on the many awards and recognition. In 2009, TCMGs led the State by contributing nearly 52,000 hours in community service! Second place winners reported approximately 30,000 hours.

New Specialist Programs for this year are: Tree and Compost training.

The 2011 State Conference will be hosted by Granbury/Glen Rose.

Sharon Chastain, Nominating Committee Chair, announced her proposed slate for committee members: Claire Alford, Kay Gunn, Bill Vandever and Kay Yount. Sharon encouraged the membership to give thoughtful consideration to nominating other certified members in good standing, who would be willing to serve on the 2011 Board. Additional nominations will be accepted at the June membership meeting.

There was no New Business.

Announcements

Nancy Curl reminded the membership that the June social will be held at Henrietta Creek. Sue Short and her husband will be our hosts. Members should bring a lawn chair, sack lunch and carpool. There will be a presentation, orchard tour and demonstrations. We will have a business meeting and accept nominations for the 2011 nominating committee members. If peaches are ripe, we will have the opportunity to pick our own peaches.

The July meeting will be the annual Garage Sale. Garden-related items will be accepted for the sale. Projects will be showcased. Each

project can have one silent auction item. Minimum value of silent auction item is \$20.



Steve Purdy was available to sign up telephone volunteers who did not wish to do so through the website.

Logo items ordered at today's meeting will be available for pick up at the July meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Secretary

Addendum — TCMGA Meeting Minutes Addendum

Below is an addendum to the Meeting Minutes which provides the Treasurer's report for the month of April 2010:

March 31, 2010 Money Market Balance:	\$ 17,269.30
March 31, 2010 Checking Account	<u>9,261.18</u>
Total Accounts	\$ 26,530.48
Deposits during April, 2010	\$ 11,836.35
Checks written during April, 2010	<u>(9,809.22)</u>
Money Market Fund and checking balance at April 30, 2010	<u>\$ 28,557.61</u>

Pat Higgins
Treasurer

TCMGA Announcements

Nominating Committee Update



Each year our organization goes through a long process as we select and elect a slate of officers who will serve in the following calendar year. We are just beginning that process. The first step on the journey is

forming a Nominating Committee. According to TCMGA by-laws, the Nominating Chair, is appointed by the TCMGA Executive Board, and Sharon Chastain has agreed to serve as the 2010 Chair.

The second step in the process is for the general membership to elect four members to serve on the Nominating Committee with the Chair. At the May meeting, Sharon presented the names of four members that she would like to serve on the Nominating Committee. She has invited members of the TCMGA organization who have served in various leadership capacities and who have worked on a variety of projects in an effort to bring together a committee that is familiar with the broad needs and talents of our organization. The nominees are: Claire Alford, Kay Gunn, Bill Vandever and Kay Yount.

At the June business meeting members may make additional nominations from the floor, after which time, the nominations will be closed. Members of the Nominating Committee should be "members in good standing" who have been certified one year or more.

Finally, the entire membership will vote on the nominees for the Nominating Committee at the July meeting. Then the real work begins!

Sharon Chastain
Nominating Committee Chair

Raffle Committee Update



June Social

The Raffle Committee will be displaying several items for raffle and auction at Henrietta Creek Orchard for the June social. Please look for us and help support the projects.



July 1st MG Garage Sale

A Few Ideas Regarding The Garage Sale:

- It's time for spring cleaning – bring clean and usable items to the drop off area at the N.E. entrance.
- This is a great way to recycle items that other master gardeners can and will use. Let's keep it out of the landfill.
- Do not price items. The Raffle Committee will handle that for you.
- Tax donation receipts are available.
- If you are donating an item \$20 or higher contact Rhett Cervantes and let her know.
- Bring lots of money!

Rhett Cervantes
Raffle Committee Chair

It's a Good Sign When You Have These Signs

You know how it is when you plant herbs. You have every intention of marking them – or at least remembering what you planted, and where. The 2010 Master Gardener Intern Class has solved your problem.

These large, weatherproof signs will not only let you find your garlic, oregano, rosemary, cilantro, thyme and basil, but they look good, too. The signs sell for \$10 each or all six for \$50. They make wonderful gifts, as well.

Profits from the sale of the signs will be used for the 2010 intern project – a native grassland area at the Community Demonstration Garden. Signs can be purchased from the intern vendor table at the July Master Gardener meeting or contact Marilyn Cox at 469-853-0975 or at cox.marilyn@sbcglobal.net.

Get to Know Your Fellow MGs!

May's Mystery Master Gardener!



May's Mystery Master Gardener was none other than **Toni Moorehead!** I am sure many of you know her, but for those who don't, she is a wonderful lady and Master Gardener. She dedicates

herself to landscaping and gardening. She is tireless in her endeavors and is continuously sought out for her immense knowledge of plants and how to maintain them. Please take time to meet Toni, you'll be very glad you did!



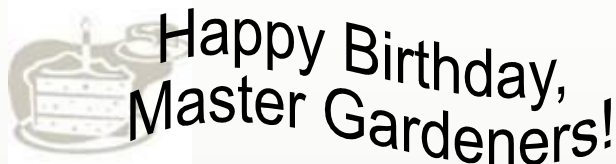
New MG Specialists!

Texas AgriLife Extension Service offers Texas Master Gardener training programs to establish specialized MGs to assist with promotion of county educational programs and/or projects.

TCMGA is proud to announce the following MGs have completed training and are now Specialists:

Jeanie Browning	Vegetable
Donna Fry	Plant Propagation
Bill Hall	Vegetable
Lance Jepson	Entomology
Kate Kilmurray	Rainwater Harvesting
Sue Ellen Schlitzer	Rainwater Harvesting
Ron Schlitzer	Rainwater Harvesting
Bill Vandever	Vegetable

Please congratulate these MGs on completing their training! We look forward to capitalizing on their new found knowledge!



June Birthdays

- 1 Tillie Ransom, Rosalinda Osborn (I)
- 2 Carol Tipton, Carol Turner
- 3 Ginger Bason
- 9 Penny McCook
- 10 Nancy Jarrett
- 11 Phil Welch
- 12 Debbie Vedro
- 13 Paula Billman(I)
- 14 Mary Matl
- 15 Joyce Hammill
- 18 Vera Beck, Janet Robey
- 22 Faye Dale
- 27 Marcia Lambert(I)
- 28 Donna Morris, Camille Thomason
- 29 Sharon Duquemin
- 30 Loma Matthews, Earnest Wilson

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

Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your membership directory:

No updates this month.

Report any changes or corrections to Carl Trehus at c.trehus@gte.net or 817-481-3435.

June 2010 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<p>1 <i>9a Randall Mill PK Greenhouse</i> <i>8:30a BG Trial</i> <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p>	<p>2 <i>8a Veterans Park</i> <i>9a Teen Challenge</i> <i>9a BG Perennial</i> <i>9a BG Children's</i> <i>9:30a Thistle Hill</i> <i>1p Veterans Park</i> <i>3:15p Fitzgerald</i></p> <p><i>NPSOT: Lone Star Regional Plant Conference</i></p>	<p>3 <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i></p> <p>10A TCMGA MEETING—Henrietta Social</p> <p><i>NPSOT: Lone Star Regional Plant Conference</i></p>	<p>4 <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p> <p><i>NPSOT: Lone Star Regional Plant Conference</i></p>	<p>5 <i>8a Wildscape Class: - "Native Groundcovers"</i> <i>—Suzanne Tuttle,</i> <i>9am Compost Demo</i> <i>NPSOT: Lone Star Regional Plant Conference</i></p>
6	<p>7 <i>8a Heritage Elementary.</i> <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i> <i>9a Union Gospel</i></p>	<p>8 <i>8a Liberty Gdn.</i> <i>9a Randall Mill PK Greenhouse</i> <i>8:30a BG Trial</i> <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p>	<p>9 <i>8a Veterans Park</i> <i>9a Teen Challenge</i> <i>9a BG Perennial</i> <i>9a BG Children's</i> <i>1p Veterans Park</i> <i>3:15p Fitzgerald</i></p> <p><i>BRIT Free Public Lecture "Texas Ferns"</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Compost Training</p>	<p>10 <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Compost Training</p>	<p>11 <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i> <i>8:30a JPS Meditation Garden</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Compost Training</p>	<p>12 <i>9am SW Crthse</i> <i>9am Compost Demo</i></p> <p>TCMGA CG Class—Drip Irrigation</p>
13	<p>14 <i>8a Heritage Elementary</i> <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i> <i>9a Union Gospel</i> <i>2:45p Heritage Elementary.</i></p>	<p>15 <i>9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse</i> <i>8:30a BG Trial</i> <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p> <p>TCMGA CG Class—Tunicate Bulbs</p>	<p>16 <i>8a Veterans Pk</i> <i>9a Teen Challenge</i> <i>9a BG Perennial</i> <i>9a BG Children's</i> <i>9a FW Hulen Library</i> <i>9:30a Thistle Hill</i> <i>1p Veterans Park</i> <i>3:15p Fitzgerald</i></p>	<p>17 <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i></p>	<p>18 <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p>	19
20	<p>21 <i>8a Heritage Elementary</i> <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i> <i>9a Union Gospel</i></p>	<p>22 <i>9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse</i> <i>8:30a BG Trial</i> <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p>	<p>23 <i>8a Veterans PK</i> <i>9a Teen Challenge</i> <i>9a BG Perennial</i> <i>9a BG Children's</i> <i>1p Veterans Park</i> <i>3:15p Fitzgerald</i></p>	<p>24 <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i></p>	<p>25 <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i> <i>8:30a JPS Meditation Garden</i></p>	26
27	<p>28 <i>8a Heritage Elementary</i> <i>8:30a Alice Carlson</i> <i>9a Union Gospel</i> <i>2:45 Heritage Elementary</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Rainwater Harvesting Training</p>	<p>29 <i>9a Randoll Mill Pk Greenhouse</i> <i>8:30a BG Trial</i> <i>8:30a CG Veggie</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Rainwater Harvesting Training</p>	<p>30 <i>8a Veterans PK</i> <i>9a Teen Challenge</i> <i>9a BG Perennial</i> <i>9a BG Children's</i> <i>9am SW Crthse</i> <i>1p Veterans Park</i> <i>3:15p Fitzgerald</i></p> <p>Master Gardener Specialist —Rainwater Harvesting Training</p>			

2010 Up-Coming Events



New May Events!

May 24— “Short Trees, Tall Shrubs” Presentation at 11am at Union Gospel Mission.

TCMGA Community & Demonstration Garden Classes

Coming In May:

Tuesday, May 18 Hypertufa Pots - Level II
Wednesday, May 19 Herbs
Friday, May 28 How to Make a Copper Trellis & How to Make a Copper Rain Gauge

Coming in June:

Saturday, June 12 Drip Irrigation
Tuesday, June 15 Tunicate Bulbs - Propagation

Coming in July:

Saturday, July 10 Fall Vegetable Gardening

To register for these educational classes, contact **Nancy Curl** at nl_curl@yahoo.com.



July Events

Saturday, July 10 – Preserving the Post Oak Woodland - Steve Chaney, AgriLife Extension Agent at Wildscape.

Mark Your Calendars! Field Trip



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH
Tierra Verde Golf Course, Arlington, TX

TOUR CONDUCTED VIA GOLF CARTS



Golf courses generally get a bad rap for using too much water and chemicals but not the award winning Tierra Verde. The theme at this city owned golf course is **conservation** – from the dense **natural habitat** and wildlife corridors to **composting** and **water saving efforts**. The course uses **natural fertilizer**, their own **bio-fungicide** to control weeds and they save grass clippings for composting and to make compost tea.

The tour will be conducted by Course Superintendent Mark Clayburn who is a passionate conservationist and naturalist . He has some very surprising stories to tell.

Buffet lunch at the Ventana Grille at the golf course. Followed by an optional stop at Redenta’s Garden in Arlington .

Activities Committee



Tierra Verde Photo Courtesy of AvidGolfer

2010 Up-Coming Event— June Social

Thursday, June 3 at 10 am will be our annual “off-site” social. You are invited to a picnic in the country at Ray and Sue Short’s **Henrietta Creek Orchard** in north Tarrant County.



Ray and Sue Short have been farming since 1990. Sue went to her grandson's classroom in 1995 to talk about gardening and growing produce...including apples.

The teacher asked if the class could come out on a field trip. Ray and Sue have been having school field trips to their orchard ever since and enjoy teaching others about farming. Sue has been a Master Gardener since 1999.

Join a car pool, bring a sack lunch and lawn chair and head to north Tarrant County. **Henrietta Creek Orchard** is located just east of the Alliance Airport. [Directions](#)

Our own TCMG, Sue Short and her husband Ray will greet us and provide a history of the orchard. They will share the joys and challenges they have encountered in their adventure. Sue will discuss bees, pollination, and honey extraction as well as the impact of wildlife on their farm. Sue Jolly will demonstrate spinning colored cotton into yarn.

After lunch, Master Gardeners will lead you on a guided tour of the colored cotton patch, pizza garden with tomatoes, peppers, garlic, and herbs, vegetable garden, walk-through worm tunnel, butterfly garden, chicken coop, and loofah gourd vines. A stop at the charming Apple House will allow you to see a large apple washer and a demo by Kathy Sabin and Pat Higgins making loofah gourd soap. Homemade preserves, jellies, salsa, honey and fruit butters (some of these items are sugar free) will be available as well.

Sue will then lead us to the orchard for an opportunity to see over 700 hybrid dwarf apple trees (8 different varieties) and 400 peach trees. If the peaches are ripe you will have the opportunity to “pick your own” peaches.

Come and join the fun!

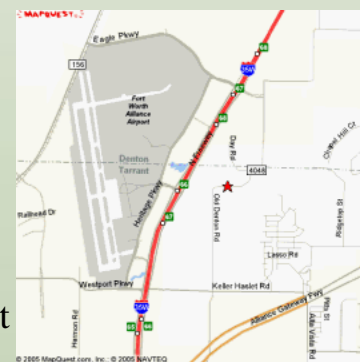
Important information before you go.....

- Carpool if possible
- Activities begin at Henrietta Creek Orchard at 10 am.
- Bring a sack lunch and a lawn chair (water will be provided.)
- Shops that are close-by.....

Jason's Deli	Subway
Sonny Bryans	Snooty Pig café
Schlotzsky's Deli	J C Penney's
Hobby Lobby	Sam Moon's
Cabella's	

Henrietta Creek Orchard is located in North Tarrant County. We are east of the Alliance Airport and South of the Texas Motor Speedway. [Directions](#)

From I-35W exit #66. Turn East on Westport Parkway (Keller Haslet Road on the map. Map has not been updated) after .7 mile. Take a left (North) on Old Denton Rd. After traveling north about 1.2 miles the road curves to the right. We are about .25 miles on the left after the curve. Please use the second entrance. [For directions from your location click here.](#) Remember Keller Haslet road is now called Westport Parkway.



Nancy Curl
1st Vice-President

MG'er Speaks Out: *Boxwood Buxus spp.*

By Derald Freeman

Family: Buxaceae

Characteristics

Low maintenance, round, spreading, evergreen, small deep green leaves, disease and insect resistant, and growth habit of approximately 3 ft x 3 ft. The boxwood shrub has a use in almost any garden. It can be sheared into neat geometric shapes for a formal garden setting or left to grow into its natural shape for a casual look. It is well adapted for a hedge as for a specimen plant. All boxwood are shallow rooted. You must take care not to cultivate too closely around them. They should be mulched with 2-3" of mulch to keep the roots from drying out.

Boxwood, or *Buxus* is a genus of about 70 species. They are native to parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, Madagascar, South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Only a few species are frost-tolerant; the remainder being tropical and sub-tropical. Boxwood are slow-growing shrubs and evergreen.

Variegated: If you are fond of variegated foliage, you may like American boxwood 'Variegata' (*B. sempervirens*)



Buxus japonica is the Japanese boxwood is evergreen and likes sun or part shade.

Buxus sempervirens grows well in zones 5-8, is evergreen, likes sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil; prefers a pH of 6.0 or higher. Has lustrous dark green leaves.

'Winter Gem' *Buxus microphylla* has dark green oval-shaped leaves with compact growth habit, 2 feet to 3 feet high with 2 feet to 3 feet spread,

makes this variety excellent for a small hedge. The dark foliage keeps its color through summer and winter. Literature describes this variety as possibly the same plant as Winter Green, and just a re-name.



Korean Wintergreen Boxwood shrub, *Microphylla koreana*. It is best grown where the root zone can be mulched and left undisturbed. Roots are fine textured and well branched making transplanting easy - irrigate regularly until well established. This evergreen requires a well-drained soil and prefers shading and wind protection in winter if grown on exposed sites.

Pruning

Pruning, like any other skill, requires knowing what you are doing to achieve success. The old idea that anyone with pruning shears, clippers or a chain saw can be a landscape pruner is far from the truth. The appearance of trees and shrubs are ruined each year because people do not know what they are doing. More trees are killed or ruined each year from improper pruning than by pests.

Pruning is the removal or reduction of certain plant parts that are not required, that are no longer effective, or that are of no use to the plant. By the way, deer will not eat them. So if you live on the edge of Fort Worth and have deer problems, that is a plus.

Naturally Cool (cont'd)

at Auburn University in Alabama, another hot place, recently concluded that electricity usage and associated costs will be 11.5 % less if a house has just 17.5 % shade coverage when compared to a house with no shade. His study of 160 houses in the Auburn area covered an entire year, but found the greatest impact of trees in the months of May through September. The study calculated shade coverage for each house, analyzed power bills and surveyed homeowners about household make up, electricity usage habits, types of appliances, building materials and other factors.



Late afternoon shade, which is best provided by trees and shrubs on the west side of a building, provided the greatest energy savings. The next best

way to save energy was to raise the thermostat. He found an energy savings of 3.3% for each degree increase in temperature. What's the best way to use more energy? Have children under age 12 in the house. They are the major power consumers: watching television, playing video games and leaving the lights on.

Dr. Laband hopes his finding will encourage real estate developers to preserve existing trees when constructing new houses. He found significant differences in energy use between older homes with large trees and new homes with out, despite the fact that newer homes had more energy efficient appliances.

Growing a shade tree is a long term undertaking, but shrubs and vines can provide some late afternoon shade relatively quickly when properly sited on the west side of a structure.

Evaporation, Transpiration, and Cooler Temperatures

Everyone who has stepped out of a shower has experienced the cooling effects of evaporation, the change in state that occurs when liquid water becomes water vapor. Transpiration is the movement of water through a plant. All plants transpire. Water vapor is released from the stomata of plants and moves into the atmosphere. Both processes consume heat energy and cool the surrounding air.

Chris Martin, Professor of Horticulture at Arizona State University (ASU) reports that recent studies at ASU have shown that during hot summer afternoons, the surfaces



of homes next to a healthy summer lawn can be as much as 10 degrees cooler than similar homes surrounded by desert landscaping. The term 'Desert Landscaping' is used to describe a turf free landscape that features desert plants and often inorganic mulch, such as stone. The key to cooling with transpiration is simply the volume of plant material. There is a direct correlation between leaf surface area and cooling effect.

Plants in any environment create a cooler microclimate by transpiring. You might be able to fry an egg on the cement this summer, but you won't be able to do that on the soccer field. Large plants that provide shade provide cooling benefits. And finally, with apologies to Joyce Kilmer, "I think that I shall never see an air conditioner as lovely as a tree."

Project Spotlight: Fort Worth Botanic Trial Garden

Photos Courtesy of Susan Miller



Workers at the Trial Garden

Susan Miller, Project Lead for the FW Botanic Trail Garden was proud to announce that in a recent work day, all required data was collected and 216 bulbs were planted! Special thanks to:

*Lance Jepson
John Stanley
Barbara Lind
And
Ron Schlitzer*



Hippeastrum " Burgaro Grande"
Hardy Amaryllis



Leucanthemum "Ox- eye Daisy"

Susan also shares pictures of beautiful plants in bloom at the Trial Garden.



Gaura "Stratosphere White"



Engelmania peristiana "Cut-Leaf Daisy"



Baptisia x hybrida "False Indigo"



Verbena "Tiger Rose"

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	Call Chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 am	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30am	Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net	817-261-1420
303 Community Garden			
Community and Demo Garden Chair	Steve Chaney, s-chaney@tamu.edu		817-884-1945
Project Leads			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11.net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting	Ron & Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Community Vegetable Beds	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Demonstration Beds	Kim Freeman ba magirlntx@sbcglobal.net		817-292-3775
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Pat Higgins, ragdollpat@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Enabling Garden	TBA		
Greenhouse/Propagation	Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com		817-481-8861
Herb Garden , Wednesdays	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net		817-295-2883
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard	Renee Beckum, jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		817-790-8575
Mowing/Edging	TBA		
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-817-838-7321/817-923-9250	
Plant Sales	Taddie Hamilton, taddieh@sbcglobal.net		817-534-3440
Potting Shed	Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Rain Barrel Construction	Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net		817-444-2247
Rose Garden, Tuesdays	Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com		817-477-2867
Topiary (children's garden)	Peg Surber, txsurber@aol.com		817-232-5035
Treasurer	Donna Morris, morrisd1@swbell.net		817-560-7767
Watering	TBA		
304 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 am	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 am	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
304 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 am	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Fri. 8:30am	Kay Lewis	817-281-6600
304 Casa House	Call Chairman	Rocky Deutscher	817-991-7171
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden			
Docents	Call Chairman	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
<u>Environmental Projects:</u>			
305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin	818-581-1850
	2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 am	Devanie Fergus	817-683-3332
		Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5281
305 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat., last Wed. 9 am	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
305 Liberty Garden	Call Chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues., 8-11 am		
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues. 9-12n Randall Mill Pk. Greenhouse		
	Wed. 9-12n, 1st Sat., 9-12 am	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	Call Chairman	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190
<u>School Gardens:</u>			
306 Alice Carlson	Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 pm	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 BG-Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 am	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
307 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10am	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977
	2nd & 4th Mon. 2:45pm		

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



Important Websites to Know!



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