



Mission Statement

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



President's Notepad

Are we as gardeners stewards of the land??? Whoever digs, plants, rakes etc. is a gardener?? The question is who gains membership in this world wide club of gardeners??? Do we need to have the knowledge of Page, Jekyll, Brown, and/or Hobhouse??? All of these questions posed in a book I recently read started me to think about who are gardeners and are we stewards of the land?

People do garden on many different scales from patios with containers to acres of land, all having the common thread of growing. Some grow for beauty, others for survival but we are all gardeners aren't we? Many are interested as much in the critters in the garden as they are in the plants, the plants are secondary but they are gardeners, aren't they???

What about the plants; one man's weed is another man's food. The dandelion for example; is a weed just a plant in the wrong place in the garden plan? Nutgrass (nutsedge) grows amazingly healthy anywhere; maybe someone should cultivate that indestructible weed as turf???? Some say botany is about plants and horticulture is about art, is there really this difference??

Maybe gardeners combine these two to grow and understand what we grow?? The real question may be, does it matter?? As long as we gardeners are good stewards of whatever "land" we have, I think Mother Earth will smile on us, our gardens will grow and our membership will be secure.

—Ginger Bason



October 5th Monthly TCMGA Program

It's hard to believe that summer is over and it's time to think about fall gardening. To get us in the mood for it, we will have as our guest speaker one of Texas' top producers of trees, nuts, fruits and berries, Larry Don Womack, co-owner of Womack Nursery Co. in DeLeon, Texas.

A third-generation nurseryman, Larry Don is a member of the Texas Fruit Growers, Texas Pecan Growers, and Oklahoma Pecan Growers Associations. In addition, he is currently Vice President of Texas Peanut Producers Board and a member of the Texas Pecan Board, both of which are responsible for research and promotion.

Once again, we have a busy day planned with the following agenda:

- 9:30 Sign-in, coffee
- 10:00 "Growing Pecans in Texas" – planting, site selection, varieties, care of young trees; care of older trees
- 11:00 Business meeting
Meet, greet and eat
- 12:00 "Fruit for Your Yard or Home Orchard" – growing fruit and berries can be challenging in the Metroplex.
This session will cover recommended varieties and hints on production for home use.
- 1:00 Friendship plant exchange

--Joy Lease



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - September 7, 2006

President Ginger Bason called the meeting to order at 10:55 at the Resource Connection. August minutes were approved as published in the "Sharecropper."

Treasurer Rita Hottel summarized the August Treasurer's report. Statement posted on bulletin board and copies are available.

Nominations Chairman JoAnn Hahn presented the following slate of officers for 2007:

President	Ginger Bason	First Vice President	Joy Lease
Second Vice President	Jim Nelson	Secretary	Joyce Quam
Treasurer	Tammy Edwards		

A vote will be taken at the October meeting.

Jim Nelson gave a briefing on the status of the Resource Connection Community Demonstration Garden. It will be completed in three phases. Phase I – December 2006 will be the erection of a utility building and enclose 12,000 sq. ft. for greenhouse. Susan Stanek is contacting vendors for donation of materials and labor.

Phase II - Mid-2007.

Phase III To be defined at a later date.

The Executive Board recommend that \$2,500 be approved for the project. It was unanimously approved by the membership.

The Executive Board also recommended that the wildflower fund be returned to the Project Funds as it has not been used in recent years. It was unanimously approved by the membership.

Announcements (Ginger Bason):

All Master Gardener Activity Time Reports are due Oct 31. (For Nov 2005 – Oct 2006)

Sue Short needs docents for Henrietta Creek Orchard.

Photos of Ft. Worth Gardens are needed for book about Texas Gardens. Contact Toni Moorehead.

Oct 12 – There is a waiting listing for guests who want to go to Tyler on the bus.

Thistle Hill has been selected for Designer Showcase. Emily Ward is coordinator for docents.

Little Hands on the Farm set-up is September 22. Opening day of fair September 29.

Tinker Grove grand opening is September 8, 9 and 10 in Colleyville.

There will be a plant exchange at the October Meeting.

Announcements (Steve Chaney):

The fall class for Master Gardener Interns will begin September 12. All who are interested are invited to attend these sessions. The pilot class for Master Gardener II has been completed for State.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

--Minutes taken by Shari Stanfield



MG Directory Updates

E-mail changes:

Benita Reese - jimbenitareese@earthlink.net
 Lavonne Nowlin - lavonnen@sbcglobal.net
 Tammy Edwards - tammy.edwards@gmail.com
 Pat Lovejoy - patlovejoy@att.net

New e-mails:

Raelene Darling - raelene@rkdarling.net
 Sandra Plane - splane50@sbcglobal.net
 Leeann Rosenthal - wild4lee@sbcglobal.net

New address/e-mail:

Kay Gunn - 4812 Barkridge Tr.
 Fort Worth, TX 76109
 kaygunn2138@sbcglobal.net

Remove e-mail for Jack Mitchell

Welcome new member from Fort Bend
 County MGs

2005 Shellye Schmorleitz
 808 Beverly Dr., Grapevine, TX 76051
 832-859-0381 smorleitz@juno.com

Updates to Pat Lovejoy - patlovejoy@att.net

TCMGA Fall 2006 Activities

October 12 - Bus Trip to Tyler
 Rose Garden & Blue Moon Nursery.
 Cost is \$27 for bus ride and lunch.
 You can drive your own vehicle. Detail maps
 and schedules will be provided at the October
 MG Meeting.

8:00 AM Bus leaves FW Botanic Garden
 1st Stop Tyler Rose Garden
 2nd Stop Lunch at Potpourri House
 3rd Stop Blue Moon Nursery
 6:00 PM Bus arrives FW Botanic Garden

Remaining seats will be sold at the October
 meeting. You can contact Susan Stanek or
 Jolene Hetrick.



Birthdays for this month

10-1 Dotty Woodson, Nancy Searl
 10-3 Janet Southerland,
 Mary Margaret Halleck
 10-4 Karl Keffer
 10-7 Steve Chaney
 10-8 Valerie Freund
 10-9 Jim Woodlief
 10-11 Diane Clark, Gayle van Leeuwen
 10-13 Gailon Hardin
 10-14 Julie Shaw
 10-16 Susan Houston
 10-17 Susan Kingeter, Rick Neal and
 Dottie Bucy
 10-18 Frank Durda, Jack Mitchell, and
 Donna Jobe
 10-19 Cathy Hiles, Bill Hall
 10-22 Betsy Kalina, Judy Butler
 10-24 Pam Turner
 10-27 Hope Porter
 10-29 Dee Grant, Kay Yount
 10-31 Rilla Ransier-Snedeller.
 Changes to LaVonne Nowlin—
 lavonnen@sbcglobal.net

Nominations

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 hon-
 orees. The nomination form was published in
 your September and October Sharecropper, or
 you can pick one up at the October or Novem-
 ber TCMGA meeting.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, No-
 vember 3rd. Forms can be returned at the
 meetings or mailed to: D. Fergus, 2314 Pano-
 rama Ct., Arlington, TX 76016.

—By Devanie Fergus

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	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
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
		2 nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406	Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 8:30- 11:30 a.m.	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
		First Sat 9-11:30 a.m.		
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
606	South Davis	2 nd & 4 th Thurs 9 am	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611	Children's Garden	Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536

Things to do in October

October and autumn days represent a great new gardening season. Do not allow the short, delightful days of autumn to pass without doing the timely gardening chores. Here is a list of some things to do this month.

Compost: Establish a compost pile to accommodate falling leaves and to prepare mulch for spring planting.

Disease: Check for cabbage loopers in the garden; spray with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT). Make second treatment for brown patch on lawns with a history of the disease.

Insects: Control scale insects on ornamental plants such as gardenia, camellia, hollies, euonymus. Spray underside of leaf also.

Mulch: A 4-inch mulch layer is insulation for semi-hardy plants and shallow-rooted plants.

Plant bulbs in October. Plant spring bulbs during October and November. Daffodils, narcissi, hyacinth, crocus and Dutch iris are a starting point. The popular pansy and Johnny Jump-ups may be planted in October and November for winter blooms and a real display of color come spring. Plant flowering cabbage, kale, pansies and violas after the temperature begins to drop.



Order fruit catalogs. Order fruit catalogs and make variety selections for a winter (January-February) planting.

Divide and Transplant popular perennial such as daylily, liriope, ajuga, iris, etc. Now is the best time to plant new trees and shrubs. The planting hole should be only as deep as the root ball and much wider. Return the original soil, firm and water well. Mulch 3-4 inches deep around plant.



Things to Plant in October Ajuga, Alyssum, Bluebonnet, Butterfly Weed, Candytuft, Carnation, Cornflower, Dianthus, Daisy (English and Painted), Forget-Me-Not, Indian Blanket, Pansy, Penstemon, Petunia, Phlox, Obedient Plant, Snapdragon and Sedum.



Vegetables to plant. Early—Mid Month: for Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collard Greens. Mid—Late Month: Carrot, Endive, Lettuce, Spinach, and Turnip. All Month: Beets, Chard, Garlic, Mustard, Multiplier Onion, and Radish.

Herbs to plant: Caraway, Catnip, Chives, Coriander, Cumin, Dill, Fennel, Lemon Balm, Mexican Mint Marigold, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Santolina, Winter Savory, Sorrel, Thyme, Yarrow.

Pruning: Now is a good time to remove dead and damaged limbs from your shade trees while they still have some leaves. Remove dead canes on roses now.

That just about wraps up what can be done this month. Look for more and exciting things to do next month.

—Derald Freeman

COMING SOON!!!



Steve Chaney will be making available a great new tool for all TCMGA's! Watch for it!!!



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

_____ Field trips
 _____ Member Garden Tours
 _____ Public Garden Tours

_____ Vendor Sales
 _____ Garage Sale
 _____ 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

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

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".

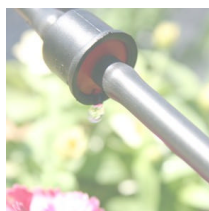
Intern Special Award _____

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

DRIP IRRIGATION AT ALICE CARLSON



One of our principal objectives at Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) is to implement drip irrigation whenever feasible and practical. The objectives are to: 1) reduce overall water consumption in the gardens, 2) satisfy the specific water needs of the various environmental areas of the garden, and 3) provide a teaching and demonstration tool on the conservation of water resources.

Early in 2006 the output plumbing of the 5,000-gallon Rainwater Collection Tank was extended around two sides of the periphery of the garden area, a distance of about 200 feet. Then located at about the midpoint, the plumbing was tapped to provide drip irrigation to trees and shrubs in the Woodlands area.

In the spring of 2006 a raised bed for vegetable growing was installed in an unused playground area adjacent to the garden. The bed is approximately 50 feet long by four feet wide and raised about 12 inches. The border is a Pavestone 12 inch retaining wall. Since watering by elementary students can be unreliable, we decided to install a timer-controlled drip system. This system consists of three ½ inch flexible plastic tubes placed about 12 inches apart and extending the length of the garden. The input

ends of the tubes are fed from a three-output manifold connected to the water supply. The flexible tubes have embedded drippers spaced nine inches apart along the entire length. Each dripper delivers about 0.7 inches of water per hour under normal water pressure conditions. At locations where additional output is desired drippers of about one inch per hour output are inserted.

The system can be supplied either from the Rainwater Collection System or city water. Because of lack of rain this past summer water was drawn from the city source. The system operated more or less unattended through the entire hot summer with excellent performance. Watermelons planted by the students the last week of school grew to 30-40 pound size (and very sweet) by the time school restarted in August.

The next phase of drip irrigation will be the application of a Bog Garden that is to be completed in the fall and winter of 2006. That implementation will also use rainwater from the Rainwater Collection System as the primary source of water (if it rains).

By Jim Nelson

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 Baso n

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

Hardy Hibiscus, the Giant Rose Mallow

The giant rose mallow has the largest flowers of any hardy perennial. Some of the hybrids may be one foot in diameter. Rich, moist soil and full sun bring the most vigorous growth, but mallows are very accommodating, and will tolerate light shade and less desirable soils. Giant rose mallows will flower from seed the first year if started very early in spring. Favorite cultivars may be rooted from cuttings during the growing season. Colors range from crimson, white, pink, rose, and in-between.

Giant rose mallows are relatives of the native hibiscus found in Louisiana and other Gulf States. They are among the most spectacular and easily grown plants for use in the border. Following the spring and summer growing season, the plants freeze back to the ground each fall. Old stems should be cut back to a height of several inches above the ground, with several inches of leaves or mulch applied to the top for insulation. New shoots emerge by mid-spring, and the plants quickly develop handsome mounds of foliage and flowers by early summer. Individual flowers last only a day, but each plant may flaunt several flowers at once. Numerous seedling selections, such as 'Southern Belle' and 'Frisbee' are offered in good seed catalogs. Few garden plants provide so much enjoyment for so little care.

Seeds of giant rose mallows are available from catalogs, while container grown plants are usually in stock at Texas garden centers and nurseries. Color selection is possible when you purchase blooming-size plants. If growing giant rose mallows from seed, it is important to start them early in the season so that they will have adequate time to develop before freezing weather sets in.

Hibiscus mutabilis is an old-fashioned perennial or shrub hibiscus better known as the Confederate rose. It tends to be shrubby or treelike in Zones 9 and 10, though it behaves more like a perennial further north. Flowers are double and are 4 to 6 inches in diameter; they open white or pink, and change to deep red by evening. The 'Rubra' variety has red flowers as per the name. Bloom season usually lasts from summer

through fall. Propagation by cuttings root easiest in early spring, but cuttings can be taken at almost any time. When it does not freeze, the Confederate rose can reach heights of 12 to 15 feet with a woody trunk; however, a multi-trunk bush 6 to 8 tall is more typical. Once a very common plant throughout the South, Confederate rose is an interesting and attractive plant that grows in full sun or partial shade, and prefers rich, well-drained soil.



Hibiscus coccineus is better known as the Texas Star Hibiscus. It has large, single, red flowers about 3 to 4 inches in diameter that appear atop branches of palmately lobed leaves with three to seven segments. Culture is very easy, with well-drained soil, an annual application of fertilizer in spring or early summer, and a sunny location being most important. Texas Star Hibiscus may be propagated from seed or cuttings. Mulching the plants in wintertime prevents root injury during very cold weather. Old stems, if they freeze, should be pruned back to the ground in early spring. Even if frost damage has not occurred, it is still a good idea to prune back and shape the plants before growth begins. Consider hardy types of hibiscus for the back of flower borders where their impressive flowers can appear over other summer flowering plants. Some gardeners and landscape professionals plant daylilies, lantana, gomphrena, zinnias, portulaca, purslane, celosias or other summer annuals and perennials in front of their hardy hibiscus groupings.

Several years ago, Dr. Jerry Parsons, Extension Horticulturist located in San Antonio, released a new giant rose mallow aptly named 'Moy Grande' developed at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. This is a cross between *Hibiscus moscheutos* and *Hibiscus grandiflorus*, which created the largest, open-face hibiscus flower in the world. The phenomenon of hybrid vigor (the offspring is superior to either parent) resulted in huge, rose-pink flowers.

—by Steve Chaney

WILL IT EVER END???

by Ben Oefinger



It's mid-August as I write this, a Texas August in all it's sun-baked glory. The high temperature today will be 105 sweat inducing, desiccating degrees. Our last rain was on July 4th, and that moisture shriveled up and blew away long ago. There are clouds in the blue summer sky, but they are small, white anemic things with absolutely no potential for producing the oft-prayed-for liquid relief. I am the lonely wanderer, on my belly, crawling across the burning sands of the Sahara, suffering, scorching, with no relief on the scalding horizon.

Or is there? Wise gardeners and observers of nature know that the great wheel of the seasons is turning. The Summer Solstice fell on June 21st, the longest day of the year. There was little notice taken, no fanfare given, but the celestial switch was thrown and the great wheel began its backward movement. Since that heavenly happening, each day has seen less sunlight as the earth slowly tilts back to the north in a continuing movement that will not stop until the Winter Solstice on December 22nd. The sun rises a minute later in the a.m. and sets a minute earlier in the p.m. each day. Have you noticed this from your air-conditioned confines? The creation has, and has responded!

The autumn bloomers in our yards are humping up and forming buds in anticipation of their day in the sun. The delicate Sweet Autumn Clematis (*C. paniculata*) is reaching into the heat with buds at the ready, and the Goldenrod (*Solidago*) is following suit. Mums and

asters have greatly increased their bulk, as has the Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) and Copper Canyon Daisy. In the meantime, summer bloomers are finishing up their show. The Golden Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia*) and the Sunflowers (*Helianthus*) are largely bloomed out, but covered in seed heads, food for the feeding birds gorging on late summer's bounty. Have you noticed the developing berries on your Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*)? They're still small and green, but are coming on strong. Check out the field grasses as you drive your daily commute. They're covered with seed heads, fluffy flags waving in the heated breezes. There are lots of other signs out there. The Monarchs are poised for their journey south, and their favorite food stops, Butterfly Weed (*Aesclepias tuberosa*), Frost Weed, and Blue Mist Flowers (*Eupatorium*), among others, are producing blooms in anticipation of their arrival.

All of these mindless things are calling out to each of us, telling us to persevere, not to give up, but to hold on, for a cooler day is coming. Fall rains, cold fronts, cooler winds from the North are right around the corner. We are not alone in the desert after all! Listen to the new song your garden is singing to you as you pay your August water and electric bills. Let the living things of your landscape lift your spirits - a new day is dawning; there is relief coming. We only need to observe our creation, brothers and sisters, for reassurance.

RAFFLE

There will not be a Raffle in October because of the plant exchange. Save your raffle items for the November meeting. We would especially appreciate any "Holiday" raffle items for that meeting. Barb and Joyce.

By **Joyce Colegrove** joycecolegrove@yahoo.com

VENDOR TABLES IN OCTOBER

Vendor Tables will be available at the October 5th MG meeting. The cost is \$15.00 each.

If you wish to participate contact Jim Nelson at 817-467-2304 or e-mail at

nelsonj2@swbell.net.

Drought stressed trees bear a resemblance to an early fall

**News Release from Texas Forest Service
August 15, 2006**

GRANBURY – Continuing drought, triple digit temperatures, low humidity, and high winds are affecting trees across North Texas. When a tree starts losing more water than it can uptake, the leaves will start to wilt and lose their strength. The wilting will stop the loss of water through the leaf pores, stop growth, and reduce photosynthetic activity. If a tree is healthy it will recover when water is provided, and the high winds decrease and low humidity increase.

During normal conditions, trees uptake water through young, fine root hairs. At the same time, a tree is losing water through its stomata or small pores on the leaf surface through transpiration, the process by which water moves through a tree. Water constitutes most of a tree's tissue, aids in photosynthesis and provides strength for the growth and shape of leaves.

If a tree was weakened before the loss of water from any environmental stress, such as construction damage, extended drought, or improper soil types, it will be more susceptible to insect and disease problems. Trees that are under stress may reach a "permanent wilting point." This causes the tree to prematurely lose its leaves for the year or dieback in some limbs during the next growing season.

Trees have ways of protecting themselves from drought, and looking like fall is one of them. As normal conditions return, the tree should recover within a few growing seasons.

—Submitted by Eleanor Tuck

Botanic Garden Fall Sale

The sale is October 14 from 9-2 pm. There will be a presale on Thursday, October 12, from 5-7 pm. Workers receive a 10% discount only at the presale.

October Plant Swap Reminder

The foremost commonality that Master Gardeners share is love of plants; receiving a "prized" one from a friend is akin to sharing a treasure. That feeling is what we hope our plant exchange will evoke – sharing something special with a friend. The plant needn't be exotic nor the pot extravagant. All you need to do is choose the plant or a cutting thereof, pot it up and attach its name, variety, cultural requirements (sun, soil, feeding, watering). Then, briefly describe its history – where it came from (maybe a special holiday, maybe from your mother's garden, maybe from a special friend or from a previous exchange). Then,



1. bring it to the raffle table before the meeting begins;
2. during the meeting, a number will be assigned to each plant with a corresponding number placed in the drawing "hat";
3. during the lunch break each person who brings a plant will draw a number and pick up the appropriate plant;
4. following our speaker's second hour, trading may ensue – if you didn't draw the plant you had your eyes on, bartering may commence, but blood may not be drawn!

Have fun!!!

—By Joy Lease

EXTENSION PHONE NUMBERS

Kim Glass offers these easy to remember Extension phone numbers

MG Line	1943
MG Line	1944
Main Office	1945
Kim Glass Extension	1946
Office Fax	1941
Desk at Steve's office	1296



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



Calendar of Upcoming Events

09/22	Little Hands on the Farm set-up day
10/4 - 10/6	Earth-kind Advanced Specialist Training in Odessa
10/5	Orientation for Spring 07 MG Intern Class
10/10 -10/19	Annual Landscape Design School
10/12	TCMGA Bus Trip to Tyler: Rose garden, lunch and nursery
10/14	FW Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale
10/21	Grapevine's Butterfly Flutterby
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