



**August
2015**

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**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

*If you have an idea or would like
to contribute to the newsletter,
please contact Jackie Heidinger
jackieheidinger@verizon.net*

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

August 2015



2015 TCMGA Fall Regional Conference

***Vegetable Gardening in North Texas:
Fall is a Great Time to Start***

Saturday, August 29, 2015

Learn the basics of vegetable gardening in this part of Texas and why the fall is the best time to plant a garden. Topics to be covered include:

- It Begins With the Bed
- Best Vegetable Varieties
- Insects and Diseases
- Vegetable Garden Alternatives

Held in Building 2300, Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth. Off Campus Drive. 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Then move over to the Tarrant County Master Gardener Community Demonstration Garden for demonstrations and displays:

- Vegetable Beds
- Composting
- Irrigation Systems and much more

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT TARRANTMG.ORG!



**Marilyn Satterfield,
TCMGA President**

President's Message

Yes, it's summertime in Texas, and my garden is beginning to wither in the heat, even with diligent watering. The okra, squash, basil and peppers are still going strong, and will hopefully produce through the fall.

Our more experienced gardeners are probably not near as indecisive as a novice like me. So it's always a delight and an occasion to rejoice when my plants actually look like the picture on the seed packet. (I'm guessing I did something right when that happens).

One hardy plant that seems to produce regardless, are my sweet banana peppers. One of my wisest gardening decisions was to plant them in a grow box. The continuous supply of water makes them very happy and I do not have the pressure of remembering to water before they wilt, which makes me very happy.

This is a good time to start thinking about growing a fall garden. I know cooler weather is hard to imagine when our thermometers are saying 100 degrees or more. But, as I have learned, a successful garden starts with careful planning of the beds and soil for the type of plants we will be growing. There are so many different kinds of vegetables and flowers, and so little time and space, how to decide?

Well, help is on the way. Our conference on August 29th is all about the why, when and where of the fall garden. Some of our own Master Gardeners will be sharing their experience and know how with us, and answering our questions to get us off to a good start. So, to learn how to plan, prepare and get started, come join us on the 29th. All the details and online registration are on our website at www.tarrantmg.org, so make the conference a part of your fall garden planning. The event is open to the public. Invite your friends, family, garden club members, neighbors and other vegetable gardener wannabes to visit the website and sign up.

Until we meet again,

**Marilyn Satterfield
TCMGA President**



Meet Our Team of Propagation Specialists

By Nora Coalson, TCMG



You gotta love this team of propagation specialists. Where else can you find gardeners who cheer over a 50 percent success rate? And keep on trucking? They maintain a marvelous sense of humor, viewing successes with excitement and failures as a lesson learned. How many of you still have that African violet from your intern propagation class?

You probably already know that propagation is one of the specialty areas available to you, but what you may not have realized is that once you take the class you then become a part of a team, one which is tasked with teaching the skill. Do you have to be an expert? No. Do you even have to be an extremely successful propagator in your own right? Not really. You just have to commit to teaching the skills to others, which is another reason to love the team. This is a group which in every sense embodies the founding principles of our Master Gardener organization.

Besides teaching the intern class annually as well as a Propagation Specialist Training class periodically, the team is frequently called on through the Speakers Bureau to send out specialists across our county to teach the skills. Sometimes it will be something as simple as teaching school children how to make and work with seed tapes. At other times garden clubs want to learn more complex skills, like air layering, cuttings, and grafting. Teaching propagation has been added to the MG presentation at the Home and Garden Show. For several years they have had a tent at the Arlington EcoFest. Currently a group of specialists working through the Media Committee is putting together propagation videos, which will be posted on our web site and on YouTube.



Claire Alford heads the current team, which includes: Russ Bailey, Nancy Curl, Donna Fry, Bill Hall, Taddie Hamilton, Pat Higgins, Sue Kelley, Pat Lovejoy, Donna Morris, Jo Poppelreiter, Judy Ratzlaff, Hester Schwarzer, Kay Seiko, and Theresa Thomas.

The Tarrant County Propagation interns who just completed their minimum 16 hours of classroom training and are now working on their 20 hours of teaching in order to receive full certification are: Claudia Blalock, Rocky Deutscher, Glenn Dickerson, Jackie Heidinger, Debby Key, Starr Krottinger, Patsy Miller, Mary Reagor, Debra Rosenthal, Wendy Sheets, Betty Story, and Wanda Stutsman.



Claire reports that the most recent Propagation Specialist Training class attracted 35 participants, only 12 of whom were from Tarrant County. Working with a budget drawn from the cost of the class (\$200), she laughs when describing preparation and set up. It is no small task to teach a specialty class which first requires that you cover the entire floor in your classroom with tarps.

Why so many team members? For one thing, the group is large enough to avoid falling into the 80/20 trap, which as many of you know is when 20 percent of the members do 80 percent of the work. With a large variety of skill levels and interests, it then becomes easier to fill the many requests for propagation instruction.

Virtually all of the specialists practice some form of propagation at home, whether in a greenhouse, window sill or sunroom. Wanda Stutsman favors a bay window in her dining room because it is easier to care for them when they are “under foot.” However, the laundry room is the most favored place in many homes. Pat Lovejoy, who is currently in charge of the greenhouse at the Demonstration Garden, has a small hoop-type greenhouse at home but reports doing most of her propagating in her laundry room because it’s heated, cooled, and has running water. Jackie Heidinger reported a 96 percent success rate propagating coleus in her laundry room.

Besides successfully propagating *Salvia greggii* and Turks Cap at home, Kay Sekio has taught groups of Arlington EcoFest participants how to make origami pots from newspaper, which is then used for seeding and stem cuttings. A gentleman from the 2013 demonstration returned to the booth in 2014 and reported making more than 100 such pots with his kids for their own gardening. At times a demonstration may generate questions which then turn into a one-on-one lesson. At a plant sale, one customer asked a question that prompted Kay to demonstrate how to get cuttings from milkweed for propagation.

Taddie Hamilton’s attitude seems to typify that of the propagation specialists. “When I cut back plants, I try to propagate the cuttings. They either live or die – so I lose nothing.” She reports her greatest successes with begonia cuttings, succulents, ferns, ivy, African violets, Chinese evergreens, and *Spathiphyllums*. But Taddie, like many of the specialists I heard from, gets her thrills from teaching. When people come up to her later, describe their success and tell her how much they love their plant, well, that is what keeps her in the game.

How do you get really good at propagation? One way is to volunteer on Tuesday mornings to help in the greenhouse at the Demonstration Garden. There you will work with long-time propagation specialists, learn the skills to use at home as well as drive off with an occasional plant for your yard or fruit picked from the surrounding orchard. The comradery is delightful. In summer the air actually moves thanks to the fans and occasional use of the one air conditioning unit.

Now that you know who they are, you could also approach one of the specialists at a Master Gardener monthly meeting for tips on air layering or root cuttings. Or you might just sign up for the next Propagation Specialist class and then follow the directions given by Leonard Bernstein when asked by a New York City tourist how to get to Carnegie Hall. His answer, “Practice, practice, practice.”



TCMGA Speakers Bureau Update

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Each month a dedicated crew of MGs represent our organization by speaking on a multitude of various topics. They are requested by businesses, clubs, schools, cities, and any organization seeking garden knowledge.

We are so proud of these individuals!

Here is a list of the presentations given by MGs in May and June! When you see these speakers, stop and thank them for their efforts.

Arlington Garden Club	Heirlooms and Native	Sher Dunaway
White Settlement Senior Sprouts	Perennials for Shade Gardens	Camille Thomason
Patsy Miller's Neighborhood Meeting	Gardening in small spaces	Sher Dunaway
Gregg County Master Gardeners	The Pollinators: Birds, Bees & Butterflies and Hummingbirds	Sher Dunaway
Western Hills Elementary	What is a Master Gardener	Richard Kurth
Breakfast Club of Fort Worth	What is a Master Gardener	Richard Kurth
Marine Creek Ranch	Color year around	Toni Moorehead
Benbrook Library	Native Plants	Gailon Hardin
Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary	Working with children and talking about their gardens in each grade	Richard Kurth
White Settlement Senior Sprouts	Composting	Lance Jepsen
Women's Outdoor Group	Hubin Gardening	Sher Dunaway
Handley GC	Birds, Bees & Butterflies	Sher Dunaway
All Saints Episcopal Church	Pest, Bugs and Fungicides	Sher Dunaway

If you would like to represent TCMGA and be a member and /or presenter for the TCMGA Speakers Bureau, please contact Theresa Thomas at kayleettl@ssbcglobal.net.

Gardening Tips & Tidbits

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

August Birth Flower

August's birth flower is **gladiolus**, or 'sword lily.' Gladiolus represents remembrance, calm, integrity, and infatuation. With gladiolus, the recipient's heart is being "pierced with love." The other August flower is the **poppy**. A red poppy signifies pleasure, a white poppy is given for consolation, and a yellow poppy wishes wealth and success.



Article from <http://www.almanac.com>

You Know You're a Master Gardener When:



You know that Sevin is not a number.

TCMGA Interesting People -

Sher Dunaway—by Pam Braak



If Theresa Thomas of the Speakers Bureau gets a call from a garden club requesting a new subject, Sher Dunaway is most likely the person to take on the task of developing a program. If there is a last minute request for a talk, Sher is usually the one to agree to help out. Garden clubs and other groups often ask for her by name. She spoke recently to Master Gardeners in Longview on the same day she did a presentation to a neighborhood group in Arlington on Gardening in Very Small Spaces. So who is our most active speaker?

Sher Dunaway has been a Master Gardener since 2003 and has been part of the Speakers Bureau the entire time. She has a master's degree in anthropology/sociology from UTA and also degrees in art history, interior design and photography. She taught interior design, history of architecture and design at TCU. She worked as the director of UTA Continuing Education, assistant director of the Art Gallery, and was a Certified Landscape Designer. Last year she had two big photography shows in Granbury and Graham.

It's hard to imagine, but during the last year she gave 30 programs. Her list of PowerPoint presentations, from Birds, Bees & Butterflies (hot subject this year!) to Urban Gardens, fills an entire page. When Sher takes on a new program subject she does extensive research which is her real passion. She says that she actually learns more than her audience. She enjoys giving flower arranging hands-on classes because it's fun to watch people try and succeed at something they never thought they

could do. I participated in just such a class and felt great joy at doing something new and creative.

When asked what suggestions she has for MGs who are contemplating becoming part of the Speakers Bureau she first recommends being prepared by doing lots of research. That way when you step up in front

of people you can say to yourself: "I am center stage, I know my stuff". And of course there is always the thought that if the audience doesn't like the program, well, they can just do it themselves next time. Another suggestion is to include the audience in the program by asking lots of questions. And I personally know she is good at that. When I went to her beautifully decorated home to interview her she sat me down and started asking me questions. She has that lovely quiet old-fashioned Southern charm



and hospitality that is not seen much anymore.

Sher's husband Bill accompanies her to her speaking engagements and sets up and operates the equipment. When they are going to a new location they make a point of going a few days in advance and checking out how the facilities will work. Speakers are often asked about the Master Gardener program and this is a wonderful way to promote our organization and get new members.

TCMGA is very fortunate to have such a hardworking and knowledgeable member as our public face to the community.

2015 Programs

August 6, 2015

Melinda Adams of the Forestry Service
Topic- Care of Trees During Drought Conditions

September 3, 2015
 Dell Perry of Dallas Iris Society
Topic-Iris Types and their Cultivation

October 1, 2015

Marilyn Simmons of the Cowgirl Gardeners
Topic-Perennial Gardening

November 5, 2015
 Dr. Barney Lipscomb of BRIT
Topic-Poisonous Plants

TCMGA SWAP, SELL AND COME AND GET IT!

Come and get it.

I have 5 endless summer hydrangeas and 1 bluebird lacecap hydrangea available to anyone that wants them. They're currently planted in the ground. <http://www.endlesssummerblooms.com/the-collection/the-original>
<http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/1468/bluebird-lacecap-hydrangea/>

Contact Omideh Frisinger at otaghavi@hotmail.com or call 817-583-0640



August 2015

- 8/1 Joanne McClendon, Toni Moorehead, Penny Sambell
- 8/3 Donna Detzel, Elaine Thieroff
- 8/5 Kathryn Whitaker
- 8/6 Sue Fair
- 8/7 Lauren LaBar, Jill Pitcher, Brian Strickland
- 8/10 Patsy Miller, Sue Short, Patty White
- 8/11 Russell Bailey, Keith Olmsted Jr., Bea Wilson
- 8/12 J. Renee Beckum
- 8/13 Michele Elekes
- 8/15 Sandy Williams, Cindy Woelke
- 8/17 Kim Evans
- 8/18 Barry Smith, Ben Swallow
- 8/21 Nancy Curl
- 8/24 Patricia Casey, Susan Jerusa
- 8/25 Jane Bruckner, Mary Kay Hughes
- 8/26 Susan Harper, Ivy Norwood
- 8/27 Debbie Key
- 8/30 Melody Young
- 8/31 Sandra Lowry

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

If you know of anyone who is ill in the Master Gardener Association and/or deaths in their immediate family, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

Also we are in need of cards to send to our membership. If you could bring any extras you can donate, please bring them to the meetings; it would be so appreciated.

LaVonne Nowlin (817) 581-1850 or email lavonnen@sbcglobal.net.

FORT WORTH HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Once again Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association will have an active part in the upcoming Fort Worth Home and Garden Show, Saturday-Sunday, August 15-16, at Fort Worth Convention Center.

Nancy Curl and her merry band will be leading two terrarium workshops, one each day.

Speaking from the Main Stage will be:

Glenn Dickerson – Basics of Propagation

Harold Annis – Fall Vegetable Gardening

Dave Wilson – Garden Tool Maintenance

Gailon Hardin – Native Plants

LaVonne Nowlin – Fall Vegetable Gardening

Propagation specialist interns will be at the MG booth helping visitors make seed tapes and talking about different types of propagation.

Additional MG volunteers will be needed to help at our booth talking to show visitors answering their questions and providing them with handouts. An upcoming eblast will announce the shift times and call for volunteers.

By Patsy Miller, TCMG

Membership/Background Investigation Update

We will start collecting Membership dues at the August monthly meeting. Dues are \$20. If you are over 80 years of age, the dues are \$10. You can pay in cash or by check made out to TCMGA. Dues must be paid by Oct 31, 2015.

Please note that some TCMGA members will owe an additional \$10 for an update to their Background Investigation. This update is required every three years. You will be notified by e-mail if you require a Background update. If you have questions, please call Steve Purdy.

If you have changes in you address, phone number or email, please let Steve Purdy know.

Steve Purdy - Membership

Upcoming Events

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August

August 6 **9 am social** **TCMGA Meeting**
10 am- meeting

August 12 9 am **FWBG Perennial Garden Guided Tour**

August 13 9 am **FWBG Trial Garden Guided Tour**

August 15-16 **Texas Home and Garden Show in Ft. Worth, TX**
<http://texashomeandgardenshow.com>

August 29 9 am— 3 pm **2015 TCMGA Fall Regional Conference**
"Vegetable Gardening in North Texas:
Fall is a Great Time to Start"
Resource Connection,
Building 2300/Demonstration Garden
Registration is online at tarrantmg.org

Landscape Design School Series XXIV, Course III, September 21-22, 2015

LOCATION: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum,
College Station, TX

The George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School III September 21-22, 2015. The Schools are sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University.

Mrs. Diane Perez of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Dr. William C. Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, announce the latest in the series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed.

Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by September 1 (two lunches are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design School. Registration will be \$165 after September 1, 2015. The optional reference book, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 by September 1, 2015. The book will be reserved for participants to pick up the first morning of the course. The text is a reference for all four courses, although not required for graduation. The lectures will not be taken directly from the text. It is just another viewpoint of the material being presented.

Registration materials and questions:
Mail to: Michele Wehrheim, Registrar
1218 Haines Drive
College Station, TX 77840
(313) 649-1067

Registration form and tentative schedule may be obtained from
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>

Questions: EMAIL Michele Wehrheim: texaslandscapedsignschool@gmail.com

TCMGA PROPAGATION CLASS

CEU being offered after the August meeting.

Have some barbeque and stay for a **1 hour CEU**.

The propagation team will have Power-Point and demos of propagation techniques you can apply to your yard and garden during August through the fall.

Learn how to divide, stem cut, simple layer and chip bulbs.

After the barbeque take a seat in the gym for the program!

**TCMGA Propagation
Specialist Team**