

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

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The Three Sisters Garden at Durham Intermediate By Sian Rees

On Sept 5, a companion vegetable garden was planted at Durham Intermediate. Known as a Three Sisters garden, aptly named by the Native American Indians, this traditional garden is made up of corn, beans and squash. This 400 year old concept is based on all three plants supporting each other as they grow. The corn is the big sister who acts as a support for the family (for the beans and squash to climb upon), the beans are the giving sister because they pull nitrogen from the air and pull it into the soil to share with the other plants and the squash is the protective sister because it shades all the roots and keeps out pests. Additionally all three plants provide a well rounded nutritional diet. It was a really great historical/horticultural lesson for our Junior Master Gardeners and I had the privilege of teaching it to 7 classes of 5th graders that day. Thank goodness the weather held out.

Because we only teach, plant and harvest (potatoes) in the Spring at Durham we wanted to add a Fall planting and incorporate it into the Junior Master Gardener program. With a lot of vision on the part of Henry Cole and Caryn Hutchinson the idea turned into a plan. The three of us then calculated our space and the seeds needed. Then with the help of the great clients at STARS and Claire Alford, our seeds were planted and nurtured. These turned into 250 corn and squash plants. We then had to pick them up and load them into our cars and get them up to Durham in Southlake - what logistics! Thank you Eleanor Tuck for helping us! Once up there our corn and squash plants plus several hundred Triunfo Violetto bean seeds were slowly but surely planted into our 3 huge garden beds by over 350 5th grade students. Caryn and I had 6 extravolunteers to assist us out and because

of that the day went smoothly. Thank you so much to everyone who helped out! We are pleased to report that our corn is happy, the squash is spreading and our beans popped out of the ground in only 5 days! We will keep you posted on the progress of our Three Sisters garden. In the meantime here are some pictures. If you have any questions about our project you can email me.



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A Lovely Tribute to a Wonderful Master Gardener

This memorial is located in the Butterfly Garden at the Bob Jones Nature Center. Thank you Patti Maness for contributing.



Master Gardeners Out and About in the Community



These charming photos were taken at a seedhead class that Robert Faures presented at the Viridian Community in Arlington.



Master Gardeners Out and About in the Community



Robert Faires pictured with folks from the Viridian community in Arlington showing off the terrariums that they made.



Above, Master Gardeners who worked with the children at Durham Intermediate to build the 3 sisters garden. Right, part of the 3 sisters garden after it was planted.



Garden Conservancy Tour Photos

By Susan Houston



Important Dates:

Thursday, November 2 Master Gardener Meeting

Pot Luck

Vendors

Pick up your trees & shrubs

Hat Contest

Vote on Master Gardener of the Year

Saturday, November 4 Tarrant County Master Gardeners 30th Celebration

Thursday, November 16 Board Meeting

Thursday, November 23 Thanksgiving, office closed

Friday, November 24 office closed



Reminder from Judy...There will be a Hat Contest at the November 2nd Meeting. The three categories are Creative, Functional and Fun. The three winners will receive \$25 Gift Cards from Home Depot.

Garden Conservancy Photos

By Susan Houston



Garden Conservancy Tour Photos

by Susan Houston



A Note from our President

Thank you

A nice weekend for the "Open Days Garden Tour". Thank you to all who shared their garden, those who coordinated the event, those who worked and those who took time to enjoy the beautiful gardens.

Our educational classes are being held in many areas of the County. We are reaching so many folks, sharing information about plants, soil, water conservation, Farmer's Markets, Senior Education, on and on. I appreciate all of you who are making this happen.

Please look around and note all the wonderful things we are doing as Master Gardener's. As I have the privilege to work with the S.T.A.R.S. {Skills Training Achieves Results} clients, I delight in their joy and laughter, see the excitement in faces and know what we are teaching is a move forward in many lives.

This year we have been on many field trips, fun times shared with friends. We are so involved and the more we do, the more we want to do.....thank you.

Event

Thirty year's ago, in 1987, a group of people met for classes at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, thus began the **Tarrant County Master Gardener's Association**. "**Look how far we have come**"!! On No-

vember 4th we will have a "**BIG Celebration**" at the Resource Connection. Project Displays at the Water Works Learning Center, BBQ in the garden and tours through the Demonstration Garden. I am hoping all of you will attend. We have invited City, County, State and U.S. officials to join us, as well as AgriLife instructor's, past presidents and past members. Our special guests are **You and Your Family**. This is a time to reflect on how far we have come in this program, who is no longer with us, and more importantly what the future holds for our Association. **Please RSVP. Saturday, November 4, 2017, 12:00-3:00, 1801 Circle Drive.....**

Sharing

Recently, I invited my family out for a workday in my garden. They thought that I was kidding but the incentive was enough that nine of us enjoyed the day and it's amazing what can be accomplished in 6 hours.

There is so much more to gardening than preparing the garden for Winter and next Springs planting. We enjoyed visiting and working together. It was a chore, but a nice day as we dug up plants to thin or clear out. Great fun as in terror and laughter I watched my 4 year old great granddaughter trim the iris with scissors, very much like "Edward Scissor Hands". We all had a good time. Some more than others enjoyed working in the yard, but maybe

someday they will say, "Remember the workday at mom's" and smile.

I think I always loved being in the garden, but as a young working mom, I did the housework and left most of the harder yard work to my husband. As I aged that changed. I love being outside, it's therapy, in my garden all's right with the world. I feel a gardener feels reverence for the soil upon which all life depends. I realize that I am working with life itself as I put the seeds, bulbs or roots in the earth's breast and nurture the plants to maturity. A plant is much like a child and needs the same loving care. My garden is a peaceful place where I can stop, reflect and catch a glimpse of life's deeper meaning. For me, even though it can be hard work it's relaxing and rewarding. I am in the autumn of my life and I think I take it some what slower, savoring each day, feeling blessed by friends and family...just stopping to smell the roses. I urge each of you to do that.

Enjoy the fall season and gardening in the soon to be cooler weather.

Hugs,
Judy