



Sharecropper

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

Mission Statement

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



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Articles welcome and encouraged.
Send submissions to
tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Pizza Ranch - "A Slice of Agriculture" by Ken Johnson

Tarrant Co. Extension Agent, Agriculture

Tarrant County, public, private and home school 4th and 5th grade students are invited to participate in this annual educational event. Pizza Ranch is presented by the Tarrant Area Food & Fiber Committee and Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Tarrant County. Our goal is to help youth better understand how agriculture impacts their daily activities, and gain an appreciation of production agriculture. The event is held in the Justin Arena, Will Rogers Memorial Complex. Pizza Ranch is made possible by sponsors such as Domino's and the Mark of Excellence franchise, Southwest Dairy Museum, Fort Worth Farm and Ranch Club, Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, Agricultural Workers Mutual Auto Insurance Company, and the Tarrant Equine and Livestock Education Committee.



Youth attending Pizza Ranch learn the following concepts: Agriculture affects and is important to everyone - Farm animals convert grains and
(Continued on page 13)





MGs in ACTION

>>>
TCU nutrition students worked at the community/demonstration garden, made a trellis arch (right) and were taught how to plant onions and potatoes. (below)



Photos by Nancy Curl

Home grown loofahs embedded in glycerin soap and a hand-made card from their child, along with a nutrition lesson, complete a gift for Mom.



Photos by Nancy Curl & Gay Larson



<<< Intern Advisors, Debbie Rasmussen, Judy Ratzlaff, Bill Vandever, Steve Purdy and Carla Pickens accompany the interns on their tour of several MG projects. One they visited was Molly Hollar Wildscape with MG Intern Molly Hollar.



Photos by Steve Purdy

LEADERSHIP

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s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>
TCMGA office 817-884-1944

Project Profile: TEEN CHALLENGE by Debbie Bollinger

LOCATION: 747 Samuels Ave., just NE of downtown Ft. Worth

As far as 'Secret Gardens' go, Fort Worth Teen Challenge Garden is a hidden jewel nestled on a quiet residential street two miles from downtown Fort Worth.

In the early 1900's, Samuels Avenue was once upon a time the address of choice. Although the stately homes have long disappeared, the remnants of extensive gardens leading down to the river can still be found.



Teen Challenge Garden offers many different types of gardening experiences; but in many ways is still a diamond in the rough. There is so much untapped potential just waiting for the right Master Gardener/Intern to come along and share in the vision with fresh ideas and inspiration. There are raised beds for vegetable, fruit and herb gardening, two long connecting beds with Texas Natives and functioning dry creek beds that help with drainage, a large berm with perennials and annuals, undeveloped shade gardens, a children's play yard (in much need of child friendly plants and vines), two beds of Earthkind roses, a composting area and plans for a greenhouse to be constructed this April.

Master Gardeners are welcome to come and work, weed, prune and plant anytime they choose. The residents of Teen Challenge work with us in the garden on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00 am; making this an especially rewarding time to come. They love learning about the plants and are appreciative of the Master Gardeners who take time to teach them. They especially love when its time to harvest the fruit and vegetables.

Even if you're unable to invest your time, we are always grateful for pass along plants and donations of any size (MG Raffle is our only funding); so please keep Teen Challenge in mind.

Workdays: Every Wednesday 9:00am (Work in garden with T.C. residents)

Dates to remember: April 8th - Greenhouse construction

April 28th – MG Intern Field Trip to Teen Challenge

Contact Persons: Debbie Bollinger- 817-498-1508

Ginger Bason- 817-838-7321

Shirleen Martin- 817-305-1432



President's Message

As I reflected on the March membership meeting, there was one aspect of the upcoming Plant Sale that I overlooked – education. As I observe at the meetings and discussions to plan and organize, it is important for our membership to know that although the sale is a 'means to an end' (raise funds to complete the garden bones), an equally important aspect of the event is the huge opportunity we have to make contact with and educate the public.

Each plant will be clearly labeled with information displayed to inform the shopper of the plant characteristics and needs. It is important to ensure that everyone knows exactly what they are purchasing – right plant for the right spot.

Also, we will have plenty of MGs on hand to staff the 'Ask a Master Gardener' table. Those that come will have numerous experts on hand to give advice and get answers. There will be recommended plant lists that can be taken home for future use. And, there will be plenty of MGs roaming the sale to offer advice and assistance. We will also have brochures available for anyone who may want to know about becoming a Master Gardener.

As people attend the public sale on April 4th, they will also become aware that there are beds available for growing veggies, that the garden is open for visitors, that school groups and others are welcome to tour, and any other way they can imagine to use the community garden. It is an opportunity to get the word out that we are 'open for business', with a grand opening tentatively scheduled for May.

If you check our mission statement, you will be reminded that education IS our mission. It should be the overriding criteria in all that we do. Each venue should be looked upon as an opportunity to educate. Education comes in many forms from formal to informal, from classes to handouts to advice and plant tags. See you on April 2nd – I can't wait !!!

— Susan Stanek, President

April 2009 Monthly Program

Designing Naturally & Plant Sale



We are fortunate to be able to welcome to our April podium: Michael Maken of Walk-about Nursery in North Richland Hills. Having spent some years in Australia, he continues that influence in his company name using the phrase "walk about".

His topic will be "The Art of Designing Naturally".

Schedule:

9:30 Gather and grab your coffee
10:00 Michael Maken
11:00 Business Meeting Snack Lunch
12:00 Noon Michael Maken
1:00 Head for our first ever plant sale at the Community Demonstration Garden

— Eleanor Tuck, 1st VP - Programs

NOTE: Tour gardens designed by Mr. Maken at the April 26th Field trip—page 9.



2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 23-24 & 25, 2009

For more information:
Harrison County Master Gardener Association
c/o Extension Office, 102 West Houston,
Marshall, TX. 75670
(903) 935-8413

See this link for more information:
<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

TCMGA Meeting Minutes March 5, 2009

The Program was "Dutch Elm Disease" presented by Geoff Sherman, Landscape Horticulturist of North Richland Hills, and Bobby Spence of Harvest Supply Company, discussing Organic Gardening Products.

President Stanek called the Business Meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. with 243 certified members and interns present, and welcomed the 2009 Intern Class to the Meeting and annual "Hotdog Lunch" honoring them.

The Minutes of the February 2009 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

Treasurer Carl Trehus presented the Treasurer's Report as of February 27, 2009.

Checking Account balance	\$ 2,588.76
Money Market balance	20,656.97
Total Assets	\$23,245.73

Sue Ellen Schlitzer, Membership Chairman, announced that 2009 Membership Directories and Membership Cards were available on tables at the back.

Sandra Johnson, Raffle Committee Chairman, explained the purpose of the monthly raffle and encouraged the membership to donate articles and purchase raffle tickets.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Garden and plant sale: We will have a plant sale to support our Community Garden, especially the Greenhouse. The Sale will be Chaired by Taddie Hamilton and organized by CG volunteers. Additional volunteers will be needed. To contribute plants, plastic plant trays, or paper bags, items should be brought to the CG any Tuesday morning. 75% of the proceeds will go to the CG and 25% will go to the Association, to be spread between all projects. Thursday, April 2- After the General Meeting, plants will be available for sale to MGs. There will be wholesale plants, heritage plants, and \$50 rain barrels.

Saturday, April 4- Plant Sale open to the public.

Union Gospel Mission: Gay Larson announced that Nancy Curl was named Gardener of the Year for the Union Gospel Mission and was hon-

ored at a Banquet. Nancy has been responsible for the design and printing of gardening coloring books for children, as well as many other contributions. Gay also thanked those that have contributed digital cameras for use by the children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENT STANEK:

Field trip on March 26 to the Dallas Arboretum. Advance price \$6.50, price at the gate \$9.50. Meet at FWBG at 9:00 a.m. to form carpools or organize you own carpool.

State Conference will be in Marshall, TX, April 23-25, 2009.

A few Membership Directories will be for sale to members for \$2 after the April meeting."

Last day today for ordering caladiums, to be picked up in April.

Fertilizer for sale today only.

Volunteers needed for the Home and Garden Show March 13-15. Contact Judy Sargent. Grapevine Plant Sale will be April 18.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY STEVE CHANEY:

New Texas Gardening book by Steve Huddleston available for preorder at back table. Membership pins, shovels, and cards available at back table.

Saturday, March 7, there will be an Earthkind Symposium at the Botanic Garden.

Judy Ketchum, Director of the Resource Connection, has asked Master Gardeners to design and maintain the landscaping for the building where we meet. We would have help with maintenance by her grounds keepers. Volunteers needed.

Grand opening of the Community Garden will be in May. The Intern Class needs wrought iron for their landscape design.

Thanks to all those who perform phone duty and office help.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary Dottie Bucy

SuperStar MG Profile
JUDY RATZLAFF
Special Merit Award 2008



Judy Ratzlaff
In Her Own Words:

I was in the Class of 2002. I was encouraged to join by a friend, but about the same time, my son was diagnosed with brain cancer [he's a 7 1/2 year survivor]. He said "Mom you need to focus on something beside cancer." So I applied. I believe there were 125 applicants that year and we had about 50 or so in our class. The Master Gardener program was an anchor and life changing for me. The 3 years after I certified, I spent answering the phone on Wednesdays with Jim Beeler. What a mentor and extraordinary person. I learned much from Jim and he had my back on many a strange call. I have enjoyed passing that on to others by helping with the telephone training of the interns. Then stepped in my next mentor Eleanor Tuck, Telephone Coordinator extraordinaire. ET, as we all call her, has guided me from the first time I worked with her. She might say...drug me down the garden path or kept me in line with a baseball bat. She is a mentor, teacher and treasured friend. I have been an Intern Advisor for many classes, Telephone Trainer for 5 plus years, I Chair the Project Review Committee, I'm a Propagation Specialist and I am on my 4th class to follow through the program as Intern Coordinator. Here lies my love. I get to meet the new interns, guide them thru their intern year, and see them become certified. I'm a people person and I guess of all the programs..the interns are my passion. With being the coordinator, comes the choosing of the advisors and staff. The

advisors are the backbone of the program. Surround yourself with good, energetic people and learn to delegate duties. These are the people who keep me in line and make my job easy. I'm just the glue. Making new friendships, working with the Extension Agents, and the Extension staff, learning and participating as a Tarrant County Master Gardener has enriched my life and broadened my knowledge.

My husband, Roger retired last March. Retirement is interesting. While he was working volunteering was no problem. Now he just asks where are you going today? I'm working on getting him to join the program, but right now he enjoys working around the house. As with most of our spouses, he supports me in all I do, and you can't ask for more than that. My husband and I have his and hers vegetable gardens, mine consist of raised beds, while his is about 15'x 40'. He's a good gardener.

Like Susan Miller, I have taken private pilot flying lessons. I love flying and I enjoy hiking, skiing, drawing, painting, gardening and most of all my grandchildren.

I lived in Nagoya, Japan for 18 months with Roger's job (1991-92). I studied Ikebana during this time, and I was 1st VP of the Nagoya Chapter of Ikebana. Ikebana is Japanese Floral Design. I continued to study Ikebana, both Sogetsu and Ohara Schools. I have a teacher's certificate in Sogetsu School. While in Tokyo I was on the Executive Board of Ikebana International. {This was quite an honor, as there are only 2 foreigners on the broad.} I served as 2nd VP for 2 1/2 years and as 3rd VP for 1 year. I represented Ikebana International at the American Embassy Tea in Japan, and also was 1 of 2 who represented the North American Conference at the 2000 International Convention. I attended many Ikenbna conferences in various countries. What an opportunity for a small town girl.

I'm a member of the Fort Worth Women's Club, I was a Hospice volunteer; I served 2 yrs. on the Willow Park --Park and Recreation Board and I'm member of the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth.

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It is the dedicated Master Gardeners, such as Judy, who inspire us all and make this organization the outstanding chapter it is. Watch for future profiles of our SuperStar Master Gardeners in coming months.
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COMMITTEE PROFILE: RAFFLE COMMITTEE

Win A Treasure

The raffle is an exciting part of the Master Gardener meeting ten months of the year. The exceptions are June or July, when we have the garage sale, and December, when we enjoy the Awards luncheon. The raffle tables are set up at the far end of the auditorium, on the other side of the room from the food table side.



Photo by Gay Larson

How to win a treasure

Everyone may participate in the raffle, either as a donor or winner! If you have a ***garden related*** item you no longer need or want, whether new or in good condition, bring it with you to the TCMGA meeting and receive one free raffle ticket for each item. A donation receipt is available upon request. Another way to win is to purchase tickets for \$1.00 each, or six tickets for \$5.00. Keep one half of the ticket and place the other one in the paper bag next to the item you would like to win. The drawing will be held about 11:45 and the winning ticket will be placed on the item. Check your ticket between 11:45 and 12:00 or after the meeting and you might be the lucky winner.

Where do the raffle funds go?

In December, the raffle committee divides the funds among the projects that request help to add, change, or buy supplies for their gardens. We all have our favorite projects to help earn our hours so come participate in the raffle to help that special project.

Any questions or suggestions can be sent to sjohnson1220@hotmail.com or call me at 817-280-0052.

TIMEKEEPER, PART 2

Verifying Your Activity Hours

The Timekeepers are not perfect!! Please be sure to periodically verify that the hours you have submitted are correctly reported in the Timekeeping Database. It is a whole lot easier if problems are identified during the year rather than waiting until the end of the year. The Timekeepers took a poll of their contacts and 80% of those responding either wanted this information posted on the website or didn't care whether or not it was posted.

Major points to know:

- ▶ The Activity Time Report is on the TCMGA Website with the approval of the Advisory Board. The information is presented using MG Numbers and not names. It will be the responsibility of the MGs and Interns to monitor this report to be sure their information is correct.
- ▶ MGs and Interns may contact their Timekeeper or the Head Timekeeper to get their MG Number.
- ▶ MGs and Interns who do not have email addresses may verify the accuracy of their information at the Extension Office on the MG Desk computers or by requesting this information from their Timekeeper or the Head Timekeeper.
- ▶ If the MG or Intern believes that there is an error in the information, please contact your Timekeeper to resolve the problem. The Timekeeper may refer questions to the Head Timekeeper for resolution.
- ▶ Updated reports will be posted around the 20th of the month and will reflect hours reported by the 5th of that month.

Head Timekeeper—Raelene Darling

Raelene@rkdarling.net 817-358-4517

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T-Z Debbie Rasmussen

mammie629@sbcglobal.net 817 246-7876

April 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	2 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a TCMGA MEETING BRIT @ FWBG NCNPSOT	3	4 9a Veterans Park Composting Demo TCMGA PLANT SALE Garden w/Pros Turf
5	6 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	7 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage BRIT class	8 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Veterans Park BRIT brown bag 3:15p Fitzgerald	9 8:30a Alice Carlson	10	11 8a SW Crthse Composting Demo
12	13 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	14 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage	15 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Veterans Park 9:30a Hulen 9:30a Thistle Hill 3:15p Fitzgerald	16 8:30a Alice Carlson TCMGA Board	17 State of Prairie Conf. Houston	18 10a Hulen Grapevine Plant Sale FtW Herb Soc. Orchid Sale & Show FWBG Springfest
19 Southlake Garden Tour	20 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	21 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage TX Garden Club Convention	22 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a BG Children's 9a Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald	23 8:30a Alice Carlson 10a Hulen* Field Trip Dallas STATE MG Conference	24 STATE MG Conference	25 Prairefest FtW Iris Show Flowercade STATE MG Conference
26 Flowercade	27 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel	28 8:30a BG Trial 9a BG Cottage Organic Garden Club	29 9a Teen Challenge 9a BG Perennial 9a SW Crthse 9a BG Children's 9a Veterans Park MG Field Trip 3:15p Fitzgerald	30 8:30a Alice Carlson Mayfest		

UP-COMING EVENTS

NOTE: for this month's events, see back cover

- Apr 30-May 3 Mayfest—Along Trinity
 May 3 Colleyville Garden Club Promenade Tour
 May 5 Tarrant Co Appreciation Day 9-12 —County Admin. Bldg
 May 5 Herb Sale 9-12 Tarrant Co. Admin Bldg.
 May 5 BRIT class “Abandoned Plants”
 May 5-6 **Pizza Ranch**
 May 7 **TCMGA MEETING**
 May 7 BRIT Lecture Green Future
 May 7 NCNPSOT 7 pm FWBG
 May 8 Resource Connect Fun Kids Day
 May 9 Azle Garden Tour 10a-3p -MGs get in free if they wear their badge and answer questions.
 May 9-10 Ft W Cactus & Succulent Soc. Show & Sale
 May 13 TCMGA Field Trip—Eagle Mountain Lake
 May 13 BRIT Brown Bag—Greenest Greens
 May 16 Greater Ft W Herb Society Festival FWBG
 May 16 Gardening with the Pros: Rainwater Harvesting 9-12 Agri-Life Office
 May 26 Organic Garden Club “Roses” 7 pm FWBG
 June—Concerts in the Garden, FWBG weekends
 June 4 **TCMGA MEETING**
 June 5-7 FWBG Concerts in the Garden
 June 10 BRIT Brown Bag—Trinity River
 June 12-14 FWBG Concerts in the Garden
 June 13 Gardening with the Pros—Propagation
 June 17-19 MG Specialist Training—Rainwater Harvesting Menard
 June 18-21—Regional MG Conf. Oklahoma City, OK
 June 19-21 FWBG Concerts in the Garden
 June 23 Organic Garden Club “Veggies” 7 pm FWBG
 June 26-28 FWBG Concerts in the Garden
 July 2 FWBG Concerts in the Garden
 July 11 Gardening with the Pros—Water Gardens
 July 16-18 MG Specialist Training—Rainwater Harvesting Kaufman
 Aug. 8 Gardening with the Pros—Herbs
 Aug 14-16 TNLA Landscapers Show—Dallas
 Aug 29-30 Ft W Orchid Society Sale, FWBG
 Sept. 11-13 FWBG Art in the Garden
 Sept 11-12 MG Specialist Training—Rainwater Harvesting Conroe
 Sept. 12 Gardening with the Pros—Vegetable Gardens
 Sept 15-19 MG Specialist Training Entomology Austin

Announcements/Going On

Home & Garden Shows—NEED YOU!!

Spring means **volunteer opportunities**. We always have a booth at H&G shows. If you would like to work the booth, contact Judy Sargent, 817-589-0221, srgntjud@msn.com

Project Workdays.—contact the Project Chair - see page 14 for details

Field Trips—TCMGA Field Trip Chair is Kay Gunn. See schedule page 10 this issue.

FWBG events— See calendar at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens for more information.

State, Regional & International MG Conferences, MG Specialist Training—See State MG website for more information: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>

Gardening with the Pros—Homeowner Education classes offered by Agri-Life Extension on the second Saturday of each month. Cost \$10 each. For more info or sign up with Claressa Reyes, Extension Secretary.

BRIT (Botanical Research Center of Texas) phone 817-257-7132 or 817-871-7682

Composting Classes—2nd Saturday of each month 9-11 am 703 NW Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington 817-459-6778

NCNPSOT—native plant meeting at Ft W Botanic Garden 7 pm. See topic at their website

Free Organic Classes—1st Wednesday every month Ladies of the Garden, 5208 Hidden Oaks Lane, Arlington 817-572-0148

Your Event Here—if you know of an event or class of interest to Master Gardeners, send the information to tmgmarilyn@gmail.com

Note: This is a list of items of interest to MGs. Items on this list outside the MG program may not be automatically approved for hours. Please confirm approval with Steve Chaney on these events.

APRIL 29th FIELD TRIP NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY

Spend a fun-filled morning touring four uniquely different but equally lovely gardens, all designed by the talented Michael Makens, owner of Walk-about Landscape Company. The date is Wednesday, April 29.

Our tour includes Michael's personal 10 acre home garden site, which features several hard-scape structures designed to offer comfort, shelter and garden-viewing pleasure, as well as areas for casual dining and entertainment. Along the pathways you will find ideas galore among the native plants, mixed with the artful placement of whimsical material, the use of rock and the flow of water.

Then we will visit three additional gardens designed by Michael, providing varied design concepts in small and large spaces, but similarly featuring Michael's artistry with rock, stone columns and designs for elevation changes.

We will meet to carpool at the following sites:
9:00 am - The Resource Connection parking lot
9:30 am - The Office Depot located at Highway 26 and Davis Boulevard

With lots of good places to eat in the area, enjoy lunch (on your own) with your Master Gardener friends.

Get in on the fun and join us for the 2009 FIELD TRIPS

SPRING

May 13 – Eagle Mountain Lake Area — See three lovely private gardens on lakefront properties. Bring a sack lunch (we provide water) for a picnic at the recently opened Eagle Mountain Park. Wear comfy shoes so you can take advantage of the walking trails.

FALL

September 23 — The September 23rd field trip has been changed. Instead of Decatur, we will go to Cedar Hill to see some wonderful residential gardens and a great nursery. Plans are not yet finalized, so stay tuned!

October 13 – Granbury — An opportunity to see three outstanding private gardens belonging to Hood County Master Gardeners. Lots of variety, ranging from a five acre country garden to a tropical garden on the shores of Lake Granbury. Then enjoy lunch on your own, and shopping, on the square in Granbury.



TAX BREAK

from Donna Morris

I am not an accountant or a tax lawyer but I am a tax payer and I'd just as soon get all the deductions I'm entitled to. Did you know you can deduct your mileage traveled to work on projects or go to meetings? Please refer to IRS publication # 526 to get all the low-down on how to do this. It may be too late to save you any money this

year but start keeping those records and get that publication. It is worth its weight in money.



TCMGA Spring Semester Scholarship Awarded

The TCMGA Scholarship Committee (Judy Butler - Chair, Eleanor Tuck and Dolores Geisel) are happy to announce that a scholarship award of \$500 has been made to TCCC NW Campus horticultural student Angeline Kirkwood. Ms. Kirkwood has a strong interest in horticulture and has worked in the industry. She stated in her application that "I feel horticulture is a form of art, a way I will be leaving my mark upon the earth."



- Judy Butler, Scholarship Chair

TCMGA Plant Sale
April 4, 9 AM – 2 PM
MG pre-sale April 2, 1– 3 PM

The TCMGA Plant Sale is shaping up to be really big and lots of fun! We took orders for about 150 roses at the March meeting and for 20 rain barrels. We are off to a great start! Almost 100 master gardeners signed up to help during the sale. Beautiful Heritage Plants were brought to the Community Garden.



Bring your checkbook to the next Master Gardener meeting on April 2 and come to the pre-sale for the First Annual Plant Sale from 1-3PM after the meeting. The roses you ordered will be available for pick-up and you will get first choice of the plants for the sale. If you didn't order a Rain Barrel but want one, they are \$50. If you want it painted like a wooden barrel, it will cost \$100. Email Nancy Curl or Tom Scott to order one.

Please share the flyer with friends and neighbors. We certainly want this First Annual Sale to be successful! That takes lots of buyers

If you can volunteer at the sale on April 4, please email Joy Lease at jlease@prodigy.net or Taddie Hamilton at taddieh@sbcglobal.net. We need lots of help!

We know everyone will want to be part of this sale. The flyer was sent online so you can forward it to your friends and family. We also need plant trays or cardboard boxes to help people carry their plants. Please bring them to the April meeting. Remember that the projects of the Master Gardeners will be the recipients of the profits. If you find you can help at the last minute, come on out and we'll put you to work! See you there! Taddie Hamilton, taddieh@sbcglobal.net.

- Taddie Hamilton

Docent Composting
at Grapevine Botannic Garden
 by Shellye Schmorleitz



About 50 MGs and members of the Grapevine Garden Club plus other garden enthusiasts took part in Docent Training at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens on Feb. 17. Lisa Adams Grove, Rachel Clark, and Shari Stanfield trained the new volunteers on how to conduct group tours and participate in various activities at the Garden. A tour of the Gardens followed the training. City of Grapevine Assistant Parks Director Kevin Mitchell also attended the training and announce that a memorial garden will be built in memory of Julie Florence, who was a Master Gardener."

Grapevine Botanical Gardens is a beautiful living museum with a wide variety of features such as a Butterfly Garden, Kitchen Garden and waterfalls. It is host to many events from weddings to "Shakespeare in the Park" productions to parties and family reunions."

THIS & THAT

April 18 - Grapevine Garden Club Plant Sale 8 am to 2 pm Farmers' Market by the Gazebo on Main Street, Grapevine, Texas

April 19 - Southlake Garden Tour, 10 am to 4 pm, is approved for hours for MGs.. Master Gardeners will answer questions for visitors. For more information call Wendi Carllucci, 817 504-8488.

May 9 - Azle Garden Tour, May 9, 10 am to 3 pm MGs get in free if they wear their badge and will answer questions while in the gardens.

Out and About

🌸 Kudos to our own **Leeann Rosenthal** for receiving the PTA Life Membership for her outstanding efforts at **Fitzgerald Elementary**.

Leeann was recently honored by faculty, parents and students at a special ceremony which highlighted the school garden's pavilion named in her honor .

🌸 Remember last month's speculation as to the meaning of "Environmental Justice"? Well, **Pat Higgins** tracked down the course syllabus which announces no pardon nor protection for those pesky squirrels or polecats; rather, the course requires investigation of injustices in global agribusiness, particularly against farm workers in Mexico and the U.S., "... including the effects of pesticide exposure, lack of adequate housing and poor sanitation". So, now our inquiring minds have been satisfied!

🌸 Winter is at its ebb, daffodils have bloomed and buds are forming. Folks are getting out and about in their gardens and projects, so let us know what's new, fun and/or exciting in your part of our county.

- by Joy Lease

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

April Birthdays

- 1 Charlotte Berck
- 2 John Stanley
- 3 Durwood Barnes
- 4 Emily Beyette
- 9 Steve Prenger, Susan Dimaline
- 10 Fatima Gameiro
- 13 Margaret Anderson, Shirleen Martin
- 14 Susie Earnest
- 16 Pat Hanshaw
- 20 Linda Turner
- 23 Larry Matl
- 24 Raelene Darling, Debbie Bollinger
- 25 Mary Sheba Graves, Berry Bock, Teresa White
- 26 JoAnn Hahn
- 29 Rhett Cervantes
- 30 Leeann Rosenthal

If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it's because we don't have it. Please contact Joy Lease, (817) 795-5133 or email jlease@prodigy.net for changes.

— Joy Lease

Membership Directories

The 2009 Membership Directory was available at the March meeting. Any directories not picked up by the April meeting will be available for purchase. Additional copies of the directory, after your first, are priced at \$2.00 each. Please note copies are limited, be sure to pick yours up in April..

Please update your membership directory:
 Beverly Adkins – badkins2000@verizon.net
 Moira Brunken - moirabrunken@verizon.net
 Claudia Cimma – claudia.cimma@gmail.com
 Sandra Flory - sandraflory@att.net
 Maureen Gonzalez – gwgonz@att.net
 Sally Jan Harris – sallyjanharris@mac.com

Report any changes or corrections to Sue Ellen Schlitzer at s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net or 817-294-1329

SPECIALIST TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT

A reimbursement for one-half of your specialist training in the past year can be provided by TCMGA if you meet the following requirements:

You were one of the first two Tarrant County Master Gardeners to sign up for your training classes. (This will be verified with Steve Chaney).

You will be receiving your Specialist Training Certificate from the Texas Master Gardener State Conference in April. This certifies that you have met all the requirements - classes completed and volunteer hours completed.

You have completed the Specialist Training Reimbursement Form (contact Judy Butler at jubutl@aol.com for the form.)

- Judy Butler, TCMGA Scholarship Chairman

(Continued from page 1)

grasses into edible products for human consumption · Horticulture, the production of fruits and vegetables, is a part of agriculture · Our food supply is safe and economical · The Food Guide Pyramid is a useful tool in determining the correct items and amounts to eat · Red meat and dairy products are important parts of a healthy balanced diet.

Another key “ingredient” in making this event so successful has been the willingness of Tarrant County Master Gardeners to assist as volunteers. Annually, over 70 Master Gardeners have helped with the event, and without them the youth attending would not have the wonderful experience they deserve. With that being said, we need your help again on May 5th and 6th, 2009 to make Pizza Ranch a great experience. Primarily we need food service volunteers on either or both days. You can sign up for the entire day – from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. or you can work a specific shift. These hours worked will be counted towards your service hours. To volunteer call Claïressa Reyes at 817-884-1946 or if you want more info call Ken Johnson, CEA Ag/NR at the same number.



Master Gardeners pass out slices of pizza so the kids sample the final product at the end of Pizza Ranch.

Project Locator on Website:

by Steve Purdy

We've developed a project locator for the TCMGA website which provides maps for the location of all of our projects. To use it, you:

1. Enter the TCMGA website
2. Click on Member Hot Key
3. Locate the entry in bold, “Project Locations”
4. Click on the link that says "click here for information on how and where to volunteer, including maps to project locations."
5. That takes you to a list of the projects. The projects are listed by their general geographic location within Tarrant County, i.e., Southwest, Northeast, Central, etc. The details of the project include the name of its Project Manager and its address.
6. You locate the project you want to find and then click on its address. That takes you to a MapQuest page that locates the project for you within Tarrant County.

I worked on the Project Committee with Judy Ratzlaff and we determined that such a map would be a good way to let our folks know where all our projects were. I developed the prototype and then Kate Kilmurray developed the implementation for the web site. Kate did a super job implementing the solution for the web site and deserves a lot of credit.

Email Blast Contact Person

by Claïressa M. Reyes, Administrative Assistant

Master Gardeners, effective, February 24th, Dorothy Launius will be the contact when you would like an email blast sent to the Master Gardener Association.

To help make this transition smooth, here a few tips...

1. Check your Spam filters to let the emails from tcmgaebast@gmail.com come through.
2. If you have an email blast request, send all details to tcmgaebast@gmail.com . All requests **MUST** be approved by Steve before it is sent to membership.
3. If your email changes please let Claïressa know.
4. If you have any concerns/questions regarding the email blast please contact Steve Chaney at sachaney@ag.tamu.edu or phone 817-884-1946, emailing Steve would most likely be your best bet.

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

Project Code & Name	Work Days/Times	Project Manager	Phone
301 BRIT Activities	Call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 BG Perennial Garden	Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Cindy Woelke	817-366-4436
312 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
313 BG Cottage Garden	Tues. 9-11:30 a.m.	Janet Riley	817-732-7837
321 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
326 Teen Challenge	Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact area coordinators below)		
Project Co-chairs:	Pat Higgins, Nancy Curl and Jerry Sorenson		
	817-946-6278 817-319-1795 817-427-9009		
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
Compost:	position open		
Education:	Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Enabling beds:	Jeanette Berggren, jberggren@sbcglobal.net		817-249-6815
Greenhouse:	Tom Scott, trutexen@aol.com - Tuesdays		940-433-2601
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net - Wednesdays		817-295-2883
Mowing/Edging:	position open		
Orchard and Berry	Renee Beckum jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		214-914-6597
Perennial beds: (developing)	Joann Hahn, joannhahn@att.net		817-923-9250
	Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-838-7321
Propagation	Claire Alford, Joy Lease, and Donna Morris		
Roses:	Karen Kologe, kpk@charter.net - Fridays		817-924-6449
TCU students & Vegetable garden	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-946-6278
	Tues, & Fri. 8:30 am		
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-488-6123
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	3rd Wed. 9:30	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
	3 rd Sat, 10:00 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Wed. 9-12 p.m.	Nancy Swan	817-535-9991
	1st Sat, 9-12 p.m.		
<u>School Gardens</u>			
601 Alice Carlson	Mon/& Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
611 BG-Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598

MGs in ACTION

Jerry Tuttle prunes a tree from the inside.
And with his BFF Bill Hall (below).



Photos by Nancy Curl & Gay Larson



Donna Morris' thumb has a story all its own >>>

Gay Larson explains rose pruning at UGM .
<<<



MG Intern Donna Fry gets to practice what she learned in the Photography of Gardeners class at an afternoon at the Ft Worth Botanic Garden.

Photos by Steve Purdy



Plant Propagation Specialists, Joy Lease, Lucurtis Williams, Pat Higgins and Donna Morris, prepare to teach their skills to the intern class.



Texas A&M System

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



Calendar of This Month's Events



- Apr. 2 **TCMGA MEETING**
- Apr. 2 BRIT Lecture FWBG Master Plan
- Apr. 2 NCNPSOT 7 pm FWBG
- Apr. 4 **TCMGA Plant Sale 9a-2p**
- Apr. 4 Gardening with the Pros: Turf
- Apr. 4-5 Chandor Gardens Spring Fling
- Apr. 7 BRIT class "Mounting Specimens"
- Apr. 8 BRIT Brown Bag—Bioinformatics
- Apr. 16 EarthKind Lawn Care -Brazos Co. MG
- Apr. 17 State of the Prairie Conf. Houston
- Apr. 18 Grapevine Garden Club Plant Sale 8a-2p
- Apr. 18 Ft. Worth Herb Society 10 am FWBG
- Apr. 18-19 Ft W Orchid Society Show & Sale

- Apr. 18-19 FWBG Spring Festival
- Apr. 18 Wildscape Plant Sale 9am - 1 pm
- Apr. 19 Garden Tour—Keep Southlake Beautiful
- Apr. 21-25 Texas Garden Club Convention
- Apr. 23-25 **State MG Conf** Marshall, TX
- Apr. 25 4th Annual Prairie Fest - Tandy Hills Park
- Apr. 25 Ft W Iris Society Show, FWBG
- Apr. 25-26 "Flowercade" Flower Show FWBG
- Apr. 28 Organic Garden Club 7pm FWBG
- Apr. 29 TCMGA Field Trip—Southlake Area
- Apr. 30-May 3 Mayfest—Along Trinity

Steve Chaney—For up-to-the-minute
TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org



More state news:
www.texasmastergardeners.com