



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

The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before, (Vita Sackville-West, 1892-1962).

That is a very insightful statement; she must have known many gardeners. Aren't we lucky as members of TCMGA to know so many gardeners and to be able to share time together? The attendance at the meeting is very impressive and the knowledge we are gaining and sharing is unmatched. We are an optimistic group and never fail to step up to the challenge and get the job done. I agree we are never satisfied and want to get better every month and every year. Enterprising is so true. Just look at all that was happening at the last meeting and all that gets accomplished during the month. Point in case - There were HUNDREDS of caladium bulbs to be bagged to fill the many orders, so a group met and came up with a plan; in less than two hours the task was done and we talked the entire time!!! What will be the next challenge???? Maybe getting enough people to answer the phones in the MG office????

If you haven't registered already, register ASAP for the State Conference at A&M; this counts as the May TCMGA mtg. You will meet more gardeners and learn a lot. Then plan to attend the summer meetings to share all that optimism and knowledge.

—Ginger Bason



May Monthly TCMGA Program

Our April meeting, with over 200 members present, was a huge success, with an almost carnival atmosphere. Folks bought and sold garage and silent auction items, purchased logo items, picked up caladium orders, signed up for field trips, learned about projects, got more information on oak wilt, noshed on great food and thoroughly enjoyed **Maggie Ross McNeely's** wonderful pictures and presentation on gardening design through the ages. Sincere thanks to all of you who contributed to this great day, with special thanks to **Jim Nelson**, whose boundless energy and leadership were the cornerstone for the day's success.

As usual, our May program is pre-empted by the **Texas Master Gardeners 2006 Conference**, being held on May 4, 5 and 6 in College Station. As President **Ginger Bason** emphasized, this serves as our monthly meeting. All members are urged to attend. Information may be found at both the TCMGA website and the TMGA website.

The next TCMGA meeting, our June Social, will be held on June 1 at Henrietta Creek Orchards. **Sue Short** has graciously offered the outdoor facilities for our program and picnic lunching. We will have a workshop on topiary, and we'll have a fun plant exchange. More details will be available in next month's newsletter.

—Joy Lease



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - April 6 , 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Ginger Bason at 11:00 a.m. 206 members and interns were in attendance.

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

Treasurer Rita Hottel gave the Treasurer's Report. She stated the organization had total assets of \$26,059.44. Three Certificates of Deposit have been purchased in the amount of \$15,000. She advised copies of the budget were available.

Pursuant to a presentation of the issue by Derald Freeman and Dolores Geisel, the Membership approved paying the two Tarrant County Master Gardener delegates to the State Meeting at Texas A&M in May for their registration cost, plus the state housing and meal per diem rate.

The following announcements were made:

- (1) TCMGA metal signs are available for \$12.00 for display in members' gardens.
- (2) Kerry Atkinson with the Texas Forest Service was in attendance at the meeting and was available to discuss oak wilt.
- (3) TCMGA members are needed to man the phone lines at the Extension Office.
- (4) Registration forms for the State Conference in May are available on-line at the Texas Master Gardener website.
- (5) Flowercade will be held at the Botanic Garden and members are encouraged to enter a display in the Horticulture Division.
- (6) Members are needed for assisting with the Hidden Gardens of Ft.Worth Tour in June.
- (7) There will not be a May meeting due to the State Conference.
- (8) The June meeting will be a social and will be held at Sue Short's orchard with a speaker providing information on how to build topiary.
- (9) On Tuesday, April 18th, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court will present a proclamation celebrating the work of the Extension volunteers.
- (10) It was reported that Steve Chaney is recuperating nicely from his recent knee replacement surgery.

Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

LANTANA

by Greg Grant and Jerry Parsons
(Texas Cooperative Extension and TAMU)

Lantana, of the vervain family Verbenaceae, consists of more than 150 species of shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

Wild lantanas are hairy and often prickly-stemmed. Verbena-like flowers are formed in clusters from the leaf axils or at the ends of branches. The small, berry-like fruits contain seeds. In some regions, Texas included, lantanas grow wild as weeds, chiefly spread by birds that are very fond of their juicy fruits.



The lantanas are very free-flowering from late spring until frost. All types can be used in containers and the trailing types make excellent hanging basket specimens. Lantana has been improved in its usefulness as a bedding-plant largely through the efforts of French hybridists. Varieties are available in many colors from white through yellow, orange, to deep red, hot pink and purple. Often the older outer flowers of each cluster are of a different hue than the younger, inner ones.

Several new varieties bloom profusely but NEVER form berries. This revolutionary new development in lantanas insures that the plant will be a continuous blooming beauty. Sterile varieties which are available include New Gold, Dwarf Pinkie, Samantha (Lemon Swirl), Weeping Lavender and Weeping White. The lantana is a great landscape plant which is very adapted to this area provided they are grown in a sunny location. When established, the plants are very drought tolerant, and continue to produce bright and attractive blooms in the hottest of weather. Lantana can be cut to the ground and will come back each spring.

Some of the best varieties which are available from local nurseries are:

- New Gold -- bright yellow, spreading habit. This plant is continuous blooming. But you MUST insist on the New Gold variety.
- Weeping Lavender -- Fragrant, lavender flowers, low spreading habit.
- Weeping White -- Fragrant, white, sterile flowers, low spreading habit.
- Pinkie -- Pink/cream bicolor flowers on an extremely compact plant which never requires cutting back.
- Texas Flame (Dallas Red, New Red) -- Orange/yellow/red tricolor blooms which turn to deep red, a compact bush. The reddest lantana available.
- Samantha (Lemon Swirl) -- Bright yellow, sterile blooms and beautiful variegated foliage on a compact bush. A beautiful plant even without blooms.

(portions of the article were reduced)

MG Directory Updates

Directory changes:

Phone number correction

Sandy Williams 817-443-0583

E-mail changes

Vonne Bourke -	ybourke@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Jarratt -	wnjarr@sbcglobal.net
Gwen Kelly -	g-kelly@sbcglobal.net
Jack Mitchell -	bobbijack@sbcglobal.net
Bob Steele -	bstealebja@aol.com

Note: Send updates to Pat Lovejoy
E-mail patlovejoy@att.net.

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name		Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301	BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311	Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312	Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
312	Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
313	BG Cottage Garden	Call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321	Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322	Union Gospel Mission	Every Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323	Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324	Mansfield Main St. Project	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325	Weston Gardens Docent	Call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326	Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
399	Gardening with Dotty	Last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401	Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
402	FW Nature Center	Call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403	FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 10 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404	SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405	Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
		2 nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406	Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 9:00 - 12:00	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
		1 st Sat. 9:00 - 12:00		
408	TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601	Alice Carlson	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602	Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603	Brewer	Call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604	Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605	Oakhurst	Call chairman	Margaret Hare	817-763-5054
611	Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

Garden of Toni & Dile Moorehead (Garden #1) *Texas Wildlife in the Garden*

"The signature of God is written in flowers," states a small plaque Master Gardener Toni Moorehead has placed on her front porch. She claims that while God "wrote the book on gardening," she has had the privilege of caring for part of His creation.

A garden is an artistic creation, but unlike a painting, it is living art, constantly changing, adapting, and evolving. Like looking at fine artwork, our eyes are drawn into the gardens, but they never rest; rather they move from one part of the composition to another.

Toni Moorehead's creation begins at the curb where she has combined wildflowers and perennials in a riot of spring color, many begun from an assortment of seeds from a seed farm in Fredericksburg. Blue, yellow, red, orange, and white-- California poppies, Larkspur, Texas Bluebonnets, Winecup, *Salvia Greggii* (her favorite), *Coreopsis*, *Calylophus*, several varieties of daisies and more fill the beds that stretch along the sidewalk.

Beside the driveway, a narrow path opens into a veritable park. Graceful, curving shrub and flower beds, trees-- both large and ornamental-- and grasses offer a treat to the senses. Even the small side yard is part of the canvas. A window box under the window is home to seasonal flowers, and *liriope* fills the space beside the house.

When the Mooreheads moved into their house 8 years ago, there was little more than dirt in the yard and some large trees covered with vines along a creek in the back. They hired a landscaper to plant a few trees and design a foundation plan, but they have revamped every bit of that plan over the years.

During the first year Moorehead designed a graceful, curved garden along the back fence. The next year she added two large beds, one on each side of the backyard, and she tackled the front yard the following year. Each year she has added another section to her masterpiece. She claims she got tired of mowing around trees so developed gardens around them. Today a grass path winds between large garden beds. The open yard is lined with shrub and flower beds ending at a terraced patio and koi pond right behind the house. Having grown up in Wisconsin, Toni Moorehead found Texas gardening an adventure. She had a major advantage, however: Her neighbor's father owned the former Glade Road Garden Center.

This neighbor not only became a valued friend but also inspired and taught her.

Today Moorehead holds the designation of Texas Master Gardener and her garden was recently certified as both a Texas Wildscapes Backyard Wildlife Habitat and a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat. In 2005, her garden was chosen by Neil Sperry as "Garden of the Month" on his E-Gardens Newsletter.

While Toni Moorehead has made extensive use of native Texas plants and wildflowers, she has also incorporated plants that have been adapted for the north Texas climate. At the last count, her collection added up to 214 separate specimens, "subject to change at any given moment, depending on which nursery [she] drives by" (Moorehead). Among her favorite trees are 12 Japanese maples and a magnificent, towering 'DD Blanchard' Southern Magnolia with copper-backed leaves which she started from a 30-gallon plant.

Moorehead makes use of a variety of found objects and garden enhancements. One particularly artful "melting" pot began its life as a pedestal container, but when Moorehead noticed that it was literally melting in the Texas summer heat, she incorporated it into a flower bed. Another favorite, a wrought iron gate backed with a large mirror, seems to suggest a path that continues beyond its end at the neighbor's fence. Bits of wrought iron, pots of various materials, benches—all are artfully incorporated to complement the live material.

Moorehead comments that gardens evolve and change constantly. For example, her side garden began its life as a sunny garden. However, as the trees grew, she replaced the sun-loving plants with shade plants. If a particular plant does not seem happy in one location (or she is not happy with it), she simply moves it. When asked what tips she would like to pass on to other gardeners, she claims, "A day without dirt under your nails is like a day without sunshine." For Toni Moorehead, enthusiasm, hard work, and a willingness to learn are paramount: "there are no gardening mistakes; just opportunities to learn more."

—By Jean Neisius

This article was written by Jean Neisius and is reprinted here with her kind permission. Toni's garden will be one of the gardens on the Promenade 2006 garden tour April 30, 2006. For more information on Promenade, go to the Colleyville Garden Club website, <http://colleyvillegardenclub.org>, and click on Promenade.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON OAK WILT



1. What is Oak Wilt? It is a fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which develops in the outer sapwood of the affected tree.
2. How does it affect the tree? The disease is a vascular one which restricts the flow of water and nutrients to the rest of the tree.
3. Are all oak trees susceptible? Yes, the red oaks and live oaks being the most vulnerable, but the white oaks can also be infected.
4. Which oaks are white oaks? The Post Oak, Bur Oak and Chinquapin Oak to name a few that we see around Tarrant County.
5. How does this disease spread? Root grafts as would be seen in a cluster of oaks. The Nitidulid beetle is a known vector moving from a fungal spore mat to a fresh wound (cut) in a healthy tree.
6. How would I recognize Oak Wilt?
 - a. In Live Oaks the foliar symptoms, that is, chlorotic veins (yellow) that turn necrotic (brown), and defoliation (not the normal Spring drop).
 - b. In Red Oaks, young leaves wilt in the Spring, turning pale green and brown. In mature leaves, from leaf margin inward color changes to pale green or bronze.
 - c. Fungal mats on red oaks most often appear in Spring. These fungal mats appear in narrow cracks in bark and have an odor similar to fermenting fruit.
7. How can I control Oak Wilt? It takes an integrated program of sanitation (eliminate the diseased oaks), handling fire wood properly, pruning properly and painting all wounds immediately after making the cut, trenching which disrupts root grafts, utilizing injections of approved fungicide, and replanting using mixed varieties of trees. We all know to avoid a monoculture.
8. Can a diseased oak ever be used for firewood and would burning diseased wood spread the disease? Yes and no. Yes, diseased wood may be cut, stacked and covered in clear plastic with all edges of plastic buried under soil. Burning diseased wood—other than indoors—is believed to be hot enough to destroy the fungal mats.
9. If I have to prune (as in to keep a neighbor happy) when is it safe? Avoid dates from February 1 through June 1. Whenever you cut—any time of year—paint the wound immediately. Rule: cut and paint, cut and paint.
10. Do I have to buy a special paint for the pruning cuts? No, you may use any latex paint you have around the house (assuming the color is appropriate to your décor). Pruning paints can be used, of course.
11. Who would treat my trees? Texas Foresters are our best source of information for qualified arborists. Accurate diagnosis is most important and then a treatment plan can be developed. The Texas Forest Service is developing on their web site a list of qualified Oak Wilt arborists. (<http://texasoakwilt.org>)
12. Is one tree in my yard worth the expense? Estimates of economic impact vary, but one study at A&M has shown a lowering of property value by 13 to 19%.
13. What if I have a stand of oaks? What would trenching or injections cost? Trenching can cost \$5 to \$10 per linear foot, and injections, because they are very time consuming, are hard to estimate. The approved fungicide is costly.
14. Are there other Oak disease? Yes, but fortunately not as lethal, although serious. Some are Anthracnose, Rust, Powdery Mildew, Hypoxylon Canker, Bacterial Leaf Scorch, and Oak Decline. Contacting a certified Arborist is your best source of help.
15. How can I get more information-training?
 - a. Training as a Master Gardener Specialist is available.
The next class is May 22 and 23, 2006 in Hood County Granbury TFS office, Contact Carrie Atchison, TFS forester, PO Box 69, Granbury, TX 76048, phone 817-579-5773 or 936-546-3123.
Also June 20 and 21, 2006, in Bell County, Salado, Texas at TenRoc Ranch. Contact Dirk Aaron, CEA, Bell County,

1605 N. Main St., Belton 76513; phone 254-933-5305; fax 254-933-5312.

- b. Texas Foresters web site has a wealth of information: <http://texasoakwilt.org>. TFS are working on this site to start giving us lists of qualified arborists for Oak Wilt treatment.

—Eleanor Tuck



Birthdays for the month of May:

- 5-2 Jackie Peel, Blas Villarreal
- 5-3 Carl Trehus
- 5-5 Amanda Kowalski
- 5-6 Taylor Stephens-Parker
- 5-8 Joe Sanders
- 5-9 Joan Schmidt
- 5-10 Gwen Lipscomb
- 5-12 Judy Ratzlaff
- 5-13 Kathy Cermak, Debra Sanders, Pat Higgins
- 5-15 Janice Beavers
- 5-25 Imelda Castro and Susan Cullen
- 5-26 Gay Larson
- 5-27 Judith Kelly
- 5-29 Linda Witherspoon
- 5-30 Margo Young
- 5-31 Joyce Colegrove

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

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

Tour Maggie's Garden

Tour Maggie Ross McNeely's own garden plus other gardens on May 19, 2006. Maggie was the wonderful speaker at our recent TCMGA monthly meeting. We will meet at the Botanic Gardens at 8:30 A.M. to car pool. We will tour Maggie's garden at 9 A.M. A \$5.00 per person fee for viewing Maggie's garden will be collected prior to the tour.

After Maggie's garden we go to the Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment to see what has been accomplished there.

We will eat lunch in a Master Gardener's big, shady backyard. Bring your lunch or order a sandwich the morning of the tour. Water will be provided.

After lunch, we will visit several other beautiful gardens in the area.

---Judy Butler

Reorder of Logo Items

An unexpected demand for some items at our latest MG Logo Sales resulted in being unable to deliver some pre-ordered items. The affected items are some models of shirts and also visor (baseball) caps.



Items that we were unable to deliver are now on order from our suppliers. Persons who did not receive items are being notified as to when the ordered items will be available. If you have not been notified please contact Jim Nelson at nelsonj2@swbell.net or 817-688-2842.

--- Jim Nelson

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



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 30	Promenade 2006 garden tour
May 2-5	Pizza Ranch
May 4-6	Texas Master Gardener State Conference in College Station
May 4-7	Mayfest
May 11-12	Plant Prop Specialist Class
May 19	Maggie McNeely's Garden
	Lunch and Tour of member gardens in west Ft. Worth
May 20	Fort Worth Herb Society Festival
June 8	Dallas: Asian Community Garden
	Lunch and Texas Discovery Garden
June 10-11	Hidden Gardens Tour
Sept 19	Tour of member gardens in Northeast Tarrant county
	Lunch at Liberty Garden
October (TBD)	Bus tour to Tyler: Rose Garden
	Lunch and Blue Moon Nursery

—Steve Chaney

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