



Mission Statement

To provide horticultural and environmental research based information and techniques.
To volunteer in area horticulture projects.



President's Notepad

Several of the seed catalogs (wish books) I have been looking at talk about *patience* as an important part of gardening. Fall is a great time for planting in our area and the cooler temperatures make us want to get out into the garden. We will have to be patient, wait until Spring for the results of our Fall labors.

During the coming months the roots that are the life line of the plants will grow and in the Spring the strong healthy plants will delight us. If you plant a seed it will grow is far from true but if you plant the right way, at the right time and have patience you should be rewarded. This is true with many areas of our lives, not just gardening.

We can learn a lot from our plants/gardens that will be useful in other relationships in our lives if we are patient enough to see, listen, and learn. Many things change during the course of the seasons, some large and some small, but if we have patience we will realize the value of the changes and the lessons we can learn from our gardens.

—Ginger Bason 



November 2nd Monthly TCMGA Program

Last year, about this time, we were treated to a wonderful slide presentation of the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania by **Steven Chamblee**. Since then, **Steven** has moved his interests west, from Education Director at the FW Botanic Gardens to Chief Horticulturist for Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, and is returning to treat us with his wit, wisdom and passion for gardening – with an update of his year's adventures, both in and away from Weatherford.

Steven's infectious love of life and kind, gentle spirit permeate his presentations. He always leaves us a bit more inspired about gardening and a lot happier about being on this planet.

- 9:00 Sign-in, coffee, meet and greet
 - 10:00 "The Wonders of Chandor Gardens: White Shadows, Twin Dragons, and Really Mad Hatters" – **Steven Chamblee**
 - 11:00 Business meeting, hot dog lunch (welcome new interns), raffle, social hour
 - 12:00 "The Brandywine Valley" – **Steven**
- returned to the Brandywine Valley in Pennsylvania recently and promises an other "oooooh---ahhhh" presentation of this "horticultural mecca", including some exquisite private gardens that few have seen.

See you on November 2nd!

--Joy Lease

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Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m. by President Ginger Bason. There were 161 Members and Interns in attendance. The minutes of the September 2006 meeting were approved as printed in the Sharecropper. Treasurer Rita Hottel gave a summary of the Treasurer's Report which was posted for members to view. Current assets total \$22,391.55.

JoAnn Hahn, for the Nominating Committee, presented for election the proposed officers for the 2007 term. They are as follows:

Ginger Bason - President
Joy Lease, 1st Vice President - Programs
Jim Nelson, 2nd Vice President - Ways and Means
Joyce Quam - Secretary
Tammy Edwards - Treasurer

As no additional nominations were put forth, nominations were closed and the proposed officers were elected by acclamation. These officers will be installed at the December 2006 meeting with the exception of the Treasurer. The Treasurer will not take office until January 2007 in order to allow for final closeout of the books for 2006.

Jim Nelson gave a presentation on the status of the Community Garden at the Resource Connection. Highlights are: A large storage building has been procured at a greatly reduced price and with a large anonymous donation, and will be moved onto the site in the following week. The new site is being staked in preparation of receipt of the donated fencing and paving. Work is planned to progress in two phases. The Resource Connection is providing utilities and labor.

Orientation for the spring Master Gardener Intern Class will be held on October 18th at 10 a.m.

Members were reminded of the following:

1. Dues for 2007 should be paid ASAP in the amount of \$20. If mail delivery of the Sharecropper is desired, dues are \$25.
2. Payments for the Christmas luncheon need to be made in the amount of \$15. The luncheon will be held on the 14th of December at Rivercrest Country Club. Forms for the TCMGA Awards given at the Christmas luncheon need to be turned in by November 2nd.
3. Project Leaders were also advised that Project Fund Forms were available and needed to be turned in no later than November 1st.
4. All hours for recertification must be completed by October 31st. Members were urged to have all their hours sent to the timekeepers by the first week in November.

President Bason acknowledged the 50th Wedding Anniversaries of Frank and Pat Durda and Barbara Finholt and her husband.

Interns attending their first Master Gardener meeting were welcomed.

—Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

'Green Thumb Is Official'



At last, the “green thumb” has been officially declared a type of intelligence! As a Horticulturist. I was taught that the so-called “green thumb” we’ve always heard about is merely an indication of certain positive human qualities such as the ability to be observant, pay attention to detail, plan ahead, follow through on projects, and be flexible while working with the vagaries of nature.

But, while studying educational psychology in college, I learned of Harvard professor Howard Gardner’s “Theory of Multiple Intelligences” in which he noted and found regions of the brain which “light up” when certain abilities are activated. In addition to the most widely accepted, pattern-smart “logical-mathematical” and language-oriented linguistics aptitudes, he also found evidence of body-kinesthetic (athleticism and control in handling objects, such as surgeons possess), spatial (accurate mental visualizations), musical, interpersonal (awareness of other’s feelings and motivations), and intrapersonal (awareness of one’s own feelings and goals).

Those seven kinds of intelligence I learned about sounds complicated but I always felt that gardeners should be in there somewhere. Look around, and you’ll see people who have an obvious nurturing tendency, and that some folks with no formal training in horticulture seem to be gifted with the ability to quickly recognize subtle distinctions in the natural world, and easily relate everyday things to their environment.

And sure enough, now Gardner has found physical evidence of an eighth intelligence, called “Naturalist” intelligence, with its own special brain region that supports it. Simply put, people with naturalist intelligence have the ability to identify and classify patterns in nature, and make predictions based on seemingly random events.

My great-grandmother Pearl, whose garden sported huge collections of daffodils and wildflowers, had a “Bird Sanctuary” site in her side yard, which embarrassed us as kids because we thought people would think our family weird.

But it was she who showed me the difference between black-eyed Susan and purple coneflower, and how caterpillars eat flowers but turn into butterflies without really harming the flowers in the long run. She explained how a bird’s wing works, and showed me how to tell if pecans were moldy before bending down to pick them up by stepping on them to see if they were firm or soft.

Naturalists like Pearl are very comfortable outdoors; when on vacation, they watch people, or go to a botanical garden rather than a ball game or opera. They are constantly aware of their surroundings, looking around as they drive, watching weeds and hawks, and braking for the butterflies. They observe, touch, and compare even “yucky” things, and often collect stuff – shells, rocks, and flowers (often in mixed cottage gardens, or extensive collections of roses or day-lilies or African violets).

They also manipulate things to see what happens; ever-curious plant hybridizers fall into the category of naturalist, as do “giant tomato” or “perfect lawn” gardeners. So do wildflower enthusiasts, bonsai artists, bird watchers, and garden teachers, whose naturalist leanings are coupled with strong interpersonal and linguistic abilities.

Any of this apply to you? Mix in doses of other intelligences, and no wonder gardeners have such different approaches, and levels of success and satisfaction. We may not all be smart – but we sure are intelligent!

Now you have special bragging rights for being intelligent, next time you’re at a family reunion you can tell everyone you may not be smart, but you’re sure “Intelligent”.

This little story was an excerpt from a wonderful book written by a colleague and a friend of mine, Felder Rushing. The book is titled ‘Tough Plants for Southern Gardens’ and should be a mainstay of your personal library.

—by Steve Chaney



A Little Destruction – A LOT of Beauty

photos and text by Marilyn Sallee

We garden to grow and learn and produce beauty. But not everything that grows in our gardens is plants, and Nature herself is the best teacher. I got a lesson with an unexpected experience this summer that lifted my soul and expanded my understanding of how it all works together in a Grand Plan.

It started with some carefully tended Asclepias seeds from Plant Propagation class. In eight weeks, by the end of July, I had a healthy flat of baby Butterfly Weeds growing in pots on my patio. I had plans of just where in my garden this essential food for the Monarch and Queen Butterfly larvae would grow. But the butterflies had their own schedule, and ideas about food. On July 30, I checked on my plants only to discover one was totally eaten to the nubs, and a second under vicious attack, not by one, but FIVE caterpillars at once. I suppose a good gardener would have just plucked those destructive caterpillars to their death. But...



they were kinda pretty, in a caterpillar kind of way, with their bright stripes and slinky bodies. And who was I growing Butterfly Weed for anyway? I had ten plants, so I moved a few into the garden and left the rest for the Monarchs. How much could such a tiny critter eat anyway?

I quickly found out – caterpillars live to eat and will chew a plant to nothing in short order. By the next day, I had no green leaves on the plants in pots. The entire flat was bare, naked stems; can I blame the Monarch for taking advantage of what I had created for them? I put out the word for anyone with Asclepias to spare, but I needed it fast. Luckily, Stuarts Nursery in Weatherford had a few large, old plants at a mid-summer discount of \$5.

The two large plants barely fed the five caterpillars for a week. On Aug. 1, they measured almost two inches long. A caterpillar's skele-

ton is on the outside – an exoskeleton. As they grow, they molt their old shell and eat it. Monarchs do this five times, each stage is called an instar. So these two-inch babies were in their fifth instar and getting ready to chrysalis. With large plants to feed the crew, my original small transplants very quickly leafed out again, stronger than before. I noticed tiny white pin-size dots on the underside of the tender Asclepias – Monarch eggs – white when newly laid, but they turn black just before they hatch.

On Aug. 3, I woke to find one of the large caterpillars already in chrysalis, and another hanging in the classic J-shape and turning green indicating it would be in its shell soon. The chrysalis must hang free on a branch so the butterfly will have room to come out later. I wanted to stay home and watch, but had to get to the TCMGA meeting. When I got home, I had two chrysalides (the plural of chrysalis). This pupa or chrysalis stage looks boring to us – nothing happening for 7-10 days. But inside the green shell with metallic gold trim, the caterpillar is totally making itself over, dissolving and reconstructing its organs and skeleton, growing folded up wings. A very busy time inside the chrysalis.



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Besides, I had a dozen or so new Monarch eggs to tend to, and itsy-bitsy, 1/8 inch long transparent just-born baby (first instar) Monarchs on the freshly leafed out Asclepias. I got to see the entire sequence from the beginning. I put the Asclepias with babies into plastic domes to protect them. And wrote lots of gardeners to see if anyone wanted to adopt a few. I kept a few Monarchs, and a few Queens – the caterpillars look very similar, but Queens have an extra set of “horns” and wider white bands.

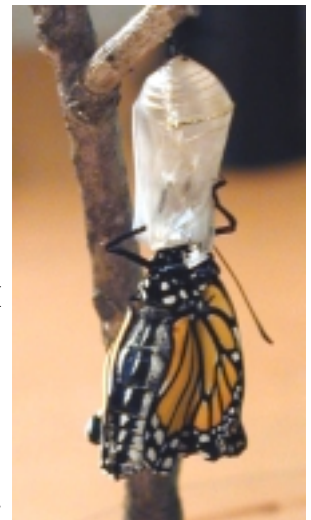
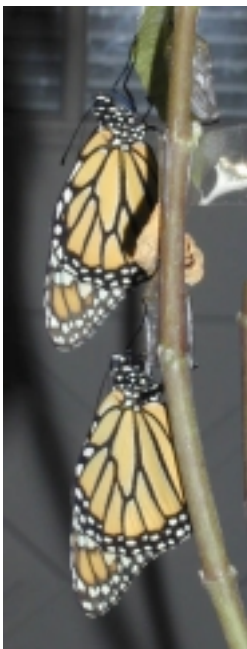
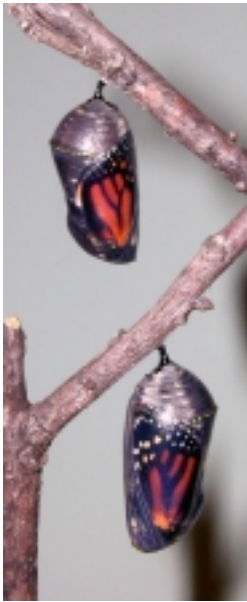
Late at night on Aug. 9th the original chrysalides were turning milky and transparent – a sign that the butterflies would be

emerging very soon. When I woke at am on the 10th – there were two beautiful butterflies clinging to the clear plastic-like chrysalis shell – flexing their wings and drying them in the newly risen sun. At 10:30 am, the outside temperature hit 86 degrees – a magic number for butterflies, as it is warm enough for them to fly. But the two sheltered on my patio had been beaten on-wing by three more, probably their brothers/sisters, who disappeared the previous week and were hiding until they were all ready to take flight together. After flexing their wings a few times, they tried short hops to the warm concrete, flexed a few more times, then leapt into the air and fluttered off to complete another leg on their multi-generational trip to Mexico.

Every year it takes 5-7 generations of Monarchs to migrate from Mexico to Canada in spring, and back again in fall. The adult butterflies mature in 3-5 days and begin laying hundreds of eggs as they travel. Asclepias, or milkweed, is the only plant that the larvae or caterpillars can feed on. It gives the caterpillar its bitter taste and protects it from predators.

While I missed the emergence of my first set of butterflies, I was ready for the next. They made half-dozen chrysalides by the 14th. By the 19th they were transparent. I stayed up all night. It was one of those hot nights that never really cooled off. By 6 am the temps were in the 80s, and the crystal chrysalis started flexing, cracked and out eased a crumpled up bit of tissue paper in orange and black. It only took a few minutes to squeeze the fluids from a bloated abdomen into the wing veins, as its sails unfurled. They hung, dried, and rested for almost an hour. Then it was ready – hop, flex, hop. And away they flew.

I've gotten to see a dozen butterflies transform this summer, and it is truly a magical sight. But the most surprising part is the effect they had on their food crop. Far from destroying it, their chewing seems to encourage it to grow. I have the thickest, densest Asclepias shrubs now. They actually benefited from being chewed down. Stems that I stuck in the dome for the caterpillars rooted and I have twice what I started with. We are all the richer for the experience – plant, butterfly, -- and especially me.





MILKWEED

THE BREAKFAST OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Milkweed has probably been in the vocabulary of almost everyone, but few people have ever seen it. That is because most varieties are grown wild. The milkweed plant, also known as silkweed, cottonweed, Virginia silk, swallowwort, and—most importantly--butterfly weed, is the host for the Monarch, Moth, and Soldier caterpillars. The plant's flowers are also a preferred nectar source for many "flutter-bys." The scientific name for milkweed is *Asclepias* (pronounced 'as-KLEE-pea-us'). Named to commemorate Asklepias, Greek god of medicine, *Asclepias* produces star-shaped flowers arranged in round or flat clusters called umbels. Most, but not all, milkweeds produce a milky sap. The threads running up milkweed stalks have been used, like flax, to make a kind of muslin or sometimes in papermaking and in WW II found a use in Mae West life jackets. The pods can easily be dried for use in bouquets, to stuff pillows, mattresses, and comforters. Aside from commercial applications we can just let that bursting silk remind us to grab onto the last fleeting days of summer before they float away from us! Although named for the Greek god

of medicine, *Asclepias*, most milkweeds are New World plants. Worldwide, about 200 species of *Asclepias* grow and in the United States alone, over 100 species grow native. The American natives are mostly erect, coarse growing perennials that flower in summer and then develop distinctive seed pods. In late fall, the seed pods open to disperse their seeds. Each milkweed seed bears a tuft of long, silky hairs that readily carry the seed great distances. The taxonomy of the plant is shown below.

Kingdom *Plantae*, the Plants

Division *Magnoliophyta*, the Angiosperms (flowering plants)

Class *Magnoliopsida*, the Dicotyledons

Subclass *Asteridae*

Order *Gentianales*, the Gentians

Family *Asclepiadaceae*, the Milkweeds

Genus *Asclepias*, the Milkweeds

Milkweed is the host plant for Monarch butterflies. If there were no milkweed, there would be no Monarchs to flit about your yard and adorn our flowers with their bright orange and black wings. Milkweed is a convenient location for reproduction and feeding. In early spring female Monarchs lay eggs on milkweed. The eggs hatch into larvae that eat the milkweed. After 2-3 weeks the mature larvae pupate, forming green chrysalides with gold spots. Adult Monarchs emerge from the chrysalides seven to ten days later. Like migratory birds, Monarch butterflies have evolved their ability to fly long distances, escaping winter cold and the absence of food. Decreasing day length and cooler temperatures tell Monarchs that emerge in the early fall not to breed. Instead they begin the immense journey across North America, over unfamiliar terrain, funneling through Texas and down coastal regions, to nine high mountain sites in forests of central Mexico. They arrive at the overwintering areas in November, remaining there until March of the following spring. Then they return to Texas and the southern United States to lay eggs on freshly sprouted milkweeds. By late spring, most have left the Gulf coastal states and are breeding further north. By the beginning of June they have reached the northern U.S. and Canada where they continue to breed all summer.

There are two major groups of milkweeds: narrow-leaved (with linear or narrowly lanceolate leaves) and broad-leaved (with leaves usually more than two inches wide throughout the length). Some milkweeds make beautiful specimens for the formal flower garden while others are considered dull, invasive weeds partly because of the spreading of the seeds.

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Milkweed contains cardenolides (cardiac-active steroids) that are consumed by Monarch caterpillars during feeding and then sequestered in their bodies even after the adult Monarchs emerge from their pupae. These cardenolides make Monarchs' toxic and bitter tasting to birds and other vertebrate predators.

With so many milkweed species, how does the butterfly enthusiast decide which ones to choose in his or her garden? Well, the choices are dramatically reduced when you take availability into consideration. While there are about 200 species of milkweeds growing worldwide, only a few are typically offered in the plant selections at nurseries, greenhouses, and garden centers.

Milkweed (*Asclepias* genus) has over 40 species in Texas and the better known are *Asclepias asperula* (Antelope Horns, Spider Antelope horns), *Asclepias curassavica** (Mexican, Tropical Milkweed), *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp Milkweed), *Asclepias latifolia* (Broadleaf Milkweed), *Asclepias linearis* (Slim Milkweed), *Asclepias obovata* (Pineland Milkweed), *Asclepias oenotheroides* (Hierba de Zizotes, Zizotes), *Asclepias perennis* (Marsh, Shore Milkweed), *Asclepias syriaca* (Common Milkweed), *Asclepias texana* (Texas, White Milkweed), *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly, Orange Milkweed), *Asclepias verticillata* (Whorled Milkweed), *Asclepias viridiflora* (Wand, Green Comet Milkweed), and *Asclepias viridis* (Green Antelope horns, Spider Milkweed). Add another 80+ milkweed species and this list of U.S. native milkweeds will be complete!

Among the milkweed species commonly offered to the home gardener are butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*).

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) grows 18"-24" high, produces clusters of bright orange flowers from late June through July, and is highly utilized as a nectar source. It grows best in sandy soil that drains well. Butterfly weed is hardy in zones 4-9.

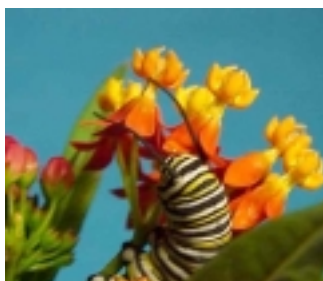
Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) grows 30"-36" tall, bears pink flowers, and usually blooms from late June through July. 'Ice Ballet' swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* 'Ice Ballet') produces white flowers rather than pink. Swamp milkweed is utilized by many butterfly species (Monarchs, red admirals, American ladies, painted ladies, fritillaries, and more) as a nectar source. It is also utilized by Monarch butterflies for egg laying. Swamp milkweed is hardy in zones 3-8.

Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is not an American native. It is believed to have originated in South America, and thus, must be grown in the United States as an annual.

Common milkweed *syriaca* L. (common milkweed) is the favorite of Monarch butterflies. It's a perennial that's pretty common, usually 2-3 feet high according to guidebooks, but they don't always read the guidebook.

The next time you see a Monarch butterfly also think of the milkweed that produces rounded clusters of tiny sweet smelling flowers that attracted an array of colorful butterflies. The milkweed produces thick-walled seed pods in the late fall which eventually cracked open to reveal hundreds of little brown seeds, each of which was attached to its own silky parachute that on windy November days will release thousands of these white silky, spider-looking parachutes into the sky as they carried seeds off to far away places.

You will remember that these butterflies lay their eggs on the milkweed, become beautiful caterpillars, disappear into a chrysalis and complete the metamorphosis by emerging as an adult with spreading wings that waft gently in the breeze as if on highways of air.



--by Derald Freeman

Bulbs

By Dr. William C. Welch
Professor and Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Prepare for Bulbs in the Landscape Now

Planting spring bulbs in the fall is as natural as falling leaves and football games. It is an opportunity neglected by the home gardener if he does not include some of the hardy, easy-to-grow spring beauties in the garden this fall. Bulbs are truly some of the simplest of flowers to grow, easy to care for, and inexpensive. All they ask is a fall planting, and they will reward you with weeks of early spring color, fragrance, and beauty.

Success with spring bulbs will depend to a large extent on the selection of good, healthy, quality bulbs. Second-rate bulbs, or bargain bulbs, produce second-rate flowers, and often first-rate disappointment. To be assured of top quality bulbs and desirable varieties, order purchase bulbs as early as possible. In general, good bulbs produce flowers the first season after planting, as the flower buds are already formed when the bulbs are purchased and planted. This emphasizes the importance of purchasing quality bulbs, as the quality of flowers is determined by the bulbs and not affected to a great extent by cultural conditions or growth practices. One can be assured that the larger the bulb, the larger the bloom. Many disease problems can also be eliminated by obtaining healthy, disease-free bulbs.

If you purchase bulbs early, before planting time in October and November, store them in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area until planting. Excessively high temperatures will cause the bulbs to dry out and result in injury to the flower bud inside the bulb.

When thumbing through a colorful bulb catalog, one quickly sees the wide variety of spring bulb choices. The grower, however, should be aware that not all varieties produce well in the South, out of their native colder areas. Yet there remain enough successful types to make the decision about which to choose very difficult. Texas growers may choose from **daffodils** or **narcissus**, **tulips**, **Dutch hyacinths**, **French-Roman hyacinths**, **grape hyacinths**, **Ipheon** and **Dutch iris**, and **leucojum**, to name a few.



or



Some spring bulbs, such as tulips and Dutch hyacinths, require a cold treatment prior to planting to have them perform well in the South, where the winters are comparatively mild. Tulips and Dutch hyacinths should be placed in the vegetable bin of the grower's refrigerator for 45 to 60 days prior to planting. They should never be frozen, and should be planted immediately upon removal from cold treatment.

An early selection and proper treatment of spring bulbs now will insure a beautiful and colorful spring, come March.

Most bulbs will be in flower by January. However, if you purchase pre-treated bulbs, it is possible to have blooms by Christmas.



More Things To Do In November

November is the time to watch dormancy slip silently in as the plants plan for a period of rest and sleep so they can burst into a dazzling array of color in the spring.

For the Birds - Prepare feed and winter shelter for our feathered friends of the garden. Provide food, water and shelter to encourage birds in the garden visible from indoor areas.

Plant trees and shrubs. Late November through February is the ideal time to plant and transplant trees and shrubs during their dormant, non-growing period. Select trees and shrubs for character, growing habits and sun requirements.



Diseases: Spray peach and plum trees this month to protect for peach leaf curl and bacterial stem canker. Use copper-based fungicide. Remove any fallen fruit from beneath fruit trees to eliminate a major source of infestations for next year.

Planting: Things to Plant in November.

Flowering Plants: Ajuga, Alyssum, Butterfly Weed, Candytuft, Carnation, Chinese Forget-Me-Not, Cornflower, Dianthus, Daisy, Phlox, , Indian Blanket, Ornamental Cabbage and Kale, Pansy, Penstemon, Petunia, Obedient Plant, and Snapdragon.

Vegetables: Early—Mid Month: Carrot, Chard, Mustard, and Turnip. All Month: Lettuce, Radish, and Spinach.

Bulbs: Dutch hyacinth, Dutch iris, Tulips, Crocus and late flowering daffodil bulbs need at least 6 weeks of pre-chilling in the refrigerator (with no vegetables or fruits in the same section to give off gasses that will kill the flower bud). Best to plant by late November. The best bulbs include wild and lily-flowered tulips, jonquils, and very early daffodils. Plant bulbs at recommended depths but not too deep for the clay soil.

Plant ryegrass : Plant perennial or annual rye to cover bare soil areas if needed, or over seed existing lawn grass for a winter green lawn.

Lawn Care: A mulching mower makes raking

leaves obsolete or use grass catcher as a mulch catcher. Use shredded leaves and grass clippings as a mulch or put into the compost bin.

Prune: After blooming, chrysanthemums should be cut back almost to the ground. Prune long, gangly shoots on shrubs. Remove dead and damaged wood from shrubs and trees. Cut Lantana to the ground after blooming ends.

Transplant: Divide and replant crowded perennials throughout the winter months. Transplant chives, garlic and multiplying onions. Now is the best time to move woody ornamentals.



Drain the gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the system is used. Clean, repair and oil garden tools and equipment. A coat of linseed oil on wooden handles will help preserve the wood. **Take photos** of your landscape and fall colors for your photo album.

Yellowing leaves on fruiting hollies may appear now, due to the taxation of the plant to support its crop of berries. Use an application of a complete and balanced fertilizer to help keep the foliage green. Water in the fertilizer well

Protect tender plants by covering with structures made of wood frames and covered with clear plastic film or landscape mesh so not to suffocate the plants. If a severe freeze is predicted, use an outdoor type extension cord and a light bulb placed under the cover. It will provide sufficient heat to protect the plants if the cover is well constructed.

Water: Water everything well before a freeze, but avoid over watering.

Decorate: Bring enjoyment to your family area by displaying a cornucopia for Thanksgiving.

—By Derald Freeman

Gardening Together --- Stay Together

October 11, 2006 was Frank and Pat Durda's 50th wedding anniversary. Pat said "Joining Master Gardeners was the frosting on the cake! When Frank and I retired, we decided we wanted to do something fun together in all our "spare time." We didn't realize how many wonderful, talented, and interesting people we would meet. Young and old, novice and the REAL Master Gardeners, we have called on them for advice and support." Pat said Frank's vegetable garden was on the list of the first home garden tours sponsored by TCMGA. "MG volunteers came and helped us get ready and we were overwhelmed by almost 800 garden visitors!"



They both started gardening in early childhood. When growing up Frank was taught to have straight rows in the vegetable garden. Pat worked with her mom in a WWII "Victory Garden". Their early gardening experiences include learning by experience about cotton root rot first-hand, the importance of full sun for tomatoes, and how some lovely plants have a way of "taking over." Learning the hard way – do it wrong and plants die!

Pat added, "Frank's vegetable garden is slowly being replaced by pass-along flowers. Our garden continues its journey and so do we! Throughout our marriage, our garden and yard have always been important. It's an extension of the spirit of creating something good and beautiful."

BOOK DEDICATION

The Tarrant County Master Gardeners would like to honor Mary Fuller (class of 1993). Mary passed away very recently. A book entitled "Trees and Shrubs", an illustrated A-Z of over 8500 plants, will be placed in the Extension Office on the Publication shelf. This beautifully illustrated plant encyclopedia gives comprehensive information on trees and shrubs from around the world, covering the well-known favorites like camellias, roses, rhododendrons, oaks and pines as well as less familiar exotic plants.



Details on plant entries cover each plant's origin, appearance, growth habit, flowering time, and cultivation requirements with photographs showing stunning shots of plants in their natural habitats and close-ups of bark, leaf, fruit and flowers.

There is also a glossary and index. This should help us with plant identification when we get vague descriptions of plants from Tarrant County residents while we are working on the phones in the office. It contains general information on choosing and cultivating trees and shrubs. I am sure that Mary would be proud to play a part of helping us in our quest to educate the public.

Submitted by LaVonne Nowlin

FALL INTERN UPDATE

The catch word for the Fall 2006 Intern Class is "fun". Class is fun, working on projects will be fun, and getting to meet new people is really fun. Classes began on Sept 12 and they have already studied horticulture, trees, soil, water conservation, organic and container gardening, and landscape design. Besides Dotty and Steve, the interns have been taught by Suzanne Mills and Dave Wilson, two of our own Master Gardeners. What a tribute they are to the program. Then there was the field trip to Bluestem Nursery, Weston Gardens and BRIT. So many plants, so few opportunities to buy. They are looking forward to upcoming classes on turf care, insects, arboriculture, and plant pathogens. This group of interns is so excited about Master Gardening that some have already started working on projects. That's the attitude we like to see. Plus there are some really good cooks and if you remember your intern year, you know how important that is.

The November Master Gardener meeting will be the official meeting to greet new interns, hotdogs and all. We have a very energetic group of interns this time who are just a delight to work with and know. They come from many different backgrounds, some from Texas, some from away, all wanting to learn how to garden better. Hopefully you will introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

This year the intern advisors and helpers are Mary-Sheba Graves, Joe Sanders, Charlie Shiner, Eleanor Tuck, Doris Hill, Marjie Nelson, Marlys Karch, Shelley Scott and Donna Morris with Judy Ratzlaff as our fearless leader. If you would like to help with the next class of interns please contact Judy or Steve. Also feel free to sit in on classes with us. It might be fun.

Submitted by Donna Morris



It's that time again

We are starting to collect 2007 dues which are due by December 31st. Dues are \$20 with an additional \$5 if you want the newsletter mailed. Dues can be paid at the November & December meetings or mail payment to Pat Lovejoy, 125 William Wallace Dr., Burleson, TX 76028.

—by Pat Lovejoy

Hours for Recertification

Just a reminder....all hours for recertification are due by October 31st. Please make sure you get your hours into your timekeepers !!! If you are having difficulty completing your hours and need assistance, please contact Steve at the Extension office.

—by Pat Lovejoy

2006 Christmas Luncheon Celebration



This year's Christmas luncheon will be an especially festive and important event as we celebrate our **20th** year as a volunteer organization in Tarrant County!

A recap of our history, accompanied by door prizes, the special gifts and our **awards presentations** will be among the highlights of this special day.

Mark your calendars for December 14th* and make your reservations at either our October 5th or November 2nd monthly meeting.

What: 20th Anniversary TCMGA Christmas Luncheon
When: December 14, 2006
Where: Rivercrest Country Club
 1501 Western Avenue
Time: 11:00 – 1:00
Cost: \$15 per person
Contact: Joy Lease or Ginger Bason

*Note: The date is one week later than our usual meeting

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 Tues.	JoAnn Hahn	817-923-9250
312 Trial Garden Data	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
327 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, 8:30 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
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 9-12, 1st Sat 9-12	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
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

MG Directory Updates

E-mail changes:

Harry Dehmisch
PO Box 126361
Fort Worth TX 76126

Phone changes:

Deborah Garrison - 817-995-4884

E-mail changes:

Bob Steele - steelebb@sbcglobal.net
Margaret Hare - mkmjtx1901@yahoo.com

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

2007 CALADIUM BULB ORDERS

I appreciate the many positive comments that I have received regarding the performance of the Caladium bulbs we purchased this past spring. Based on your inputs I plan to stay with the same supplier and the same four varieties in 2007.

I know it is early to start thinking about the next spring planting, but in order to get a preferred position on our suppliers list, I need to give him an approximate indication of our potential order by November 15.



The varieties I plan to offer are the same as we had in early 2006: Candidum, White Queen, Carolyn Whorton, and Sunrise. If you know about how many of each you may need please email the list. No commitment on your part if you are not sure. I will have photographs of the four varieties on display at the November 2 Master Gardener meeting. I will firm up our order by Mid-December 2006 and commit an order by January 12, 2007.

The price will be the same as 2006—50 cents per bulb, minimum order 10 bulbs.

Thanks Jim Nelson - nelsonj2@swbell.net
817 688 2842 or 817 467 2304



Birthdays for this month

- 11-4 Tammye Kuntz
- 11-5 Dorothea Theus, Sharon Clarke
- 11-6 Dick Oliver
- 11-7 Ben Oefinger, Bobbie Wilson, and Jane Dunkelberg
- 11-8 Katie Kowierschke
- 11-11 Vicki Morton
- 11-15 Hester Schwarzer
- 11-16 Carol Norfleet
- 11-21 Kathryn Beeler, Barbara Lind, and Lou DeSantis
- 11-22 LaVonne Nowlin, Warren Tingley, and Pam Jewell
- 11-24 Marilyn Laviolette
- 11-29 Jim Nelson
- 11-30 Janet Riley

Email change to lavonne@ev1.net
—by LaVonne Nowlin

Last Chance! Last Chance!

November will be the last chance in 2006 to raise money for our projects. So, clean out those closets, sort through your Holiday ornaments, and bring all your goodies to the Raffle.

We're counting on y'all to make this our best year ever.

—Joyce and Barbara

COMING SOON!!!



Steve Chaney will be making available a great new tool for all TCMGAs! Watch for it!!!



2006 RECOGNITION AND AWARDS NOMINEE CRITERIA

It's that time of year again to honor our hard-working members with special awards! Many of our members have gone the "extra mile" and we'd like for YOU to select the honorees. The categories are listed below:

Every recipient must be:

- A member in good standing
- Attend monthly meetings and events
- See a need, come forth and become actively involved

Master Gardener of the Year _____

- Someone who exhibits the "Mark of Excellence"
- Demonstrates honor
- Leadership in more than one (1) Association area
- Someone who has made a positive impact

Master Gardener of the Decade _____

Someone who has been a MG member at least 4 years

- A member whose presence grows stronger each year
- Their efforts make a difference
- Someone who supports and continually strengthens the Association
- Is always there when called upon

Volunteer of the Year _____

Contribute numerous hours of "hands on" volunteer service in the community

Extra Mile Award _____

People who went over and above and behind the scene.

Special Merit Award _____

People who have given much several years in a row.

Education/Educator Award _____

Workshops, docent for several areas, etc

INTERNS: PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY THE TWO NOMINEES BELOW:**Intern of the Year** _____

A member of the Intern class who has become actively involved and who has gone "beyond the norm".

Intern Special Award _____

Interns who went over the required hours, always willing to do extras, very helpful to others and high goals set for themselves.

Please bring your completed form to the Master Gardener meetings in September through November, or mail to:

Devanie Fergus, 2314 Panorama Court, Arlington, Texas 76016
817-861-1932 devanieferg@sbcglobal.net

2006 TCMGA FEEDBACK SHEET

1. Monthly Master Gardener Meeting

- ☐ Speakers / Program Quality
☐ Raffle
☐ Plant / Exchange Table

E = Excellent A = Average P = Poor

Suggestions to improve monthly Master Gardener Meeting:
(Please use reverse side, if needed.)

2. Activities

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member Garden Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Garden Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Gardener items sale |

Suggestions to improve Activities: (Please use reverse side, if needed.)

Please include suggestions concerning awards to be presented to members in December.

3. TCMGA Monthly Newsletter, the Sharecropper & TCMGA Website

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do you read the newsletter? | (Y / N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue publishing newsletter monthly? | (Y / N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upcoming events coverage in newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's message in newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative writing features in newsletter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> How many times per month do you look at the website? | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do you read the following website features? | (Y / N) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Tips | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TCMGA Travelers | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet a Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Suggestions to improve Sharecropper Newsletter or TCMGA website:
(Please use reverse side, if needed.)

4. Programs Please list 3 topics and/or speakers to have at the monthly TCMGA meeting. Who have YOU HEARD that TCMGA would want to hear????

(Bring feedback form
to MG meeting)
THANK YOU!

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



Calendar of Upcoming Events

12/14	TCMGA Holiday Celebration
01/09/07	Graduation for Fall 05 MG Interns
01/12	Arlington House & Organic Gardening Show
01/16	First day of Spring 07 MG Intern Class
01/16	Graduation for Spring 06 MG Interns
01/26 - 01/28	H&G show at Fort Worth Convention Center
02/23 - 02/25	Neil Sperry H&G Show

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