

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

Volume 2 Issue 1

January 2018

Tarrant County Annual Meeting



The Tarrant County Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 6.

Eleanor Tuck presented the history of the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association.



Judy Ratzlaff and Eleanor Tuck pose with Tarrant County Chaplain Wes McDuffy.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

HERITAGE ELEMENTARY GARDEN THANKS THE PROPAGATION TEAM

By: Harold Annis & Pam Braak

The monthly Garden Club at Heritage Elementary on October 2nd was a real hit with our 35 garden club kids. The students rotated through 3 activities:

Planting vegetables from 4" pots that the **propagation specialists at the TCMGA Demo Garden** grew for us

Starting seeds on paper towels

Propagating Peggy Martin roses from stem cuttings

The students labeled their plantings with cut up blinds marked with their name and the plant or seed that they planted.

Many thanks to the propagation specialists for making this vegetable planting activity possible.

Join us at Heritage Elementary in Grapevine. Garden Club is once a month on Monday afternoons, workdays are all other Mondays at 9 a.m.



Left, Master Gardeners Ray Morrell, Harold Annis and Kristi Blanton discuss the upcoming activities in the lull before the kids arrive.

Heritage Elementary Garden Club Photos



In the two photos on the left, the kids are planting the broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage grown by the Propagation Specialists and adding their own labels.



Above, after gluing the seeds onto paper towels the kids planted them in the extra tall raised beds and covered them with a thin layer of compost that is produced in the garden.



Left, the vegetables looked healthy and vigorous 5 weeks later. The beds are covered in bird netting to keep the bunnies out.

Our Holiday Luncheon Glowed with Pearls and Cheer!

The Awards Committee was thrilled to recognize the following individuals during our Annual Holiday Luncheon:

Judy Ratzlaff Master Gardener of the Year 2017

Margaret Shuping Extra Miler of the Year 2017

Robert Faires Educator of the Year 2017

Sian Rees Intern of the Year 2017

Harold Taylor Intern Extra Miler of the Year 2017

Anna Lee Mod Squad Intern of the Year 2017

Charles Youts Mod Squad Intern Extra Miler of the Year 2017



Photos from the Holiday Luncheon

By Lena Goff



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Photos from the Holiday Luncheon continued





Master Gardeners in the News!

November 2017 Hoopla: News and Entertainment for Parker County Adults 55+



COURTESY PHOTO

Gardener of the Month Gay Larson is affectionately called 'Mother Nature' by Master Gardeners. She started gardening with her dad at a young age.

A Q&A with Gay Larson, our gardener of the month

When did you start gardening?

I started my gardening as a little girl, planting sweet potato slips on our farm/ranch in Hood County. Being the oldest of four, it was my job to place the slip into the hole that Daddy made with broom stick and cover with soil.

Why gardening?

It's therapeutic, healthy, instantly satisfying, and creates the illusion of being younger.

What advice do you have for new gardeners?

Find you a gardening guru like Neil Sperry and a Master Gardener, then, pick their brains for as much knowledge as possible.

What awards and honors have you received over the years?

Master Gardener of the Year for Tarrant and Parker County Master Gardeners. Fort Worth Beautiful Award for Best Landscape at Union Gospel Mission.

Nominated Volunteer of the Year for City of Fort Worth for my years of gardening at the Mission.

Nominated as Master Gardener of the Year for Texas Master Gardener Association.

Honored with Gay Larson Day in town of Aledo.

Best Project Coordinator award for Tarrant and Parker County Master Gardener Associations.

In 2005, I received an award for the most volunteer hours in Parker County.

In 2016, I received a certificate of appreciation from my town of Annetta.

What are your favorite things to grow?

I really love trees because I know they will be here for many years past my life. Trees are important to our existence.

What is the best gardening advice you ever received?

My daddy told me that a rose is not a rose unless it is red.

Sudoku

8	
2	
5	
3	
5	

Directions: Each column must also have 3 boxes must be located on P. 20

Weather



Look familiar?

From Parker County to Mansfield our Master Gardeners make the news!

Debbie Key was featured in the Mansfield Magazine. (Picture above left is from the article) Go to Mansfieldmagazine.com and search for Debbie Key. It's a great read!

Gay Larson was featured in the very first issue of "Hoopla: News and Entertainment for Parker County Seniors."

Good job, ladies!

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Happy New Year!

It seems each year just flies by, but you know what they say..."Time Flies when you are having fun".

What a busy year! Propagation and other Specialist workshops. Our "30" year celebration, my 15th year in the association and the first year as president. It has been a year of learning for me, but I have had many wonderful opportunities. Five County presidents started meeting together quarterly to share ideas, the same and different ways our associations work and sharing what works best for each of us. We agree this has been beneficial to all.

Thank you to each of you for your support and willingness to volunteer at our projects. Working with adults and children. We had two Propagation Specialist Classes with tireless hours on planning, setting up and educating many eager folks anxious to learn all the various ways to propagate. Education has really taken off in our collaboration with Tarrant Regional Water District. We have presented programs and spoke on water conservation, and our attendees have exceeded over 8,000 contacts. In the STARS program we continue to move forward giving and receiving so much from the clients. Programs with schools and projects continue to grow as we share the joy of gardening and nature.

As I look back on 2017, I recall a year filled with joy and blessings. I am proud to have shared with you the friendships that abound in our Association. I believe that TCM-GA has diverse talents and skills which can be appreciated more fully through our care and commitment to serving our community.

I am looking forward to sharing 2018 with you and continue to ask for your guidance and support.

Many hugs,
Judy.

