

Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

December 2012

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Plant a Tree

By Laura M. Miller,
CEA Commercial Horticulture, Texas AgriLife Extension

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." –Chinese Proverb

This saying has been used to inspire people to start doing all sorts of things they should already be doing such as saving money or returning to school, but when it comes to literally planting a tree in Texas, now is truly the best time.

Texas A&M Forest Service surveys indicate that the historic drought of 2011 killed 301 million trees in rural areas and 5.6 million trees in urban areas. Here in Fort Worth, City Forester Melinda Adams reports the removal of 1800 dead trees from parks and parkways, a dramatic increase over a typical average of 500 per year. Because drought stressed trees will be slowly dying for the next five to ten years, the full effects of the drought on tree numbers may never be measured. There has clearly been a great loss of Texas trees in the past few years, and even though there's a bumper crop of acorns this fall across the state, nature could use a little help from its friends. This is especially true in urban areas.

Regional Urban Forester Courtney Blevins completed a canopy analysis of Tarrant County in November 2011, well before the full impact of the drought, and found that only 23.6% of the total land area is covered by tree canopy. Contrast that with 27.2% covered by impervious surfaces and it is easy to see that there is plenty of hot pavement and not enough cool shade in this neck of the not-so-woody woods.

That same analysis classified 23.2% of the county as plantable, which is defined as all non-agricultural use, treeless locations where a tree could and **should** be planted. Areas under power lines, golf course fairways, sports fields, etc. or

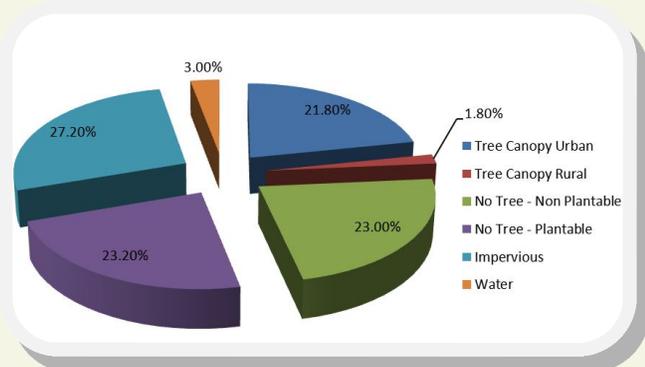
If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Jackie Heidinger

rheidinger@tx.rr.com.

“Plant a Tree” - cont’d

sites where there is open ground but not enough room for a mature tree are not included.

Tarrant County Canopy Analysis –November 2011



Another way to discuss the best time to plant is by time of year. Container grown trees can be planted at any time of year but the heat of the summer is the most difficult time to successfully establish a newly planted tree.



Bare root and balled and trees wrapped in burlap should only be planted during the winter.

If the time to plant is indeed now, and the place is here, all that’s left are the details.

1. Choose right tree for the site

- The Texas Tree Selector is a great online tool <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>

2. Choose the healthiest tree available

- Look for a single trunk and a strong central leader

- Look for an obvious root flare at the base of the trunk
- Look at the roots—avoid trees with roots that circle the container
- Follow recommended planting procedures
- Don’t plant too deep
- Fill the hole with the native soil. Do not amend. There is no way to amend the entire area where a tree’s roots will grow

3. Water

- Smaller trees establish more quickly, but all trees need supplemental irrigation. Plan to deliver water (1-3 gallons per inch of caliper) daily for two weeks and weekly for three months per caliper inch. A two inch caliper tree should be established in about six months.

4. Mulch

- Apply 2-4 inches over the root ball. Pull mulch away from the trunk of the tree
- It moderates soil temperature, reduces water loss, keeps weeds away and makes the tree much less susceptible to string trimmer and lawn mower damage

If you don’t have any space to plant, get involved in community tree planting efforts. Even if you can’t swing a shovel, you can still be an advocate for trees.



President's Message– December 2012



Dear Gardener Friends,

We are almost at the end of another year and I am coming to the end of my term as President of the TCMGA. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the membership and the association. I hope you are as proud as I am of all of our accomplishments during this time.

The TCMGA is a wonderful organization filled with amazing and talented members. Your contribution to the Master Gardener program, the county and cities we live in reflect the joy you have in gardening and dedication to sharing our knowledge with others.

Change is good for organizations. New leadership brings fresh ideas and enthusiasm to see them through. I look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to support our new President Patsy Miller and the members of the executive board as they lead the TCMGA to even more amazing success.

Before the New Year, it's time to celebrate! Celebrate the holidays with your gardener friends. Make your reservation for the **TCMGA Holiday lunch** on Thursday, December 6 at Diamond Oaks Golf Club. Be there to congratulate your MG of the Year, Extra Milers and Educator of the Year.

A huge thank you to **Dave Wilson!** He did it again, with his delicious BBQ during last month's meeting. We appreciate his talent and thank him for his time.

Thank you to the **2012 officers** Claire Alford, Linda Hawkins, Donna Morris, and Pam Braak. Your time and leadership are appreciated.

Thank you to members who served as **committee chairs**. Thank you to the many members who served on these committees.

Thank you to all of the members who served as **project chairs** for your leadership and guidance. Thank you to the many members who dedicated their time to help and support to each of these projects.

Thank you to the **TCMGA demo Garden leads**. Thank you to all our members who provide their time and support to our TCMGA Garden.

Thank you to Steve Chaney for his leadership and guidance. Thank you to Billie Hammack for your help and support.

Thank you to the many unnamed members who provide their time and dedication to small and large tasks every week and at every meeting. The TCMGA is an outstanding organization because of you!

Finally, thank you to Mother Nature for the fall rain and cooler temperatures! Roses and many perennials shared their second flush of blooms and even fall leaf color for us to enjoy.

See you in the garden!

.Nancy Curl, President
Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Minutes of the November 1, 2012 TCMGA General Meeting

Today's program was presented by Keith Kriedler. In the morning he educated us on judging bulbs and in the afternoon he talked about blue birds.

President Nancy Curl welcomed our visitors, including several nutrition students from TCU. We had 170 Certified Master Gardeners, interns and visitors present. A quorum was verified. She also thanked all the vendors present. She asked that everyone please fill out a survey concerning our organization for the next year. Ballots are available for nominees for Master Gardener Awards. Certified Master Gardeners can nominate someone for Master Gardener of the Year, Educator of the year, and for Extra Mile award. Interns can vote on intern awards.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05a.m.

Executive Board

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Linda Hawkins, Ways and Means asked us to pick up our bulb orders. She asked that we support our vendors. The demonstration garden is selling medium for plant propagation. Please see Bill Vandever to get some. Worm castings will be available in January.

Claire Alford, Programs Claire also asked that everyone please fill out the surveys and vote for awards. The holiday luncheon will open at 10:30am with food at 11:30am and awards after lunch. The luncheon will be December 6, 2012 at Diamond Oaks Country Club.

Pam Braak, Treasurer notified us that our income was more than estimated and expenses less that estimated. The Regional Conference and rose sale made a profit, \$2,570 and \$680 respectively. We have a cash balance now of \$11,285 more than January 1. She asked that all requests for reimbursements be in by December 15, 2012

Treasurer's Report

For the month ended October 31, 2012

Cash, Beginning 10/1/2012	\$46,252.15
Deposits during month	\$8,733.92
Checks during month	(\$6,355.94)
Cash, Ending 10/31/2012	<u>\$48,630.13</u>

There were no questions and the report was filed.

Committee Reports

Thank you Dave Wilson for the BBQ, thank you to

hospitality for your great job. Steve Purdy needs 2013 dues. Hours for 2012 are due to your time keeper.

Donna Fry Raffle, drawing for chain saw will be at the end of the meeting

Speakers Bureau had good attendance at the power point classes. There is still room available for the class on presentation.

Regional Conference There was not a budget for the conference. A fee was based on anticipated costs; including speaker fees, gift bags, lunch and snack. Speakers would not accept payment, contents of the gift bags were all donated, the only expense was lunch, snacks, gift baskets for speakers, printing costs, and partial cost recovery to A&M. Resulting in all expenses coming in under estimations, which resulted in a significant income from the conference of \$2,570.

Old Business

There is no old business.

New Business – Executive Board proposals to the membership

Pavilion at the community garden

A pavilion at the community garden has been a dream for many years. We have an estimate of \$23,690 to build it. It will be 20x30 with a brick or pavenstone floor. There will be accessible paths leading to the pavilion. There will be electricity and ceiling fans. It will also include an outdoor kitchen so we can hold classes on canning and cooking vegetables. The source of the funds will come from:

Anonymous donation	\$11,990
Pavilion/future projects fund which were set aside at the end of 2011	\$6,200
Profit from the recent regional conference	\$2,500
Excess general membership income this year	<u>\$3,000</u>
	\$23,690

The executive board recommends that we spend the money in this way.

Taddie Hamilton moved and it was seconded that we follow the recommendation. Starr Kottinger asked if there were provisions for cost overrun. The reply

Minutes of the November General Meeting –cont'd

stated there was no cost overrun included, however estimates were made high for each area. Steve told us that the bathroom fund is separate and construction on that should start shortly. There will be no storage as that put us over budget and we have ample storage now. Construction will begin after all permits have been acquired and Commissioners Court has voted on it. It will be completed by the first of the year.

An oral vote was taken and the motion carried.

Laptops and projectors for the Speakers Bureau

The executive board proposed purchasing two new laptops and projectors for the Speakers Bureau to replace and enhance aging equipment. The new equipment will cost \$2,262 with \$568 coming from the Speakers Bureau Budget and \$1,694 coming from Computer Equipment Improvement Fund. Taddie Hamilton moved and it was seconded that the proposal be accepted and the funds be used in this way. The motion carried

There was no other new business.

Announcements

Mary Ann Levine lost her husband.

Don't forget the state conference, international conference and garden conservancy.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully Submitted by

Donna Morris, Secretary

2012 LEADERSHIP

President: Nancy Curl
nl_curl@yahoo.com

1st VPresident: Claire Alford
caagardner@aol.com

2nd VPresident: Linda Hawkins
lindamhawkins@gmail.com

Secretary: Donna Morris
morrisd1@swbel.net

Treasurer: Pam Braak
P.braak@verizon.net

Acknowledgements: Pat Lovejoy
palovejoy@att.net

Activities: Patsy Miller
pjmiller24@sbcglobl.net

Awards, Local: Jody Puente
Mipuente@msn.com

Sunshine: Doris Hill
artanddoris@verizon.net

Bulletin Board: Theresa Thomas
kayleetl@sbcglobal.net

Garden Resource: Dave Wilson
ldwilson98@yahoo.com

Historian: Jackie Peel
jackiepeel@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality: Shirley Mills
smills72@att.net

Membership: Steve Purdy
spurdy06@sbcglobl.net

Newsletter: Jackie Heidinger
rheidinger@tx.rr.com

Nominating: Sue Ellen Schlitzer
S.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Photography: Sally Harris
sallyjanharris@mac.com

Projects Coordinator: Judy Ratzlaff
judy.ratzlaff@yahoo.com

Raffle: Donna Fry
dfry1212@hotmail.com

Website: Jackie Heidinger
webmaster@tarrantmg.org

Announcements

Claudia Teague, Master Gardener, Class of 2008 and her husband, Cliff helped me make a Bottle Tree for the Resource Connection. We cut the iron with the help of the TCU Dietician Class, Group 2, took it to Azle and with the help of Cliff welded it together. With the guidance of Steve Chaney, we placed the tree near the entrance of the garden. Yet our work is not yet completed.

There is a story behind each Bottle Tree. The roots of the Bottle Tree are in the middle of the 9th century Africa, where the Congo Tree Altar is a tradition of honoring the deceased with memorials. The beliefs evolved over time, and during the slave trade, followed the slaves to the southern United States.

In one variation of the belief, bottles were placed on the ends of cedar tree branches, in hopes that any devilish spirits lurking nearby might be attracted to the colorful bottles. So mesmerized by the colors the spirits would become trapped inside the bottles. The trapped spirits are then destroyed when the sun comes out the next morning.

Although bottles of many colors were used, blue was thought to be an especially potent spirit repellent. It is believed that blue, the color of sky and water, have the power to repel or overcome evil.

"When a soft wind blows, you can hear the moans of the trapped spirits whistling on the breeze. The way the spirits get free is if the bottle breaks, so take care around the bottle tree!"

Given the history of the bottle tree we would like to place a cobalt blue glass bottle on each branch of the tree to respect the heritage of the tree, but we do not have enough and have been unable to locate them in the DFW area. Could you help?

If you have any empty cobalt blue bottles please bring them to the garden so we can use them on the Community Garden tree. We need at least 12 and a few more in case of any breakage problems. Thanks for your help. We hope that you enjoy the tree, albeit a little different.

**Lance Jepson,
TCU Coordinator.**



Picture from Grannulus' Grove blogspot

Brown Recluse Spider Needed!

Eleanor Tuck needs at least one Brown Recluse to replace the current badly damaged spider in the insect collection. This collection travels to Home & Garden shows and to Insect presentations.

She would be happy to help you catch one! Please contact her at 817-244-1771 or email her at etuck@sbcglobal.net.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GARDENERS!

December Birthdays

- 1 Sharon Chastain, Bill Keller, Carole O'Connell, Marilyn Newman
- 2 Donna Fry
- 4 Claire Brown
- 5 Jerry Sorenson
- 6 Caroline Delaughter
- 7 Memie Hardie
- 9 Mimi Mancuso, Earl Alexander
- 11 Taylor Siebold
- 12 Geraldine Henderson
- 14 Andrea Goldbaum
- 15 Ann Knudsen
- 16 Julie Hames, Jack Gerloff, Angeline Depauw
- 17 Howard Davis
- 18 Jolene Hetrick
- 19 Edward Forrester
- 21 Pam Sustaire
- 22 Nelda McGlinchey, Ann McVey
- 23 Carolyn Critz
- 24 Claudia Cimme, Kathleen McKinney
- 25 Rita Hottel
- 26 Suzi Cook
- 27 Esther Procter, Cindy Wakeley
- 29 Joyce Quam

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact Doris Hill, (817) 337-8484 or email artanddorishill@verizon.net.

Directory/Membership Changes

Please note the following TCMGA Directory Changes:

No changes this month.

If you have changes in your contact information, please contact Steve Purdy at spurdy06@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Event



TCMGA Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 6, 2012

10:30am-Coffee, 11:30am-Lunch, 12:30pm -Program

Where: Diamond Oaks Country Club

5821 Diamond Oaks Drive

Haltom City 817-834-6261

Cost: \$20.00 per person

Make your reservations at the November meeting

Or mail your check to:

Eleanor Tuck

8328 Patreota Drive

Benbrook, TX 76126

Reservations Accepted through December 2!

December 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—Veterans Park 9am Veterans Park— Wildscape Texas AgriLife Seminar— Individual Consultation
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carl- son 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	8a Thistle Hill 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Veterans Pk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 3:15pFitzgerald	8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial		8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—River Legacy 9am SW Crthse
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carl- son 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Veterans Pk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 3:15pFitzgerald	8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	9a JPS Meditation Garden	8:30a Common NRH
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carl- son 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	8a Thistle Hill 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Veterans Pk 9a SW Crthse 9a FW Hulen Lbry 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Bob Jones Nature 3:15pFitzgerald	8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial		8:30a Common NRH
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carl- son 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald		8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Veterans Pk 9a Teen Challenge 9am SW Crthse 9a CG Herb Work 3:15pFitzgerald	8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	9a JPS Meditation Garden	8:30a Common NRH
30	31					
	New Years Eve!					

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call Chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 8:00 am	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Children's Garden		Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536
302 BG Trial Garden	Thurs. 8:30-11:30am	Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net	817-261-1420
303 Community and Demo Garden Chair	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Project Leads			
Community Garden, Tuesdays			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting			
Community Vegetable Beds	Pat Higgins, ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
Demonstration and Enabling Beds	Frank Durda, fdurda@hotmail.com		817-292-2270
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Lance Jepson ljepson@aol.com & Pat Higgins	817-557-6122	817-946-6278
Enabling Garden	Frank Durda, fdurda@hotmail.com		817-292-2270
Greenhouse/Propagation	Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com		817-481-8861
Herb Garden, Tuesdays	Rita Hottel, rnhottel@att.net		817-295-2883
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard	Renee Beckum, jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		817-790-8575
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-838-7321	817-923-9250
Plant Sales	Carol Lally & Linda Winn lallyca@sbcglobal.net, mwinnclan@aol.com	817-656-2736	817-581-4486
Potting Shed	Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net		817-447-7924
Rain Barrel Construction	Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net		817-444-2247
Rose Garden, Tuesdays	Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com		817-477-2867
304 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 8:00 am	Sue Fair	817-266-2514
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 am	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
304 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 am	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
304 Common Ground NRH Community Garden	Wed. & Sat 8:30a-12n	Diane Spradling Sandra Totty	817-431-4666 817-281-7877
304 Six Stones/City of Bedford Community Garden		Annette Lee	214-803-2219
304 The Samaritan House	Tues. 8am-11a	John Pinkerton	682-433-2529
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Fri. 9am	Bernice Ramsbottom	817-485-6631
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden Docents	Call Chairman	Rachel Clark, Co-Chair Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair	817-488-003 817-481-4398
<u>Environmental Projects:</u>			
305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington 2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin Charlie Shiner	817-581-1850 817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 am	Bill Hall/ Theresa Thomas	817-737-9890 817-485-6789
305 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat., last Wed. 9 am	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
305 Southlake Liberty Garden	Call Chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	2nd Thurs., 8-11 am Wed. 9 am-12 noon	Molly Hollar	817-319-6924
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	1st Sat., 9 am-12 noon 3rd, Wednesday, 9 am	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190
<u>School Gardens:</u>			
306 Alice Carlson OLE	Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald OLE	Mon 9:00 am & Wed 3:15p	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10 am	Pam Braak & Harold Annis	817-488-5665 817-481-6242



Important Websites to Know!



Our local TCMGA website:	http://www.tarrantmg.org/
State MG Website and TMG news:	http://www.texasmastergardeners.com
State Newsletter:	http://www.tmgnewsletter.org
Our RC Demo Garden Website:	http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123
Native Plant Society of Texas	http://npsot.org
Aggie Horticulture:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
Earthkind:	http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind
Texas Superstars:	http://texassuperstar.com
Fort Worth Botanic Garden:	http://fwbg.org
Wildscape:	http://thewildscape.org
Botanical Research Institute of Texas:	http://www.brit.org

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any of our meetings are encouraged to contact our office at 817.884.1945 for assistance.

