



Sharecropper



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

February 2014

February
2014

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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

A Time to Prune

By Toni Moorehead, TCMG, TCLP



To prune, or not to prune...that is the question. And the answer is...YES!

Generally speaking, **mid-February is the ideal time for pruning** most shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses; but some plants are pruned later in the spring. So before you go Edward Scissorhands on your landscape, let's go over some specifics.

The reason mid-February is the best time for major pruning is because usually our last freeze comes around mid-March (March 17). Three to four weeks prior to that time is the best time for pruning. Your plants have been storing energy all winter long. Pruning will stimulate new growth, so by the time the new growth comes, chances are the deep freezes will be a distant memory. Prune too early, and new growth could get burned by a late freeze.

Late winter (January/February) is also a good time to **prune trees**, if needed. Just a note about oak trees (live oak or red oak), trim them very soon, if needed. To prevent the spread of oak wilt disease, the best time to prune oaks is in the winter months, preferably before February 15. The nitidulid beetle is not as active during colder months.

In the case of *most* shrubs, try not to just shear them, but instead selectively prune at intersecting branches toward the interior of the shrub to keep shrubs full and compact. If you only shear the tops of the shrubs, that is where the new growth will come, leaving the interior and lower branches bare.

Here are some **tips on pruning** specific types of shrubs, ornamental grasses, roses, and ground-covers:

Hollies (e.g., Yaupon, Burford) can take pretty drastic pruning, so don't be afraid to prune as needed. I literally prune my hollies down to sticks every February and within a month, they are lush with new growth. Dwarf Yaupon Hollies do respond well to shearing, but when pruning this shrub, aim for a dome shape instead of a "meatball". Shape the top of the shrub, if needed, but do not cut in at the bottom (think of an egg lying on its side, rather than an egg standing upright on end).



Meatball (egg standing on end)



Dome (egg lying on its side)

Now let me get on my soapbox for a moment: All varieties of Nandinas are always pruned at the bottom. Never shear the sides or tops. Take the tallest canes, follow them down to the ground, and prune them. New growth will come out at the point of pruning, keeping the plant full and compact. Try not to prune more than one-third of the shrub at once. I am on a mission to rid the world of incorrectly pruned Nandinas. Now that you know how to properly prune a Nandina, please spread the word! I can almost guarantee you have at least one neighbor who needs this information.

Improperly pruned nandinas, sheared on tops and sides



Correctly pruned 'Gulfstream' nandinas - 13 1/2 years old



Abelia: Prune longest stems close to the ground. Prune selectively. Please do not shear this shrub. It has a naturally weeping shape and does not look good when it is pruned into a square or ball. If this shrub is very overgrown, or has been poorly shaped in the past, you can prune it down to about 18 inches (yes, it will be just sticks) and it will regrow in a natural shape.



Miscanthus Sinensis 'Adagio'

Ornamental Grasses:

Cut Miscanthus and Fountain grasses down to about 3 inches. It is not necessary to cut Mexican Feathergrass; just give it a "haircut" and rake out the old grass stems. Cut Muhly grasses down to about a foot tall and rake out old stems.

Roses: Prune shrub roses back by about half their size in mid-February. Follow the stem down until you find a leaf node (bud of new growth) pointing in the direction you want the stem to grow and prune it at a 45-degree angle right above the leaf node. You want the leaf nodes to be pointing to the outside of the rose, not back toward the center. Prune out all dead wood and any stems pointing toward the center of the rose. What you want left is a clean center with all stems fanning outward.



Hydrangeas bloom on old growth (last year's growth), so pruning them now will sacrifice blooms. If you need to prune them, do so right after they finish blooming. Selectively prune by cutting the tallest stems close to the ground. 'Endless Summer' Hydrangeas are an exception to this rule (they bloom on old and new growth) so if necessary, they can be pruned now.

Spirea: Prune Bridal Wreath Spirea *after* it blooms, cutting tallest stems close to ground only if needed. It does not need to be pruned at all; it has a lovely weeping shape. Anthony Waterer Spirea and Lime Mound Spirea, however, can be pruned in mid-February; prune back by about half to keep more full and compact.



Crape Myrtles: (Excuse me while I get back on my soapbox again)... Please DO NOT prune the tops of crape myrtles - a/k/a "Crape Murder"

Prune only dead or crossing branches and any suckers that have grown at the bottom. If your crape myrtle does not leaf out well this spring because of previous winter freeze damage, cut the tree TO THE GROUND and let it regrow. It will quickly send up new shoots, and at that point you can pick the strongest stems to become the new tree.

Groundcovers: Asian Jasmine and Mondo grass -- mow or weed-eat down to 3-4 inches. Liriope -- weed-eat or cut down to 1-2 inches. New growth will emerge in late March.

Perennials: Some perennials can be pruned after freezes in the fall. If you did not prune your perennials last fall, refer back to the Toni's Tips section of the December Sharecropper for pruning tips to get your perennials ready for spring.

If this article has not satisfied your quest for pruning knowledge, please check out <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/> for even more information on proper pruning tech-

niques.

So there you have it. Grab those pruners and get busy. As an added bonus, did you know that most gardening activities burn about 300 calories per hour? Now you can work off all of those holiday goodies and get ready for all of the spring treats in your garden!

Remember....a day without dirt under your nails is like a day without sunshine

Happy Gardening!





**Patsy Miller,
TCMGA President**

**“Our regular
MG meeting,
and a special
treat – a
members’ salsa
contest.”**



President’s Message

Hello Master Gardeners,

I have found that Master Gardeners are not very good at hibernating. We always seem to have something on our calendars to do. Just a few events to mark down:

February 6 – Our regular MG meeting, and a special treat – a members’ salsa contest. This is a tie-in to our regional conference on February 8, “Tomato Roundup: all you every wanted to know about growing tomatoes”. Members will be vying for bragging rights and prizes for their salsa. These salsa recipes may entice you to want to grow the best tomatoes ever – and sign up for the conference, if you haven’t already.

February 8 -- We already have nearly 100 registrations for the tomato conference and many are from outlying counties including Comal and Tom Green. Speakers Bill Adams and Tom LeRoy literally wrote the book on growing tomatoes and vegetables. This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends who struggle with growing tomatoes to learn from the masters. Our own Master Gardeners will also be teaching during the breakout session. Go to our website www.tarrantmg.org for all the information and online registration for the conference. We will take reservations at the February 6 Master Gardener meeting. No registration at the event.

February 21-23 – Thanks to all of you, our booth at the Fort Worth Home and Garden Show has been a favorite of the H&G staff. They are providing a larger area for the Kids Zone and once again have asked us to provide the crafts and displays. Several of you have volunteered to help with craft ideas and the general planning. This is a great way to introduce the public to Tarrant County Master Gardeners and makes us a “go-to” place for horticulture information. We will be providing informational talks in our booth during the three

-day event, provided by our Speakers Bureau volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a Speakers Bureau volunteer, see Theresa Thomas. You can research topics on your own for presentation or use already-prepared PowerPoint topics. Many clubs and groups use Master Gardeners for programs throughout the year.

July 3 - Just a reminder that our July meeting will be on our regular meeting day. Come to Master Gardeners and then enjoy the Fourth of July holiday.

And a word from our timekeeper Carol Lally. Our record keeping website, www.texas.volunteersystem.org is getting a lot of use. It is easy and you can enter hours as you complete them or update and edit your hours as needed. Questions about what constitutes a certifiable activity and where to log it can be answered by going to General Information/Projects on the left side. Each of the project categories is explained.

Remember that our monthly meeting is recorded as one hour under continuing education for the speaker and one hour under volunteer for the meeting. Many of you work before and after the meeting as part of the hospitality, ways and means and other committees. Record your activity under “event description,” Master Gardener meeting as the project and your time as volunteer.

Take time to enjoy and be thankful for each day,

**Patsy Miller
TCMGA President**

TCMGA General Meeting—January 2014

Patsy Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM. There are 171 members present making a quorum (15 %) for the business meeting. We had one visitor. Also present were the 2014 interns.

December Minutes were published in the January newsletter. No corrections. **Minutes approved as published.**

Executive Board

Marianne Levine, Programs, introduced our Speaker, Nick Burtner. His presentation was “Introduction to Permaculture”.

Ways and Means: Marilyn Satterfield, Chairperson, reported there were raffle items today plus the garden gear table and worm castings are available. In February, Master Gardeners can order roses and bulbs. Also, members can still buy bricks for the pavilion walkway.

Tomato Roundup – Patsy Miller reminded members that registration for the regional conference “Tomato Roundup: All you ever wanted to know about growing tomatoes” is being taken today. See Pam Braak. You can also register online at the website. A flyer and a copy of the brochure are on the website and on the bulletin board. Cost of the all day conference is \$45. You can earn 6 CEU credits. Deadline for registration is January 31, you can’t register at the conference. It is open to the public so tell your friends and neighbors.

Salsa Competition – Claire Alford is heading up the salsa competition in conjunction with our tomato conference. This is just for Master Gardeners and the taste-off will be at our Feb. 6 meeting. Claire is taking entries today. Rules were sent out via email. They are also on the bulletin board.

Starr Krottinger, Treasurer gave the following report. For the month ending December 31, 2013 .

Treasurer’s Report
For Month Ended November 30, 2013

Cash, Beginning on December 1, 2013	\$ 35,952.24
Deposits	\$ 1,040.21
Checks written	\$ 5,669.19
Cash ending on December 31, 2013	\$ 31,323.26

There were no questions – Treasurer’s Report is filed.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee – Lance Jepson, Chairperson, reported the committee consisting of Lance, Starr Krottinger and Charlene McMorro met on January 6. The committee wants to thank Pam for the many hours that she has dedicated to keeping our financial transactions correct and congratulate her on the excellent job she did during 2013. Members were asked to cash reimbursement checks to help with balancing the books.

Activities - Claire Alford, Chairman, says that the schedule of field trips for 2014 will be in the February newsletter.

Timekeeper - Head timekeeper Carol Lally sent an email on how to count the MG meeting hours. It will be 1 hour as volunteer for the business meeting and 1 hour as continuing education for the speaker. The information is on the bulletin board.

Membership - Membership Chairperson, Steve Purdy, reported we have 342 blue badges, 45 interns in the current class and 7 interns who completed the modular classes for a total of 394. He is working on getting the membership directories out.

Hospitality Committee – There are two signup sheets for the February meeting. Would also like your feedback and suggestions on food. Thank you to Lizann Cundall, Chairperson, and her team for our new format.

Awards Committee - Lena Goff, Chairperson, reports that there are still some members who haven't picked up awards or 500 hour pins. She would also like to take your picture.

Nominating Committee - The executive board has approved Linda Hawkins as Chairperson.

Announcements

- For your Calendar:
 - Directors Meeting – Feb. 1. Any blue badge MG may attend. A group will be carpooling to College Station. See Patsy Miller.
 - Home and Garden Show – February 21-23 at Fort Worth Convention Center. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee working on speakers' topics, Kids Zone craft and display ideas, any tweaks we might make we would like to have you join us.
 - MG Plant sale, April 12

- Unfinished Business – none
- New Business

2014 Budget – Starr Krottinger, Treasurer, presented a Power Point Presentation of the 2014 Budget. **Starr Krottinger moves acceptance of the budget.** Because this comes from the Executive Committee it requires no second. Vote – There were not any members who opposed. **The 2014 Budget is adopted**

Members participating in the raffle were asked to check the winning numbers at the raffle table at the end of the meeting.

Members winning door prizes were announced.

As there was no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

**Respectively Submitted by
Theresa Kay Thomas,
Recording Secretary**

Gardening Tips & Tidbits

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Green Anole



The green anole or Carolina anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) is common in pet stores where it is sometimes identified as the American chameleon because of its ability to change color from green to brown. It is important to note, though, that these lizards are not actu-

ally a type of chameleon. Green anoles are the only anole lizard native to North America, and are found primarily in the southeastern United States, with recent introductions to Hawaii, Guam, and elsewhere. As their name suggests, these lizards are emerald green in color, but can change to brown. Both males and females have a pink throat fan (a.k.a. dewlap), which is used as a means for inter- and intraspecific communication. Their toes are expanded at the tips to accommodate adhesive toe pads, which aid them in climbing smooth surfaces where claws cannot be used. The reproductive season takes place during the months of April through July, when the typically territorial males become even more intensely territorial, attempting to secure exclusive access to groups of females. Female anole lizards can lay one egg each week throughout the four-month breeding cycle. The green anole has been a particularly important organism for study in the scientific community, and has been successfully used as a model system for studying neurological disorders and for studying drug delivery systems and biochemical pathways relevant to human illnesses. In recent years, populations of *A. carolinensis* have apparently become less common, although no data are available. This decline is correlated with massive habitat alteration and the introduction of the brown anole (*Anolis sagrei*) from Cuba.

Article from eol.com

Birth Flowers and Their



February Birth Flower

The February Birth Flower is the Violet, as shown in the opposite picture. The meaning of the February Birth Flower, the Violet, symbolizes faithfulness, humility, and chastity.

Answer to Last Month's "Name That Plant":

Lenten Rose



Joey Williamson, ©2012 HGIC, Clemson University

You Know You're a Master Gardener When:



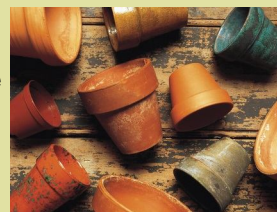
You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking.

Do you have a "mystery plant"? Write a "name that plant" paragraph and submit to jackieheidinger@verizon.net

Gardening Tips & Tidbits—cont'd

The latest tips and tricks from Paul James, host of Gardening by the Yard (from HGTV):

1. To remove the salt deposits that form on clay pots, combine equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water in a spray bottle. Apply the mixture to the pot and scrub with a plastic brush. Let the pot dry before you plant anything in it.



2. To prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.

3. To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer.

4. Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.

5. To have garden twine handy when you need it, just stick a ball of twine in a small clay pot, pull the end of the twine through the drainage hole, and set the pot upside down in the garden. Do that, and you'll never go looking for twine again.

6. Little clay pots make great cloches for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts and freezes.

7. To turn a clay pot into a hose guide, just stab a roughly one-foot length of steel reinforcing bar into the ground at the corner of a bed and slip two clay pots over it: one facing down, the other facing up. The guides will prevent damage to your plants as you drag the hose along the bed.

8. To create perfectly natural markers, write the names of plants (using a permanent marker) on the flat faces of stones of various sizes and place them at or near the base of your plants.

9. Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's a lot more fun; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where the little buggers like to hide.

10. The next time you boil or steam vegetables, don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the "vegetable soup".

11. Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.

12. Use chamomile tea to control damping-off fungus, which often attacks young seedlings quite suddenly. Just add a spot of tea to the soil around the base of seedlings once a week or use it as a foliar spray.

13. If you need an instant table for tea service, look no farther than your collection of clay pots and saucers. Just flip a good-sized pot over, and top it off with a large saucer. And when you've had your share of tea, fill the saucer with water, and your "table" is now a birdbath.

14. The quickest way in the world to dry herbs: just lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a single layer, then roll up the windows and close the doors. Your herbs will be quickly dried to perfection. What's more, your car will smell great.

Kick off the February Tomato Conference

Bring on the Salsa!



Homemade Salsa/
Chutney Contest

Judged during the Feb-
ruary meeting



Entries Still being Accepted!

Sign up: Contact

Claire Alford caagardner@aol.com 817-528-6195

Pat Lovejoy at Palovejoy@att.net

Entry deadline is February 3, 2014

Rules are easy

Must be homemade!

Label it if it is extremely hot!

Must bring 2 or more cups for as many to taste as can

Prizes:

1st 2nd 3rd and Peoples Choice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 2014 Program Speaker

The speaker for February is Mr. Steve McCoy who is a Texas Certified Nursery Professional with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association. He has served on the board of directors for Region 5 of the TNLA and currently serves as horticulture advisor at TCC Northwest campus. He teaches classes there as well. He has been employed at Archie's Greenland nursery since 1987 and has always been available for answering horticulture questions. His talk will focus on "Everything Lawns" and he especially invites Q and A from our membership.

Marianne Levine
1st Vice President

Happy Birthday!

February 2014

1 Charlie Shiner, Kay Gunn
4 Phyllis White
7 Pat Lovejoy
9 Carolyn Burnett
11 Leonora Alvarez del Castillo,
Sherry Flowers, Joyce Wuetig,
Carolyn Lombard
12 Thomas Blanton
14 Sue Ellen Schlitzer
15 Bea Stevenson
17 Ed Vaughn, Laura Lowe
20 Terri Mann
22 Mary Morgan
25 Evaline Woodrey, Dianne Spradling
26 Molly Hollar
27 Judi Martin
29 Toni Hernandez, Terrance Gratton

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

Doris Hill,
(817) 337-8484 or email

artanddorishill@verizon.net

WELCOME INTERN CLASS OF 2014!

Forty-six new Master Gardener interns joined us for the first day of classes on January 7th. The enthusiasm of the class is very exciting. This year we will be holding classes at the downtown office and at the resource connection. Make sure if you are planning to join a class that you check and see where it will be held. The experts teaching the classes are coming from all over Texas and even a couple of our own will be sharing their knowledge with the interns.

We also welcome seven interns from the module classes that were held last year. They will be doing their volunteer work along with 2014 interns.

2014 Spring Plant Sales

Page

2014 Caladium Sale

We will be taking caladium prepaid orders at the February and March meetings or your order can be mailed, with the appropriate check to:

Marilyn Satterfield.
1120 Cottonwood Dr.,
Crowley, TX 76036

The bulbs can be picked up at our April meeting. Our grower in Florida has promised us the same outstanding prices for these beautiful bulbs. We will again offer 4 fancy leaf varieties:

Candidum (all white), White Queen (white with red veins), Carolyn Whorton (green with red veins and pink mottling), Red Flash (green background with red center).



The 2 strap leaf varieties are Red Ruffles (green with red centers) and Miss Muffet (light bright green with red center and purple speckles).



The strap leaf varieties are more heat tolerant, shorter and compact with “strappy” leaves. All the bulbs are #1 size. Each year the sale has grown because of the fine quality of the bulbs and the good prices being offered.

Caladium order form is on following page..

Online ordering will be available after January 30, 2014.

**Marilyn Satterfield
1st Vice President**

TCMGA Annual Plant Sale

Saturday

April 12, 2014

10:00am—2:00pm

See plant sale flyer on page 13!

Sue Kelly

2014 Fertilizer Sale!

**Fertilizer will be available for sale on
February 6, TCMGA meeting.**

**Pick-up at the March
TCMGA meeting.**

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Orchid Society Sale

Saturday—Sunday

March 1 9:00am—5:00pm

March 2 1:00pm—4:00pm

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden African Violet Show and Sale

Saturday—Sunday

March 29 & 30, 2014

9:00am—5:00pm

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Caladium Bulb Sale

February 6, 2014 - March 6, 2014



Candidum ☀️☀️



White Queen ☀️☀️☀️



Miss Muffet ☀️☀️



Carolyn Whorton ☀️☀️☀️



Red Flash ☀️☀️☀️



Red Ruffles ☀️☀️☀️

Strap Leaf Caladiums are considered more heat and sun tolerant than other caladiums. These caladiums have smaller, narrower, and more elongated leaves on short petioles giving the plants a more compact habit. They produce more leaves per tuber. Height is 12" to 14". Uses: hanging baskets, borders, and plantings in front of fancy type. Miss Muffet and Red Ruffles are both strap leaf.

Fancy Leaf Caladiums have large heart shaped leaves ranging in height from 18" to 22". Most prefer filtered shade or afternoon shade with morning sun. Varieties that tolerate full sun are Carolyn Whorton, Red Flash, and White Queen. Candidums need shade.

All Bulbs are Grade #1 (1 1/2" - 2 1/2" size bulbs). Each variety has a minimum order of 5 bulbs.

Delivery will be at the April 3rd meeting. Bulbs can be purchased at meeting or by sending the form below to:

Marilyn Satterfield 1120 Cottonwood Dr., Crowley, TX 76036

Any questions? Call or email Marilyn at 817-914-6676 or fitchfield@yahoo.com

Bulb Type	Bulb Variety	Qty.	Cost/Bulb 5-24	Cost/Bulb 25-49	Cost/Bulb 50+	Line Total
Fancy Leaf	Candidum		\$0.65	\$0.60	\$0.55	
	White Queen		\$0.65	\$0.60	\$0.55	
	Carolyn Whorton		\$0.65	\$0.60	\$0.55	
	Red Flash		\$0.65	\$0.60	\$0.55	
Strap Leaf	Miss Muffet		\$0.75	\$0.70	\$0.65	
	Red Ruffles		\$0.75	\$0.70	\$0.65	
						Total Paid: _____

☐ Cash

☐ Check # _____

Made out to: TCMGA

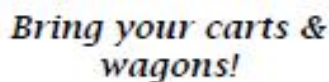
Name: _____

Telephone: _____



Tarrant County Master Gardener 2014 Plant Sale

- ❖ *Plants for North Texas:* perennials, annuals, roses, herbs, succulents, containers, native plants, grasses & more from local nurseries... plus heritage plants from Master Gardeners
- ❖ Presentations on composting, containers, and more...
- ❖ Bring gardening questions to "Ask a Master Gardener" table
- ❖ *Proceeds benefit Tarrant County Master Gardener Association, supporting community outreach and education*



*We accept Cash, Checks,
&
Credit
For purchases \$25 and more*

Upcoming Local Events

City of Eternal Spring Trip



Let's all be thinking and planning about traveling to the City of Eternal Spring: Cuernavaca, Mexico with Ginger Bason and Eleanor Tuck. Don't speak Spanish? All of our tour guides are bi-lingual and have years of experience in Cuernavaca.

We'll have classes to learn about the landscape planning necessary to beautify the enclosing architecture of Mexico. Ever wonder how poinsettias grow wild in Mexico? We'll be having classes on the soils and climates. The medicinal, as well as culinary, uses of plants will be an in-depth class, too. Although this is a language school, we will have access to class rooms, entire campus and staff for our studies.

Gardening is "a given" in Mexico—color surrounds you and the month of June is on the edge of "rainy season", so temperatures are nice.

MGs are fortunate to be able to tap into this already established, touring program. In fact, that is the reason for planning through the University of Arlington—Hispanic Center of the Nursing College—they have taken students for over twenty years, know the families with whom we will stay with, and just know the area well.



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Tomato Roundup:

All you ever wanted to know about growing tomatoes

Featuring Bill Adams and Tom LeRoy, authors of "Common Sense Vegetable Gardening in the South" and "The Tomato Lover's Handbook"

Tarrant County Master Gardener Regional Conference
Saturday, February 8, 2014
Resource Connection of Tarrant County
2300 Circle Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76119

Open to the Public
8:30 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

\$45 per person, includes box lunch and snacks

Step-by-step how-to on growing tomatoes in North Texas

- The Tomato — King of the Home Garden
- Tending the Tomatoes
- Managing the Problems
- Tomato Relatives: Their Care and Culture
- Q&A With Bill and Tom

Break-Out Sessions

Make & Take Tomato Cages
Cooking With Tomatoes
Make & Take Drip Irrigation
Raised Beds — Tips & Tricks

Register online or by mail
Go to www.tarrantmg.org for complete conference information or contact Pam Braak at 817-488-5665 or p.braak@verizon.net

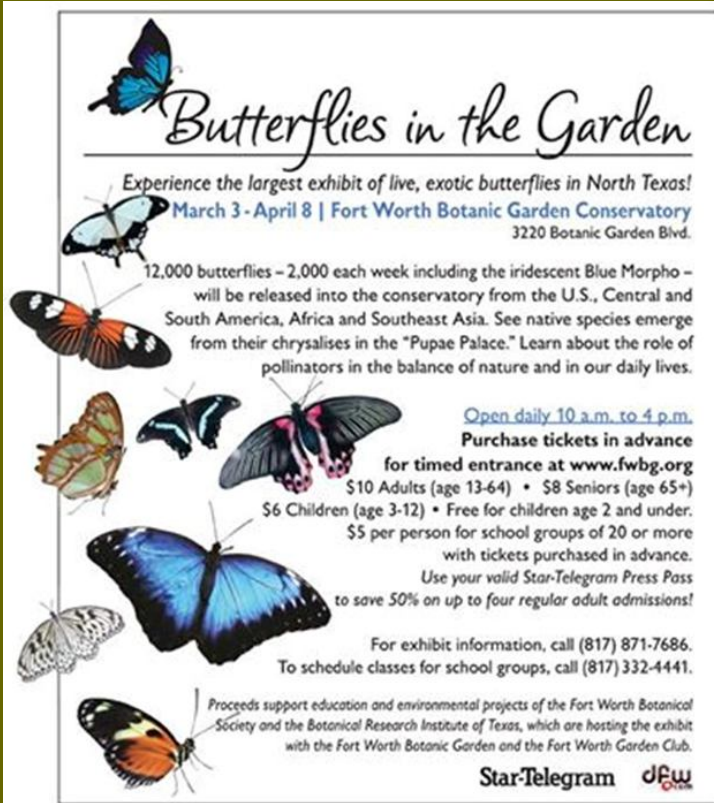
Master Gardeners earn 6 CEUs

There is a possibly a trip to a NEW garden South of Cuernavaca—stay tuned.

Feel free to contact: Ginger Bason gbasonbowden@gmail.com; Eleanor Tuck etuck@sbcglobal.net or Mary Lou Bond mlbond@exchange.uta.edu or mlbond37@sbcglobal.net



The conference will be hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners on September 25-27, 2014, at the MCM Grandé Hotel and FUN-Dome, Odessa.



Butterflies in the Garden


Experience the largest exhibit of live, exotic butterflies in North Texas!
March 3 - April 8 | Fort Worth Botanic Garden Conservatory
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.

12,000 butterflies - 2,000 each week including the iridescent Blue Morpho - will be released into the conservatory from the U.S., Central and South America, Africa and Southeast Asia. See native species emerge from their chrysalises in the "Pupae Palace." Learn about the role of pollinators in the balance of nature and in our daily lives.

Open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Purchase tickets in advance for timed entrance at www.fwb.org
\$10 Adults (age 13-64) • \$8 Seniors (age 65+)
\$6 Children (age 3-12) • Free for children age 2 and under.
\$5 per person for school groups of 20 or more with tickets purchased in advance.
Use your valid Star-Telegram Press Pass to save 50% on up to four regular adult admissions!

For exhibit information, call (817) 871-7686.
To schedule classes for school groups, call (817) 332-4441.

Proceeds support education and environmental projects of the Fort Worth Botanical Society and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, which are hosting the exhibit with the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Fort Worth Garden Club.

Star-Telegram 

BRIT Lecture

Master Gardeners are invited to the first lecture of the BRIT Speaker Series, **Reimagining American Landscapes Continuing the Conversation.**

This is a continuation on the 2013 special series that took a closer look at prairie ecosystems. This year BRIT plans to take a closer look at water and its importance in our ecosystems. Earth's population is continuing to grow at a rapid rate. This growth will place a stress on many of our valuable resources including water, food, and energy. In addition, we have been faced with several years of drought in many areas. How can we better prepare for the future? Through this series, BRIT will invite experts in conservation, ranching, viticulture and grasslands to begin a conversation about water and our local watershed. Participants will have an opportunity to learn more about their local resources, ask questions, and provide feedback on ways that we can help become more efficient. These presentations will be the first step to allow us to work to make change happen in our local community.

"Future Water for North Texas"

Carol Spruiell, Texas Conservation Alliance
Thursday, January 30 | 6:45 p.m. | BRIT Commons

Water recycling is new technology that can help meet the growing demands for water as our north Texas population grows. Recycled water usually costs less than other sources and can be implemented more quickly than developing a new supply.

The future of wise water planning for Texas calls not only for smarter water use through conservation, but also for water recycling. There are two major ways to recycle water. One of these - filtering through created wetlands- is already in place just minutes south of Dallas the East Fort Wetland.

Another approach to recycling water is the use of ultra-filtration. With ultra-filtration, water is filtered through membranes with tiny pores- a fraction of a micron in size- that remove bacteria, viruses, and other harmful organisms. This carefully monitored advanced purification process results in water that is cleaner than most of what we drink today.

Our new "Future Water for North Texas" program discusses the options for recycling and how this new water supply option can help us avoid building costly reservoirs.



THG TEXAS home & garden

Fort Worth Show
February 21-23, 2014
Fort Worth Convention Center

February 2014 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30a Common NRH 9am Wildscape Composting Demo— Veterans Plk.
2	3 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	4 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	5 8a Thistle Hill 8:30a Common NRH 9a BG Perennial 9a Veterans Plk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Durham Inter. 9a Bob Jones	6 TCMGA Monthly Meeting	7 9a BG BVG	8 8:30a Common NRH 9am SW Crthse
9	10 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	11 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	12 8:30a Common NRH 9a BG Perennial 9a Veterans Plk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Durham Inter. 9a Bob Jones 3:15p Fitzgerald Guided Tour of FW Botanic Gar- den Perennial Garden	13 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial Guided Tour of FW Botanic Garden Trial Garden	14 9a BG BVG 9a JPS Meditation Garden 	15 8:30a Common NRH
16	17 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald 	18 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	19 8a Thistle Hill 8:30a Common NRH 9a BG Perennial 9a Veterans Plk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Durham Inter. 9a Bob Jones 3:15p Fitzgerald	20 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	21 9a BG BVG 	22 8:30a Common NRH 
23 	24 8:00a Heritage 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	25 8a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	26 8:30a Common NRH 9a BG Perennial 9a Veterans Plk 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Durham Inter. 9a Bob Jones 9am SW Crthse 3:15p Fitzgerald	27 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial 9a FW Hulien Libry	28 9a BG BVG 9a JPS Meditation Garden	

Notable February Events

- **TMGA Directors Meeting, College Station—February 1**
- **TCMGA Monthly Meeting—February 6**
- **Feb. 8 - 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tomato Conference, Resource Connection, Building 2300**
- **Guided Tour of FW Botanic Garden Perennial Garden—February 12**
- **Guided Tour of FW Botanic Garden Trial Garden—February 13**
- Feb. 21 - 2 p.m.- 7 p.m. - Home & Garden Show, FW Convention Ctr
- Feb. 22 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. - Home & Garden Show, FW Convention Ctr
- Feb. 23 - 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. -- Home & Garden Show, FW Convention Ctr.
- **FWBG Backyard Vegetable Garden Classes—None scheduled this month**
- **TCMGA CG Classes—None scheduled this month**
- **TCMGA Field Trip —None scheduled this month**
- **TCMGA Specialist Training—None scheduled this month**

TCMGA Volunteer Opportunities

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Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call Chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
302 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9 am	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
302 BG Backyard Vegetable Garden	Fri. 9 am—12n	Nancy Curl	817-319-1795
302 BG Trial Garden	Thurs. 8:30-11:30am	Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net	817-261-1420
303 Community and Demo Garden Chair Project Leads	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Community Garden, Tuesdays			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting			
Community Vegetable Beds	Pat Higgins, ragdollpath@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		817-929-6847
Hospitality (Cook-outs)	Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com		817-483-7080
Orchard	Char McMorro, charlenemcmorrow@sbcglobal.net		817-228-4548
Perennial Garden	Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net	817-838-7321	817-923-9250
Plant Sales	Sue Kelley and Peggy Harwood sandrkelley@sbcglobal.net, peggyjwh@gmail.com	817-233-7118	817-821-4988
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 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 8:30am-12n	Dianne 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. 8 am-11 am	John Pinkerton	682-433-2529
304 JPS Meditation Garden	2nd & 4th Fri. 9 am	Bernice Ramsbottom	817-485-6631
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden Docents	Call Chairman	Rachel Clark, Co-Chair Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair	817-488-0035 817-481-4398

Environmental Projects:

305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin	817-581-1850
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	2nd Thurs 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
	2nd Thurs., 8-11 am		
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Wed. 9 am-12 noon	Molly Hollar	817-319-6924
	1st Sat., 9 am-12 noon		
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	3rd Wed. 9 am	Nancy Searl	817-542-3190

School Gardens:

306 Alice Carlson OLE	Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
306 Fitzgerald OLE	Mon 9 am & Wed 3:15pm	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10 am	Pam Braak & Harold Annis	817-488-5665 817-481-6242
306 Durham Intermediate School	Wed 9am	Bea Wilson	817-401-2179

Important Websites!

Our local TCMGA website:

<http://www.tarrantmg.org/>

State MG Website and TMG news:

<http://www.txmg.org>

Our RC Demo Garden Website:

[http://www.localharvest.org/
member/M27123](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](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 assis-



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