

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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March 2018

Backyard Vegetable Garden



Note from the editor: The Backyard Vegetable Garden is located in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, and in addition to growing vegetables it is used for educational children's programming.

Photo left, the playhouse in the BVG.

Photo below, volunteers harvesting over 150 pounds of sweet potatoes.

The Backyard Vegetable Garden was renovated in 2012 through the cooperation of the Botanic Society and the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association.

The garden grows a wide variety of vegetables and has an Asian bed which has a small rice paddy, and a Latin bed with tomatillos and jicama.

The garden also has a fruit orchard and has started a grape arbor.

The produce from the garden is shared by the volunteers and local soup kitchens and food banks.

By Otto Witt



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Tarrant County Master Gardeners Honored

The Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department had an annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on February 3rd. They gave out a handful of awards and three Master Gardeners were recognized.

Pam Braak
Extra Mile Volunteer

For work running the Rose Trials for the past almost 3 years. This is a trial to find Rose Rosette Resistant rose varieties and is in partnership with Texas Agri-Life Extension Agent Laura Miller, TAMU Horticulture Department and Grapevine Parks & Recreation Department.

Kate Colvin & Cindy Miller
Rookie Awards

For work on the Perennial Garden at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens to entirely replant and maintain. They are in the early months of this project.

Did you know that the City of Grapevine's Perennial Garden and Rose Trials are Tarrant County Master Gardener projects? Congratulations to Pam, Kate, and Cindy!



March President's Corner—Judy Ratzlaff

March President's Corner.... I have asked our editor to have a page on Committee Profiles so members might know the function of some of our committees. This is taken from a 2010 Newsletter and updated to reflect minor changes over the years.

Committee Profile: Executive & Advisory Boards

The By-Laws mentions these boards, but who's on them and what is their purpose? This is your Executive Board.

President--Judy Ratzlaff

Preside at all meetings, appoint committees with the advice and counsel of the Executive Board. In addition to other duties in the by-laws...the President is an honorary member of the Texas Garden Council and should attend monthly meetings, attends Resource Connection Director's Meetings and if a director, attends the TXMG Director's quarterly meeting at TAMU, as well as quarterly meetings with the Five County President's.

1st Vice President--Rocky Deutscher

Preside in the absence of the President, plan the educational enrichment for the monthly membership meeting, room and necessary furnishings. Contacts speakers, prepares for listing in the directory and coordinates our monthly speaker's needs and honorarium. The VP also is responsible for the December Christmas Lunch..place, program, decorations and food,etc.

2nd Vice President--Sue Kelley

Preside at the meeting if the President and Vice President are absent. Responsible for Ways and Means, which includes all sales of logo wear and all fund raising events by the committees. Caladiums, Plant Sale, Raffle, Fertilizer, Fall Bulbs and vendor's at our meetings. These funds help cover our operating expenses and our projects.

Secretary--Debbie Rasmussen

Records the Executive Board, Advisory Committee and the MG monthly meeting minutes. Sends the MG minutes in an Eblast, the Executive Board and Advisory minutes in an email, as well as maintains a copy of the Executive Board minutes for membership permanent records. Keeps a record of attendance at all meetings.

Continued on next page.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

March President's Corner continued.

Treasurer-Debby Stevenson

Receives all moneys for the Association, pays all bills upon receipt of a reimbursement request accompanied by proof of purchase. Keeps an exact account of dues, our income, bank deposits, disbursements, and other financial matters. Presents a financial report at monthly, executive and advisory meetings.

Our By-Laws state: "The Executive Board shall serve as a screening body for special activities, including the addition of any education enrichment programs or seminars, and shall determine whether an activity should be presented to the membership for approval. Any expenditure of unbudgeted funds must first be presented to the Executive Board for review. The Executive Board shall be limited to the expenditure of \$250.00 for unbudgeted funds, expenditures exceeding 250.00 shall require presentation to the general membership for approval." The Executive Board has voting rights.

"An Advisory Board is for the purpose of developing long-range plans and goals, projects and other management practices by working in conjunction with the Executive Board." They discuss what is happening and give ideas to make our organization better. If someone suggests something that needs to be presented to the membership, this committee hears it first, offers suggestions, considers questions for the purpose of a well thought out answer when it is presented to the membership. Any votes taken that include the Advisory Board are to show opinion or support only.

The Home Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator, Steve Chaney, isn't listed as a member, but he is a member in a non-voting capacity. Steve is always on this journey with us.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make our Association successful. If you would like to discover more about these two boards, read your By-Laws and Standing Rules or talk to a board member. We are here to listen and to serve. We value your thoughts and ideas.

The path we walk as your leaders has been well paved by those who came before us. Look on page "78" of your directory...TCMGA'S Past President's....dedicated leaders who served our Association and help lead us where we are today.

On behalf of the Executive Board and Advisory Committee, we appreciate all each of you do to support our mission; "To provide horticultural and environmental research-based information and techniques. To volunteer in area horticulture projects."

With Daylight Savings Time, St. Patrick's Day, and Spring on the horizon, here's wishing you a great March.

Hugs,
Judy

Treasurer's Report

Operating Account Balance as of December 31, 2017		43,699.37
Add Deposits		0.00
Jan Meeting Raffle	98.00	
Dues & Background Checks	340.00	
Donation-Arlington Garden Center	100.00	
Bricks	70.00	
Mod Squad	50.00	658.00
Less Checks		
Hospitality	33.00	
Formstack	29.25	
Plant Labels	47.98	
Resource Connection	366.59	
Specialty Class	190.00	
Intern Snack & Tshirts	387.62	
Education Supplies	104.52	
Officer dangles	82.93	(1,241.89)
Operating Account Balance as of January 31, 2018		43,115.48
Money Market Account Balance as of December 31, 2017		15,367.00
Add deposits	0.00	0.00
Less withdrawals	0.00	0.00
Money Market Account Balance as of January 31, 2018		15,367.00
Total Cash in Bank as of January 31, 2018		58,482.48



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Samaritan House Master Gardeners Participate in a New Food Initiative



Above: Mayra Martinez works on clearing a bed at Samaritan House.

There is an exciting new program in North Texas that the Master Gardeners at Samaritan House are participating in. It is called “The Garden Network of Tarrant County”; it is tackling the problem of urban food deserts in this area.

The Network is using a two pronged approach to getting more fresh produce to food pantries and low income families. You may purchase a backyard raised bed for your household, and donate some of the harvest to a food pantry, or you could sponsor a raised bed for the yard of a low income family—or both!

The other approach involves nonprofit organizations dedicating parts of their gardens to food production that will ultimately be donated. At Samaritan House we have converted three beds so far, and have already planted onions,

leeks, potatoes and various cabbage family plants. Norbert White, CEO of Samaritan House, has made available some funds to hire residents to assist the Master Gardeners; they are learning about raising food crops. Otto Witt, 2012 a Vegetable Gardening Specialist, is taking the lead in training our resident assistants. He has presented programs on growing vegetables and composting to the group. Also participating in the program are Hugh Lefler-2011, Joe McCreary-2010, Mary Brown- 2016 and Mayra Martinez-2016. Three of our members have been out for various reasons but we are confident they will rejoin us in the near future. They are Caryn Hutchinson-2008, Janice Sims-2015 and John Pinkerton-2011.

Other nonprofits

participating in the program include Salvation Army, Presbyterian Night Shelter, Tarrant Area Food Bank, and The Community Enrichment Center in North Richland Hills. A low income apartment complex on Race Street, Palm Tree Apartments, is working with the network. Flora Brewer, the owner, is building community spirit and helping her residents stretch their food budgets by turning a vacant lot into a community garden. These other locations would benefit from the expertise and mentoring that Tarrant County Master Gardeners could provide. According to a story in the Fort Worth Star Telegram information on the network is available.



Right: Cool season greens that will be donated to a food pantry.

Above: Otto Witt supervises a Samaritan House resident chipping dead plant materials for compost.

TCMGA Members Who have Achieved 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 Year Anniversaries in 2018

Last Name, First Name Class Years

Lind, Barbara 1993 25 Years

Glenn, JoAnn 1998 20 Years

O'Connell, Carole 1998 20 Years

Procter, Esther 1998 20 Years

Dunaway, Sher 2003 15 Years

Hickman, Lauren 2003 15 Years

Holt, Jimi 2003 15 Years

Launius, Dorothy 2003 15 Years

Sekio, Kay 2003 15 Years

Stanek, Susan 2003 15 Years

Warren, Mike 2003 15 Years

Woelke, Cindy 2003 15 Years

Matlock, Judy 2013 5 Years

McGowen, Ray 2013 5 Years

Moreland, Norman 2013 5 Years

Morrison, Debbie 2013 5 Years

Poe, Mary Anne 2013 5 Years

Rosenthal, Debra 2013 5 Years

Schofield, Diane 2013 5 Years

Stricklen, Renie 2013 5 Years

Vanderpool, Theresa 2013 5 Years

White, Sherry 2013 5 Years

Winter, Alan 2013 5 Years

Yost, Mary Lou 2013 5 Years

Browning, Jeanie 2008 10 years

Duncan, Margaret 2008 10 years

Glen, Kathleen 2008 10 years

Hamilton, Taddie 2008 10 years

Harper, Susan 2008 10 years

Hughes, Mary Kay 2008 10 years

Hutchinson, Caryn 2008 10 years

Jepson, Lance 2008 10 years

Sambel, Penny 2008 10 years

Simmons, Karen 2008 10 years

Smith, Steve 2008 10 years

Teague, Claudia 2008 10 years

Castorina, Lorraine 2013 5 Years

Dhabolt-Hertzler, Sandy 2013 5 Years

Dowd, Carol 2013 5 Years

Gunter, Robert 2013 5 Years

Hamilton, Maudia 2013 5 Years

Hughes, Diane 2013 5 Years

Kurth Richard 2013 5 Years

Happy
Anniversary

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Coneflower

by Josephine Keeney

Article appears in the Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter Newsletter, Vol 29, Number 6, July 2017

Eastern Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea.

This gorgeous flower graces prairies with long-lasting beauty.

A long-lived reliable herbaceous perennial, it stands tall and proud among the many other flowers reaching two to five feet.

This Texas Native is also native to many other states, spreading it's beauty over a very large portion of North America. It prefers full sun to part shade and is not particular about soils, although it does like some moisture. The genus name comes from the Greek echino, meaning hedgehog, referring to the spiny central disk.

An extract is made from the roots and sold in liquid or tablet form. It is believed to strengthen the immune system and is sold in pharmacies and health food stores.

Many people also use it in their cultivated gardens, for it blooms from spring to fall in lovely shades of pink attracting butterflies like a magnet. They love to sip from the many flower tubes in the cone and it seems to be the first flower they visit in the garden.

There are six different Coneflowers that are native to Texas:

Narrow-leaf Coneflower, Black Samson, *Echinacea angustifolia*, var. *angustifolia*
and var. *strigosa*

Topeka Coneflower, *Echinacea autrorubens*

Pale Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*

Yellow coneflower, *Echinacea paradoxa* and var. *neglecta*.

Eastern Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*

Sanguin Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea sanguinea*

Eastern Purple Coneflower

Echinacea purpurea



Yellow Coneflower

Echinacea paradoxa



Pale Purple Coneflower

Echinacea pallida



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Low Impact Development and Water Conservation
by Laura Miller, County Extension Agent, Horticulture
Sharecropper March 2014

Low Impact Development (LID) is a new approach to land development or re-development. The goal of LID is to work with nature. LID principles include preserving natural landscape features and minimizing effective imperviousness. Conventional development traditionally focused on getting water out of the way and into a storm drain quickly and efficiently.

What's wrong with quickly and efficiently? Water moving rapidly off a site is likely to take soil and any pesticides or fertilizers that have been recently applied along with it. Add organic material and any trash that might be in the way, and that's a recipe for nonpoint source pollution.

The other important reason not to move water quickly and efficiently off any North Central Texas property is that water that falls from the sky is really a resource. Moving it offsite treats it like a waste product.

There are many practices used in LID, including bioretention in rain gardens or enhanced swales, green roofs, rain water harvesting and storage, and permeable pavements. Many North Texas developers are reluctant to try bioretention techniques on the clay soils that are so prevalent in our area. Water infiltrates slowly into clay soils. Bioretention areas should be designed to hold stormwater for no longer than 48 hours so that mosquito eggs in these areas don't have enough time to develop into adults. This is especially important in light of recent outbreaks of West Nile Virus. Use of bioretention substrates can allow for the necessary infiltration rate.

Practices that reduce impervious areas such as the use of permeable pavement or simple choices like building up rather than out will work on any soil type. Practices that catch rainwater before it reaches the ground such as green roofs and rain barrels also function independently of soil type.

An excellent local example of LID in action is the College Park Development at the University of Texas Arlington. The Green at College Park has won numerous awards including becoming the very first certified Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) landscape, a certification for outdoor spaces designed to function as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification does for buildings.

The site occupied by the lovely Green was previously covered with apartments and a little "grassphalt." Impervious surfaces made up about 80% of the area, and there were some issues with flooding after heavy rains. LID practices integrated into the design include rain planters, rain gardens, biofilters, a dry stream bed to channel stormwater, vegetated buffer strips and pervious paving. The green itself, a large oval lawn, serves as a place where water can be spread out to soak in and a metered overflow structure at the low point of the property limits the amount of water that moves into the storm drain system. The Green at College Park is open to the public and is a great place to see how attractive and functional a Low Impact Development design can be.

By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within a watershed. Applied on a broad scale, LID can maintain or restore a watershed's hydrologic and ecological functions. Applied on a small scale, it can simply mean more water for plants and less going down the drain.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Let's Toot our Horn!

Tarrant County Master Gardeners enrich our community in ways far beyond the garden. For example, did you know that Dorothy Hildebrand was celebrated in the Arlington Star-Telegram last December as a Super Holiday Helper and Can-Do leader for her work with Arlington Urban Ministries? For 15 years Dorothy has worked in the Nu2U Re-sale store as the Christmas Lady, gathering, organizing and showcasing Christmas Decor for Re-Sale to raise funds for Arlington Urban Ministries, which in turn assists Arlington Families.

If you or a Master Gardener friend is recognized for great work in our community, please share this information with Newsletter Editor Lorie Grandclair-Diaz so that we may celebrate them in the Newsletter.



Important March Dates

Thursday, March 1 Monthly Meeting

Thursday, March 15 Advisory Board & Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 26 Cesar Chavez day—Tarrant County Office Closed

Friday, March 30 Good Friday — Tarrant County Office Closed

