

Sharecrafter

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association



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AGENT'S CORNER

Our Soil, what Happened to it during the Drought?

By Steve Chaney, Tarrant County Extension Agent



As we all are aware 2011 was a terrible drought time for most of us here in North Texas and everyone certainly suffered including our soil! After attending several meetings on water and the weather, it doesn't look like 2012 will be a change in the continued drought.

The Forestry departments throughout Texas are predicting the loss of millions of trees including up to 20 -25% of the tree canopy right here in Ft. Worth. I would guess the majority of us all lost plant materials and sod in our own yards as well.



Looking around the metro there were a few yards and businesses that were still lush and beautiful and it wasn't because they overwatered. These landscapes have one thing in common and that's well prepared organic soils.

So, you ask what can I do to help offset the consequences of last year's drought and get ready for the possible drought this year. One possibility obviously is to plant a whole lot of new plants? Another possibility would be to water more? The best possibility would be to amend the soil, pick well adapted plants for our area, mulch well and water only as needed and very efficiently!

This last year with the extreme drought and high temperatures the soil was baked and the majority of the living organisms in the soil were killed. We need to amend the soil and add compost back to the soil to bring it back to life and

(Continued on page 2)

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

rheidinger@tx.rr.com



then protect it with some good quality mulch to hold the effects of the heat and drought to a minimum. I read something on a poster that stuck in my mind all these years.

*“The soil is the engine
of the garden and
should be treated as a resource”.*

The beneficial soil life can then perform its job only if we do our part in following six important rules when growing new or existing plants.

Rules to Grow By:

1. Use the best adapted plant varieties for each and every environment.
2. Plant in the preferred season. Trees in late fall, roses in early spring.
3. Balance the mineral content of the soil, perhaps through the use of a soil sample sent to A&M's soil lab?
4. Build and maintain the soil organic content – humus. You can never get too much composted material back into the soil!
5. Do nothing to harm the beneficial soil life.
6. Consider troublesome insects and most diseases as symptoms of one of the above rules having been violated!

Of the above rules, the fourth rule is the most important. It is the law of recycle and return. When best practiced, it supports the other five rules and makes them less important.

So in the words of a famous Horticulturalist that I have long admired:

Compost once and Mulch Forever!

Enjoy your yard; keep the soil alive and let Mother Nature take care of the plants. Instead of raking all of those leaves up and bagging them and sending them to the landfill, compost them and put it right back into your yard!

Importance of Mulch as Insulator



Note how the half bed with mulch retains snow to melt slowly and insulates roots from freeze. The bare ground is left unprotected to extreme freeze/thaw and melt runs off quickly.

A nice thick layer of mulch serves so many purposes, but one of the most important is insulator. In winter, the mulch keeps drying wind from evaporating the soil moisture and it protects surface roots from freezing temperatures. In summer the mulch protects roots from scorching sun, extreme heat and retains moisture.



Dear Gardener Friends,

Our favorite groundhog *Punxsutawney Phil* reported there will be six more weeks of winter. Are you wondering if Mother Nature has a surprise in store for us before we see spring? On the bright side, it may give us a bit more time to finish plans for our garden.

As you work on those plans don't forget to schedule time to answer phones at the extension office, **volunteer** at TCMGA projects around Tarrant County and in the MG Demonstration Garden at the Resource Connection.

Squeeze in a class or two. There are a lot of opportunities to teach gardening to kids or adults and a lot of opportunities for us to learn something new too.

The **TCMGA Annual Plant Sale** will be here before you know it. Plan to help with the sale during delivery and set up on Friday, April 13 or during the sale day, Saturday, April 14. Greeting the public and helping them learn about plants and making a selection is another way to educate the public.

Turn in your monthly hours. Member's documentation of TCMGA hours is an important way to demonstrate to the state the importance of Master Gardeners and AgriLIFE to the public.



Don't forget to make your reservation to **attend the TMG State Conference in San Antonio/ Bexar County May 3-5**. The state conference is an opportunity to hear different speakers, tour wonderful gardens and see interesting displays.

Have you checked out the **International Master Gardener Conference** website (<http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/default.htm>) yet? The 2013 conference will be Alaskan Cruise September 7 - 14, 2013. You can pre-register and pre-pay for this event. It should be a conference to remember.



See you in the Garden!

Nancy Curl, President
Tarrant County Master Gardeners

The morning program was Murderous Plants in the Garden, presented by Barney Lipscomb of BRIT. The afternoon session was installing drip irrigation, presented by Gay Larson, Karen Brown and Jerry Tuttle.

President Nancy Curl called the meeting to order at 11:15AM. Attendance was 231 Certified Master Gardeners, Master Gardener interns and visitors. President Curl welcomed our new interns to their first meeting and introduced our visitors.

Executive Board

The January minutes were approved as published in the newsletter and it was announced that our annual charter paperwork had been submitted.

Claire Alford, Programs, announced the program for the next meeting. Geno of Gene's Greens will speak in the morning and Janet Smith will talk about pollination in the afternoon.

Linda Hawkins, Ways and Means, announced that fertilizer was on sale now to be picked up next month. Caladiums can be ordered this month and next month to be picked up in April. She is planning on visiting with the interns to offer the fertilizer and caladium sales during one of their classes. Order forms for roses will be sent via email and also sold at the March meeting. Also in March there will be vendor tables at a cost of \$10 for Master Gardeners and \$25 for non Master Gardeners.

Treasurer Pam Braak submitted the treasurer's report for the month ended January 31, 2012

Cash, Beginning 1/1/2012	37,317.84
Deposits during month	463.79

Checks during month	(1,264.65)
Cash, Ending 1/31/2012	<u>36,516.98</u>

There were no questions and the treasurer's report was filed. President Curl asked that all fill out the phone survey. Results of the survey will be compiled and given to Steve Chaney. Any change made to phone duty will be at Steve's discretion.

Larinda Smith, volunteer coordinator for the Botanic Garden, spoke asking for help with Butterflies in the Garden. There are several different types of jobs to be done, from ticket takers to docents. The dates are March 3-April 8. The USDA requires that all people who work with the butterflies be trained. The dates for training are February 7, February 11 and February 16. The practice day is March 1 from 11-2, which is a Master Gardener meeting day. If we come after the meeting, she will be there for us. Please contact Larinda if you want to volunteer

Steve Chaney reported that his first Saturday classes are open to the public and he would like us to spread the word about them. The new computers are in the office and are working great, except the phone log isn't up yet. The organization purchased, as part of the approved budget, 3 new computers, two with one monitor and one with two monitors, in partnership with A&M. President Curl added computers were purchased under approved budget and we will be looking at more multimedia equipment to meet the needs of the organization.

Committee Report

Hospitality. Thank you to Steve Purdy for cooking our hot dogs and to the hospitality committee for organizing the luncheon

Marilyn Cox, Children's Speakers Bureau, re-

(Continued on page 5)

ported that the Growing A Vegetable Garden Program, done with the Clayton, Yes! after-school program is growing and doing well but still in need of more help. The schools that need help are Daggett Elementary and George C Clark. They are working with between 30-50 students at each of 6 schools. We have been requested to set up a program at Morningside Elementary which is not part of Clayton, Yes! and there is now a program at Handley elementary.

Dave Wilson reports he will barbeque in March and have everything from chicken, to ribs, to pulled pork, all for \$5 per plate. All profit will go to the 2013 TCMGA project budgets.

Nancy Jarrett reports that the plant sale needs volunteers. Friday April 13, plants will be delivered and set up. There will be a presale that day to Master Gardener workers and Resource connection employees. The sale will be Saturday April 14

Announcements

There is now a schedule for 2012 classes at the Community Garden. Please contact Mary Lynn Haines to register for class or Nancy Curl to volunteer to teach a class.

The state conference will be in San Antonio this year. The International meeting will be a cruise to Alaska, September 11-14, 2013.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer has requested help with the grants committee.

Ginger Bason is looking for gardens for the Garden Conservancy Tour. Contact her if you know of one.

The Trial Garden will resume work on February 16.

Common Ground NRH Community Garden

announced a Garden landscape Design Contest. Please contact Diane Spradling for more information.

Alice Carlson is requesting votes for the Rain Bird Contest.

Condolences to the family of Kitt Sukup, a Master Gardener who passed away. A book is being purchased in her honor for the TCMGA library. Also, Larry Matl's mother, Judy Ratzlaff's mother-in-law, and Jody Puente's mother-in-law all passed away.

Earl Alexander made an announcement about Pinterest, a social network, where you can share your interest, including gardening.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

**Respectfully submitted by
Donna Morris
Secretary**



Steve Purdy cooking hot dogs!

Growing Roses for the Novice Gardener: A few easy tips to get started

By Steve Chaney, Tarrant County Extension Agent

Ok, you just bought your first house and the builder left a little flower bed with a few unknown bushes in them. What do you do now; do you trust the neighbor, the local package store or the big landscape company that works in the neighborhood? You remember when you were little and your Grandmother grew all those beautiful roses all over her place in the country. You would love to have some but your Grandmother is long gone and you have no one to help you.

Don't give up, it's not that hard to grow roses that bloom well and take minimal care! There are a few simple steps to follow to get a yard full of beds and beautiful roses!

- 1) First you need to contact your local Extension office in whatever county you live in, every state has a Extension Service. Ask them how to take a soil sample and if they have a soil lab they would recommend? Take the sample and find out a little about your particular soil and ask for recommendations on growing roses.
- 2) Spend some time and locate areas in your yard that have full sun (a minimum of 8 hours), good drainage and good airflow. Make sure it's an area that you can see from the house or from your patio so you can enjoy the fragrance and beauty of the blooms!
- 3) Amend your soil with lots of well finished organic material, you can buy it in bulk, in bags or maybe your city gives it away like Ft. Worth does. If it's heavy sticky clay then consider adding something like expanded shale to open the soil up a bit to improve drainage.
- 4) Decide how much room you have and want to devote to roses. Do you want a miniature, a shrub or a climbing rose? Miniatures do well in small beds or pots, shrub roses do good anywhere and climbers need a trellis or a fence to climb on.
- 5) Decide on colors and then consult your local

Extension office again to see what they suggest for your area. Take some time and walk your neighborhood and see what they have, meet your neighbors and get some tips. If your here in Texas then we suggest the Earth-Kind Roses which have been extensively trialed and proven successful in all areas of the state.

- 6) Read the sizes and when you plant allow room for maximum height and width so you will have good air flow.
- 7) Mulch them in good with a minimum of 3 inches of good organic mulch, being careful to not have it against the stem of the plant.
- 8) Water in as necessary for the first few weeks and then gradually wean it off so your only watering about once every 10 days if you haven't received any rainfall. Be sure and water around the base of the plant and don't spray it all over the foliage.
- 9) Once it starts to bloom then you can give it a lite application of organic nitrogen fertilizer once a month during the growing season to help it continue to bloom.
- 10) Last but not least, pour you a cold beverage of your choice and sit back and enjoy the beauty of all the blooms from your roses, the Queen of the Garden.

See it wasn't as hard as you thought to grow roses and be successful at it as well. Over the winter read up either online or at the library, or maybe enjoy a class on taking cuttings and grow your own. Then when you get that new neighbor that doesn't know anything you can take her a rooted rose bush that you grew and share a little of your knowledge with her!

Happy Gardening!

Go to
tarrantmg.org
for full
brochure and
ordering
form!



Tarrant County Master Gardener 2012 – Rose Sale



* EarthKind Rose

** Drift Rose

*** Buck Rose

Planting Guide: Prepare planting bed with expanded shale; add 3" mulch after planting; water twice a week.



Archduke Charles
Bloom color-Crimson outer petal to pale pink center
Bloom Type-Single
Blooming Period-Repeat Bloom Spring - Frost
Mature H x W-3'-5' x 3'-4'
Rose Category-China
Introduced prior to 1837; Colors change as it ages,
appears to grow several different colors at the same
time. Often found in old cemeteries



American Legacy ***
Bloom color-Deep Pink
Bloom Type-Double
Mature H x W 3' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
Buck Rose



Apricot Drift **
Bloom color- Apricot
Foliage - dark green, glossy
Mature H x W- 1½' x 2 1/2'
Rose Category-Shrub
Very resistant to disease
Introduced 2010



Belinda's Dream *
Bloom color- Pink
Blooming Period-April-Nov.
Mature H x W 3'-6' x 3'-4'
Rose Category-Shrub
Nicknamed "rose of the 20th Century"
Texas Superstars



Blushing Knock-Out
Bloom color-Light Pink
Bloom Type-Single
Blooming Period-Spring - Frost
Mature H x W-3' - 6' x 3' - 4'
Rose Category-Shrub



Caldwell Pink *
Bloom color-Lilac Pink
Bloom Type-Double
Blooming Period-May-Nov
Mature H x W-3'-4' x 3'
Rose Category-China



Cecile Brunner *
Bloom color- Light Pink
Bloom Type - Semi-Double
Blooming Period-Repeat
Bloom - Spring - Frost
Mature H x W 3 x 5'
Rose Category - Polyantha
Also known as "The Sweetheart Rose"



Cinnamon Spice***
Bloom color- Salmon/Orange/Red Blend
Bloom Type - Double
Blooming Period-Repeat
Bloom - Spring - Frost
Mature H x W 3 x 4'
Rose Category - Shrub
Buck Rose



Climbing Pinkie *
Bloom color-Rose Pink
Bloom Type-Semi-Double
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W-8'-12' x 6'
Rose Category-C1 Polyantha
Climber



Comtesse du Cayla
Bloom color-Orange-Red
Shows two colors at once.
Blooming Period- Repeat, blooms from
spring-frost
Mature H x W - 3'- 4' x 3' - 3'
Rose Category- China
Introduced 1902
Named for the mistress of Louis XVIII.
Good for containers or small beds.



Crepuscule
Bloom color-Apricot/Yellow
Bloom Type-Semi-Double
Blooming Period-Blooms in
finishes throughout season
Mature H x W-6'-12' x 6'
Rose Category- Noisette
Introduced 1904



Flamingo Kolorscape
Bloom color-Hot Pink
Bloom Type-Single
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W - 3' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
Kordes Rose, introduced 2012



Freckles ***
Bloom color- Pink Blend
Bloom Type-Double; repeats later in season
Blooming Period-Compact, clusters almost
continual bloom
Mature H x W - 3' - 4' x -4' - 5'
Rose Category-Shrub
Buck Rose, introduced in 1976



Iceberg
Bloom color-Pure white
Bloom Type-Double in large clusters
Vigorous growth, upright, bushy and tall
Mature H x W - 3' - 5' x 3' - 6'
Rose Category-Floribunda
Introduced in 1958



Jefferson/Softie
Bloom color-Creamy Yellow
Blooming Period-Repeat Bloom - Spring-Frost
Mature H x W - 2' - 3' x 2' - 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
March Chamblee found this rose along the road
in Jefferson, TX. Rarely without bloom.
"Bulletproof" rose. Can grow in poor soil. Has
cascading growth habit. Semi-thornless.



Knock-Out Double Red
Bloom color- Median Red
Bloom Type-Double blooms in clusters
Blooming Period-Spring-Fall
Mature H x W - 3' - 4' x 3' - 4'
Rose Category - Shrub



Marie Daly *
Bloom color-Pink
Bloom Type-Double
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W - 3' - 4' x 3' - 4'
Rose Category-Polyantha
Texas Superstar



Mutabilis *
Bloom color- Yellow/Pink/Orange
Bloom Type-Single
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W - 4' - 10' x 6'
Rose Category-China Large Shrub
Earth Kind Rose of the Year 2005



New Dawn *
Bloom color-Blush Pink
Blooming Period-Repeat Bloom
Spring - Fall
Mature H x W -15' - 20' x 8' - 20'
Rose Category-Large Flowered
Climber
Awarded first plant patent
Voted World's favorite 1997



Peggy Martin
Bloom color-Pink
Blooming Period-Repeat Bloomer
Spring-Frost
Mature H x W - 6' - 10' x 12' - 15'
Rose Category-Climber
Rose survived Hurricane Katrina
Percentage of proceeds goes to
New Orleans horticulture restoration



Perle d'Or *
Bloom color-Apricot Yellow
Bloom Type-Semi-Double
Blooming Period-Repeat Bloomer
Mature H x W - 3' - 6' x 3' - 4'
Rose Category-Polyantha
Small Shrub
Earth Kind Rose of the Year 2007



Pink Drift **
Bloom color- Deep Pink
Foliage – medium green
Mature H x W - 1½' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
Very resistant to disease
Introduced 2006



Prairie Breeze
Bloom color-Mauve
Blooming Period-Repeat bloom
Mature H x W - 3' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
Fragrance-Spicy
Erect growth, bushy and slightly spreading



Prairie Sunset ***
Bloom color-Yellow blend
Blooming Period-Repeat, in clusters 5-10
Mature H x W - 4' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub
Large, pointed soft yellow buds open to double blooms with vermillion red edged petals. The petal face is rose, with deep purple veins.



Quietness ***
Bloom color-Light Pink
Blooming Period-Repeat blooms
Mature H x W - 4' x 3' - 4"
Rose Category-Shrub
Buck Rose



Red Fountain
Bloom color-Red
Bloom Type-Semi-Double
Blooming Period-Repeat Spring - Frost
Mature H x W - 12' x 14'
Rose Category-Climber
Introduced in 1975
Blooms on new and old wood



Sea Foam *
Bloom color-Creamy White
Blooming Period-Repeat Blooms Spring-Frost
Mature H x W - 2' - 6' x 4' - 8'
Rose Category-Shrub
Climber



Spice *
Bloom color-Blush Pink
Blooming Period-Spring-frost in clusters
Mature H x W - 3' - 5' x 3' - 4"
Rose Category-China
Light, spice fragrance
This is one of the Bermuda "mystery roses"



Summer Honey ***
Bloom color-Yellow/Amber Blend
Blooming Period-Repeat Double
Mature H x W - 5' x 4'
Rose Category-Shrub
Buck Rose



Super Hero
Bloom color-Medium Red
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W - 5' x 3'
Rose Category-Floribunda
Introduced in 2008
Compact growth, good for borders



Sweet Fragrance
Bloom color-Apricot/Pink Blend
Blooming Period-Repeat Blooms
Mature H x W - 4' x 3'
Rose Category-Grandiflora
Spreading shrub that produces a lot of color



The Fairy *
Bloom color-Light Pink
Blooming Period-April-Nov
Mature H x W - 2' - 4' x 4'
Rose Category-Polyantha
Dwarf Shrub



Winter Sunset ***
Bloom color- Yellow/Orange
Blooming Period – Repeat, blooms in clusters of 3-7
Mature H x W - 3½' x 3'
Rose Category-Shrub; Upright, bushy growth
Buck Rose, introduced 1997; Also known as Fuzzy Navel



Tarrant County Master Gardener 2012 – Spring Rose Sale



VARIETY	Color	Quantity	\$10 ea.
American Legacy***	Deep Pink		
Apricot Drift**	Apricot		
Archduke Charles	Light/dark Pink		
Belinda's Dream*	Pink		
Blushing Knockout	Pink		
Caldwell Pink*	Lilac Pink		
Cecile Bruner*	Light Pink		
Cinnamon Spice***	Salmon/Orange/Red		
Climbing Pinkie*	Rose Pink		
Comtesse Du Cayla	Orange-Red		
Crespuscule	Apricot/Yellow		
Flamingo Kolorscape	Hot Pink K		
Freckles***	Pink/Yellow		
Iceberg	White		
Jefferson/Softee	Yellow		
Knock-Out Double*	Red		
Marie Daly*	Pink		
Mutabilis*	Yellow/Pink/Orange		
New Dawn Climber*	Yellow/Pink/Orange		
Peggy Martin	Pink		
Perle d'Or*	Pale Apricot/Yellow		
Pink Drift**	Deep Pink		
Prairie Breeze	Mauve		
Prairie Sunset***	Yellow Blend		
Quietness***	Light Pink		
Red Fountain Climber	Red		
Sea Foam*	Creamy White		
Spice*	Blush Pink		
Summer Honey***	Yellow/Amber		
Super Hero	Medium Red		
Sweet Fragrance	Apricot/Pink Blend		
The Fairy*	Light Pink		
Winter Sunset***	Yellow/Orange		

	Quantity	Amount
Grand Total:		

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

We will send you reminders by email of the rose and bulb sale,
Spring plant sale & AgriLife Extension programs.

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
Monday, March 19, 2012

Payment **MUST** Accompany Order

Checks or Money Orders made payable to TCMGA.
Send to:

Rose Sale
P.O. Box 1540
Fort Worth, TX 76101

Roses will be available for pickup
Thursday, April 5, 2012
After the TCMGA Meeting
at the

TCMGA Community Garden @ Resource Connection

Questions? Call Billie Hammock
817-884-1296

*Earth-Kind roses are a selected designation given by the Texas A&M University Agriculture System. They consistently demonstrate a high level of landscape performance, outstanding disease and insect tolerance and resistance. They do very well in almost any soil type in North Central Texas.

** Drift Roses are a cross between full-size groundcover roses and miniature roses. They are repeat-bloomers that are tough, disease resistant, winter hardy and virtually maintenance-free.

*** Buck Roses were bred by Dr. Griffith Buck starting in 1950. They are low maintenance, cold hardy and disease resistant.

March TCMGA Meeting Guest Speaker

Gene Stille, owner of Genes Greens will be the morning speaker for the March 1st TCMGA meeting. Genes Greens LP opened in Keller in 2003 and specializes in selling premium quality gourmet microgreens to the restaurant industry and catering to specialty groceries.

His state of the art greenhouse was built with plans and materials from the Netherlands. A certified organic grower he offers a dozen varieties including broccoli, young bulls blood and kohlrabi.

In the afternoon, we are pleased to have Dallas County Master Gardener, Janet Smith, speak about reproduction or **Sex in the Garden**.

This entertaining and educational talk describes what really goes on in our gardens: pollination. Learn how flowers lure insects to help with their reproduction and how they reward the pollinators. You will never look at the garden in the same old way again.

Congratulations to Ed Vaughan

**2011 Friend of
Extension Award**

Mr. Ed Vaughan
Master Gardener

The Friend of Extension Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding service to the people of Tarrant County by their exceptional support and personal involvement in Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GARDENERS!

March Birthdays

- 4 Robert Lundin
- 5 Jodi Morris, Charlotte Krystinik
- 6 Moira Brunken
- 7 Linda Mitchell, Mary Ann Rojas (I)
- 9 Julie Tabor (I)
- 10 Susan Miller, Kay Lewis
- 12 Emily Ward
- 13 Pat Oliver, Claudia Teague,
Diana Vicenti (I)
- 19 Nancy Price
- 24 Shirley Schaffer
- 25 Hala Shafik
- 26 Sharon Nice
- 29 Susan Stanek, Carol Lally
- 30 Dawn Hancock, Bernice Ramsbottom
- 31 Jo Poppelreiter, Kim Freeman

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 Changes

Please note the following TCMGA Directory Changes:

Kim Clark address change: 1512 Cherry Bark Drive
Keller, TX 76248
817-576-4442

Rita Hottel telephone change: 817-876-6354 (home)
817-929-6847 (cell)

**Nona Baptiste email
and phone change:** skoolmarm102@gmail.com
817-271-2488

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

2012 Caladium Sale March 1st—Final Day to Buy

At the March 1st Master Gardener meeting we will be taking orders for Caladium Bulbs to be delivered at the April MG meeting.

Four **Fancy Leaf** varieties and one **Strap Leaf** variety will be offered. These varieties are: Candidum Classic White, White Queen, Red Flash and Carolyn Whorton. For the first time, we will offer a Strap Leaf variety called Red Ruffles.

The bulbs will be #1 size and will be purchased from the same source that we used in 2011. The performance last year of all varieties was excellent.

The price per bulb will be 60 cents this year. No limit on quantities per order. Make sure you place your order at the February/March meeting. Orders cannot be accepted after that meeting. Your complete order must be paid for by cash or check at the time of ordering.

If you have any questions, call Linda Hawkins at 817-791-4295.

Candidum



White Queen



Gingerland



Carolyn Whorton



Red Flash



Florida Sweetheart



Raffle Committee Update

As you have probably noticed, the Raffle Table has been closed the last few meetings.

*That's because we are
making some
really neat changes!*

Instead of every month, we will now have a raffle every three months. AND.....the items up for grabs will be high dollar, big ticket items.

The next raffle will be at the April meeting. Tickets will be \$10.00 each.....yeah, I know... that's a lot of dough.

BUT....the two items that you could win will be either a brand new mulching lawnmower or a \$100 gift certificate from Calloway's.

Tickets will be on sale at the March meeting. For those wonderful people who bring food for the lunch, your name will be automatically entered for a door prize to be given out during the meeting. No need for a ticket. Shirley will submit your names before the meeting and two people will be chosen.

If you have items that you typically bring for the raffle, kindly hold them for the garage sale this summer.

We hope you like the changes we have made to the raffle which benefits the projects that we as Master Gardeners sponsor. So get your tickets at the March or April meeting for the drawing in April.

**Raffle Committee Chair
Donna Fry**

Activities Committee Field Trip Update

Lavender scents and smells. Texas Backland Prairie. East Texas ecosystem. All right here in the Metroplex. A behind-the-scenes look at the Dallas Arboretum and the horticultural side of the Gaylord Hotel.

The activities committee with Donna Fry, Dorothy Hildebrand, Linda Kitson, Starr Krottinger, Laura Lowe and Patsy Miller, chairman, have been busy planning this year's field trips. Some of the trips are still in the planning stage, a couple have confirmed dates. We'll be announcing sign-up dates in the near future.

Confirmed for Friday, June 1 is a double visit to two unique ecosystems that reside almost side by side. The Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center at Cedar Hill opened last fall. It is a 205-acre nature and bird sanctuary nestled in the Metroplex's version of the Hill Country. Almost untouched by man, it has many of the flowers, trees and birds of East Texas.

We will also visit Cedar Hill State Park which includes Backland Prairie and rugged Austin Chalk limestone. Less than one percent of the American tall grass prairie survives. At Cedar Hill, plant species include Indian grass and big bluestem and a wide variety of wildflowers.

Tentatively set for Thursday, September 20, Master Gardeners will get a behind-the-scenes look at the Dallas Arboretum, its trial gardens and greenhouses. A special bonus is that Chihuly glass will be displayed throughout the garden for us to view.

Also on the schedule is a trip to the Purple Ranch Lavender Farm in Royce City. Started by Collin County Master Gardener June Hand, she and her daughter created the recipes for their lavender products. In addition to seeing several kinds of lavender, we will also see her unique rose rooting system. Roses outline the lavender farm.

The Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine is known for its beautiful landscaping and delicious restaurants. Many of the vegetables and herbs used in the recipes are grown on site. The committee is looking to get a behind-the-scenes tour with the Gaylord's horticulturist and chef.

We know Master Gardener's love to eat and we plan on sampling the restaurant scene in the areas we visit.

Look for the announcements of the field trips and sign up times. Feel free to offer suggestions for possible trips this year or the future.

Activities Committee Chairman
Patsy Miller

Nominating Committee Call for Nominees and Volunteers

The task of the Nominating Committee is to present a slate of qualified nominees to the general membership for voting purposes. From these nominees, and any that may be nominated from the floor, the general membership will vote to fill Executive Board positions that will be vacated at the end of the year.

Before any of the above happens, the Nominating Committee must be formed. According to the By-Laws/Standing Rules, the current board appoints the chairperson. The general membership shall elect four members, two of whom may be from the Executive Board. Anyone who served on the 2011 Nominating Committee is not eligible to serve in 2012.

At this time, I am asking all certified members (blue badges) to give serious thought to anyone you believe would be a willing and effective member for this committee. Eligible committee members will:

- Be certified members in good standing who have completed their certification requirements and paid their current dues
- Have been a certified member for at least one year
- Have not served on the Nominating Committee during the previous year.

Once committee members have been voted on by the membership, the committee will determine what positions need to be filled next year. We will again call on you to recommend candidates.

For now, the critical need is to identify MGs who are willing to serve on this 2012 Nominating Committee. If you know someone who would be a good candidate, and have verified they are willing to take on the task, or you yourself would be willing to serve if elected, please e-mail or call me. Thank you for your participation.

Nominating Committee Chair,
Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net/817-294-1329

Looking for Gold Diggers

If you are good at finding loose coins in the sofa, money in the dryer, or change on the ground, we could use your help. A Grant Committee is being formed to locate funds to help support our projects. The committee will work on grants for the association and/or individual projects.

If you are interested, please contact:

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

BRIT FETES VOLUNTEERS AT ANNUAL PARTY

The BRIT staff put on another entertaining Volunteer Appreciation Celebration which included a chili cook-off prepared and served by the staff. Five teams prepared a wide variety of chilis which were voted on by the guests. Door prizes were given out as well as awards for most hours. Our own **Paula Billman** came in 5th with 232 hours. **Kay Yount** was 2nd with 327 hours !! The Tarrant County Master Gardeners - 45 of us! - put in 1651 hours - and that was in only 8 months! We worked in the library, research, the herbarium, publishing, education and administration.

Sy Sohmer, BRIT president and director praised the work of the volunteers. Other speeches of appreciation by staff members followed. The Herbarium's Sam Kieschnick said in his enthusiastic genuine way "Thank you.....thank you.....thank you thank you thank you thank you thank you."

The highlight was the delightful song with new BRIT-icized lyrics:

--to the tune of Home Home On The Range--

Refrain: Oh, give me a home where the plants never roam,
Where the staff and the volunteers play,
Where seldom is heard a non-botanical word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

You are our best face in our new public space
And back in our ice-cold herbarium.
You file plants with grace and the books you embrace
When you volunteer in our Librarium.

Refrain

How often at BRIT you have all done your bit
Helping kids to get outside and play,
Whether working with Anne or picking on Sam
Or reviewing a book for BarnAy.

Refrain

Then give us a hand as we dig in the clay
Deadheading and filing all day.
You digitize plants and get glue on your pants.
What a great place to learn botanAY.

Refrain

You give us a hand and we think you are grand
Cause you give public tours every day
You do it with style and you wear a big smile
And we're glad you decided to stay

There is no question that every volunteer left the party feeling appreciated.

Contact Kay Yount kjyount2@sbcglobal.net about volunteer opportunities. It's a great place to work.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial TCMGA Meeting	2	3 8:30a Common NRH 9am Compost Demo—Veterans Park 9a– Veterans Park-Wildscape AgriLife Seminar "Rainwater Harvesting" Make Your Own Rain Barrel
4	5 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	6 9a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	7 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9:30a Thistle Hill 1p Veterans Pk	8 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	9 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden	10 8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—River Legacy 9am SW Crthse
11 	12 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	13 9a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day	14 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a Bob Jones Nature 1p Veterans Pk 3:00p Fitzgerald	15 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	16	17 8:30a Common NRH RC/CG Class The Earthkind Way 
18	19 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald	20 9a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day Spring Begins!	21 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9am SW Crthse 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a FW Hulen Lbry 9:30a Thistle Hill 1p Veterans Park 3:00p Fitzgerald	22 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial	23 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden	24 8:30a Common NRH RC/CG Class Rainwater Harvesting & How to Make a Rain Barrel -
25	26 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel 9a Fitzgerald Master Gardener Specialist - Irrigation Efficiency Training	27 9a Samaritan House 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day Master Gardener Specialist - Irrigation Efficiency Training	28 8a BG Perennial 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9:30a Thistle Hill 1p Veterans Pk 3:00p Fitzgerald Master Gardener Specialist - Irrigation Efficiency Training	29	30 RC/CG Class How to Paint a Rain Barrel	31 RC/CG Class Composting, Compost Tea, and Worm Composting

March 3-April 8, 2012**Ft. Worth Botanic Garden
Butterflies in the Garden****10:00am-4:00pm daily**

Butterflies in the Garden - Thousands of live, tropical butterflies in the conservatory of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Order tickets online at www.fwbgb.org

Saturday April 21, 2012**Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Spring Plant Sale****9:00am-2:00pm**

Wide assortment of annuals, perennials, citrus trees, ornamental grasses, shade plants, shrubs, trees, tropical plants and vegetables

**Saturday
April 14, 2012****TCMGA Annual Plant Sale****10:00am—2:00pm**

The annual TCMGA plant sale will be held on April 14. More info to come!

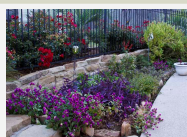
Carol Lally**Master Gardener Specialist -
Irrigation Efficiency Training**

**Monday,
March 26 - Wednesday, March 28, 2012**

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
San Antonio, TX 78209

Cost: \$200.00 (includes manual, power points, three lunches, snacks and drinks)

To register go to <http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/march-26-28-2012-master-gardner-specialist-training/>



Spring Garden Tour
Saturday, March 31, 2012,
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(alternate date April 14, 2012)

Sponsored by the Woman's Club of Grand Prairie

Tickets - \$10.00

Available from: Calloway's Nurseries in Arlington or from Woman's Club of Grand Prairie 972-264-2066 or 972-264-2320.

There are seven gardens on the tour--5 private homes, one community garden and the grounds at the Women's Building which includes refreshments as a part of the tour.

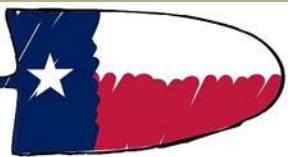
April 28th & 29th, 2012**Heart O' Texas Orchid Society's
41st Annual Show & Sale,
"Orchid Heaven"**

Zilker Botanical Gardens Center
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, TX 78746
(512) 477-8672

**Show & Plant Sale : 10:00am -
5:00pm Saturday & 10:00am - 4:00pm Sun-
day.**

For a complete schedule of events, or for more information, please contact: Geoffrey Frost, 1011 Strickland Drive. Austin, TX 78748-4847 (Telephone (512) 413-3199; e-mail geoffrey-lfrost@yahoo.com), or visit our web-site: <http://www.hotos.org/>

Click here to register <http://www.2012tmgaconference.org/>



TEXAS MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE
2012 BEXAR COUNTY
MAY 3-5, 2012

March 2012**Saturday, March 17, 2012** 10 am – 12 noon**The Earthkind Way**

Beverly Beazley, Bill Hall, Theresa Thomas

Class Fee: None RC, Bldg. 2300, Room 2301 Class limit: 30

Saturday, March 24, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**Rainwater Harvesting & How to Make a Rain Barrel -**

Hands-on Class

Charlie Shiner, Ron and Sue Ellen Schlitzer, Theresa Thomas,

Claudia Teague

Class Fee: \$15 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

Class/Material Fee: w/Rain barrel \$45

Friday, March 30, 2012 10 am – 2 pm**How to Paint a Rain Barrel - Hands-on Class**

Claudia Teague

Class Fee: \$15 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20 Class/Material Fee:

w/Rain barrel \$45

Saturday, March 31, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**Composting, Compost Tea, and Worm Composting**

Charlie Shiner, Ron and Sue Ellen Schlitzer, Bill Hall, Theresa

Thomas, Donna Fry

Class Fee: \$5 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

Material Fee: w/ Composters \$45 or \$65

April 2012**Friday, April 13, 2012** 12noon – 6pm**TCMGA Annual Plant Sale – Pre-Sale set-up day**

TCMGA Garden, Resource Connection of Tarrant County

Delivery & Set-up 12 noon – 3 pm

Pre-Sale–Open to RC, VA hosp & MG helpers only 3 pm – 6 pm

Saturday, April 14, 2012 10 am – 2 pm**Tarrant County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale**

TCMGA Garden, Resource Connection of Tarrant County

Open to the Public

Saturday, April 28, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**Hypertufa Pots - Make & Take**

Susanne Mills

May 2012

Class Fee: \$15 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

Saturday, May 19, 2012 9 am – 11 am**Butterfly Puddler - Make & Take**

Theresa Thomas

Class Fee: \$20 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**Herb Gardening**

Rita Hottel, Nan Garvin and CG Herb team

Class Fee: \$5 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

May 2012 (cont'd)**Saturday, May 26, 2012** 9 am – 11 am**Cement Mushrooms**

Tammy Edwards, Jeanie Browning, Nancy Curl Make & Take

Class Fee: \$20 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

June 2012**Saturday, June 9, 2012** 9 am – 11 am**Cement Leaves**

Tammy Edwards, Nancy Curl Make & Take

Class Fee: \$20 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

Saturday, June 23, 2012 10 am-12 noon**Canning & Making Jelly - Demo Only**

Pat Higgins and Bill Vandever

Class Fee: \$5 Class limit: 30

Texas AgriLife Extension -Lonestar Room B

July 2012**Saturday, July 21, 2012** 10 am – 12 noon**Fall Vegetable Gardening****August 2012**

Theresa Thomas, Beverly Beazley, Bill Vandever

Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg 2300, Gym Class limit: 60

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**How to Make a Living Wreath w/ Clay Pots & Succulents**

- Make & Take

Donna Morris

Class Fee: \$45 RC, Bldg 2300, Gym Class limit: 20

September 2012**Saturday, September 15, 2012** 10 am – 12 noon**Perennials**

Joann Hahn, Ginger Bason

Class Fee: \$5 RC, Bldg. 2300, gym & garden Class limit: 20

Saturday, September 22, 2012 10 am – 12 noon**Garden Water Features & Shade Gardens**

Steve Chaney

Class Fee: \$5 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

November 2012**Saturday, November 10, 2012** 10 am – 12 noon**Bugs – The Good, the bad, & the ugly**

Linda Hawkins, Lance Jepson & Eleanor Tuck

Class Fee: \$ 5 TCMGA Garden Class limit: 20

To register for a class contact Mary Lynn Haines merrymarylynn@sbcglobal.netTo schedule a class contact Nancy Curl nl_curl@yahoo.com

2012 Home Horticulture Seminars Texas AgriLife Extension Service

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
March 3, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Rainwater Harvesting" Make Your Own Rain Barrel *Optional-Extra Fee
May 12, 2012	1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Bluebonnet D&E	"Lawns & How to Irrigate Responsibly"
June 2, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Growing Herbs for Medicinal & Cooking"
July 7, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Sustainability" Organic vs. Inorganic?
August 4, 2012	1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Lonestar A&B	"Fall Vegetable Garden", The Best Season in Texas
September 1, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Native & Adapted Plants"
November 3, 2012	1:00 pm-5:00 pm	Lonestar A&B	"Landscape Design"
December 1, 2012	10:00 am-12 Noon	Lonestar A&B	"Individual Consultations"

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
200 Taylor Street, Suite 500
Fort Worth, TX 76196-0123
Phone: 817-884-1945

Classes will be held in the Conference Rooms of the Tarrant County Plaza Building and are open to the public.

Cost of each class is \$15.

*There is an extra fee of \$50 for materials to make the rain barrel during class.

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all public without regard to race, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

Please contact Billie Hammack at blhammack@ag.tamu.edu to register!

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.

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	Steve Chaney, s-chaney@tamu.edu		817-884-1945
Project Leads			
Community Garden, Tuesdays			
Barn Beds	Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net.		817-426-6417
Compost & Rainwater Harvesting	Ron & Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net		817-294-1329
Community Vegetable Beds	Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net		817-244-1580
Demonstration and Enabling Beds	Frank Durda		817-292-2270
Education	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Education – TCU	Lance Jepson ljepson@aol.com		817-557-6122
Enabling Garden	Frank Durda		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. 9:30 am	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
304 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 10 am thru Feb	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	817-431-4666
304 Six Stones/City of Bedford Community Garden		Sandra Totty	817-281-7877
304 The Samaritan House		Annette Lee	214-803-2219
304 JPS Meditation Garden	Tues. March 9am-11am, April 8am-11a	John Pinkerton	682-433-2529
203 Grapevine Botanic Garden Docents	2nd & 4th Fri. 8:30am	Bernice Ransbottom	817-485-6631
-	Call Chairman	Rachel Clark, Co-Chair	817-488-003
		Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair	817-481-4398
Environmental Projects:			
305 Composting Demo	1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington	LaVonne Nowlin	817-581-1850
	2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
305 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-5182
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 Tues., 8-11 am		
305 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Wed. 1p—4pm	Molly Hollar	817-319-6924
	1st Sat., 9-12noon		
305 Bob Jones Nature Center	3rd, Wednesday, 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 9:00 am, & Wed. 3:00 pm	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
306 Heritage School OLE	Mon. 8-10am	Jackie Peel	817-581-0977



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



Important Websites to Know!



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

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