



Thoughts from JoAnn

It has been a great spring and summer. My two new grandchildren have arrived safely, and after a couple of months of very busy grandmother duty, life is back to normal. I hope that all of you have enjoyed our break and are ready, even anxious, to get back to Master Gardeners.

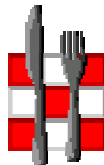
We will be electing new officers in October, and the Nominating committee will have a list of the proposed officers in the September newsletter. They will be introduced at the September meeting.

One thing that has surprised me this year is how many questions I get that have already been answered in the newsletter. I don't mind answering, but I think of all the information you might be missing by not reading our newsletter. The newsletter staff, under the leadership of **Susan Stanek**, has done an amazing job keeping everyone abreast of what's happening in our MG organization and providing information that we may need or, want to know as gardeners.

JoAnn



HOSPITALITY NOTES
from **Joyce Quam**



As you will remember, our June meeting turned out to be a BYO Lunch affair. So, the folks who signed up to bring goodies in June are asked to bring goodies to our August 5th meeting.

Who, you ask, did sign up? Glad you sked: **Dolores Geisel, Emily Ward, Rita Hottel, Susan Stanek, Charlotte Berck, Betty Floy, Carol Norfleet, Pam Sustaire, Jackie Peel,**



L.J. Williams, Nancy Bannow, Kay Sekio. Suggestion: Bring enough for 15 to 20+ servings, sandwiches go fast! Be sure to pick up your serving dishes after lunch. Thanks to all these generous folks. See you August 5!

Master Gardener Program

Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful cuttings from your gardens that Barbara Baker used at our June Social. Maybe we can have her do a class for us again in the near future. What a surprise to have a birthday cake to share with everyone and that was the only cake for me this year- THANK YOU!

The gardens we visited were an inspiration. Aren't we lucky to have them available to us? Special thanks to **Becky Gamble** for letting us tour the garden at her home. **Wendi Carlucci** is doing a super job at the Liberty Garden and can always use Master Gardener help.

Tim Baker will be our speaker and workshop leader at the August 5th meeting at Resource Connection. Tim is Supervisor of Tarrant County Photographic Services and will share tips, terms and techniques to use in our garden photography. Then we will go out into the "gardens" to take pictures. BRING YOUR CAMERA!!! Tim will collect all film and do the developing and printing. On Thursday Aug 19th, Tim will be at the Extension Office from 1-3:00 p.m. to return and critique those photos. (Digital photos and slide film will have to be processed by the photo taker but you are welcome to develop and bring those photos on Aug. 19).



- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee.
- 10:00 Tim Baker – tips, terms and techniques for garden photography.
- 11:00 Business meeting and social.
- 12:00 With Tim's guidance, we will regroup outside to try out our new photography skills in the gardens. Be sure to dress for outside!

A free garden photography class!!!! Hope you can join us and start your own photo diary!

Ginger Bason

Meeting Minutes, June 3, 2004

An abbreviated business meeting was held. 60 certifieds and interns were in attendance at the meeting/social. Several guests and 5 children were also in attendance.

A Standing Rules Proposed Addition was presented to the members and was approved by a majority vote. This Standing Rule will permit a \$25 donation toward the purchase of a memorial book for the library at the Extension Office upon the death of a Master Gardener in good standing.

Approval of the minutes of the May business meeting and the Treasurer's Report were deferred to the next business meeting in August.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary



Urban Plant Detective Program

Some of our Master Gardeners have volunteered for a plant pathology program to study the effects of several different treatments for powdery mildew on Crape-Myrtles. The program will test natural vs. synthetic chemicals for control on Crape-Myrtles located in the Botanic Gardens. Dr. Kevin Ong, Extension Plant Pathologist, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in

Dallas, is instructing the program and will tabulate the observations from the Tarrant County Master Gardeners and groups in Dallas, Denton and Collin counties. The information will be used by local gardeners and will be available to the companies furnishing the chemicals for the treatments. The experiments will begin later in the summer when powdery mildew will again attack Crape-Myrtles.



Mission Statement
Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

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

submitted by **Eleanor Tuck**



★ Have you stopped to read the plaques on the wall of our Master Gardener Office and wondered how they came to be? Historically, the process has changed considerably. What began with Agents submitting nominations for their MG Association, evolved into the Associations assuming the responsibility. As you've observed, our Agent has little time for sitting down, gathering data and writing it in a winning way. Early on, the MGs wrote their nominations much like an essay, extolling virtues and embellishing where they could, but soon it was apparent that the best journalists got the awards for their Associations.

★ The competition is and has been with associations of similar size; that is, Tarrant competes with Harris, Dallas and Bexar County (that's Houston, 'D' and San Antonio). You may ask to move your Association up to a larger size competition, but not down. The Association must be a member of the State Association in good standing, and their nominations must be MG produced, with few exceptions as developed the past year.

★ If you review the plaques, you will see several categories: Project, Visual Arts, Multi-media, Associations and Master Gardener of the Year. It is a challenge each year to determine just what /who we will nominate and we can submit only one in each category. If we want to submit the some nomination again the following year, the Association must show substantial changes or improvements from the previous submission.

★ Philosophically, Projects should not be developed just to win an award. The forms for nominations have become unbelievably technical. Grant writers have said that the forms read like a Federal Grant Application! As a result, three years ago we developed a joint project committee of both Extension and MG Association. This joint committee insures that Projects stay under the guidance of Extension. This Committee has diligently developed forms to guide the development of Projects in any category. Additionally, a thorough study of the application forms gives the Association ideas on how to organize and develop our group locally to achieve our mission. So, some additional benefits have been derived from this rigorous process.

★ Since 1997, the forms for Awards have gone from less than one page to 3-4 pages with multiple questions. Each section is weighted so that the judges can make independent votes and then make a judgment and choice based on their consensus.

★ But, through it all, Tarrant County has won almost every year. The Awards can be confusing because they are presented the year following when the work occurred. Further research is necessary to determine exactly what year the work occurred related to some of our awards. BUT: Tarrant has won many awards for first attempts: Publications - our Cookbook; our first Garden Tour; Teen Challenge and OUR ASSOCIATION. Additionally, some of our Master Gardeners have received honors as State MG: **Don Graves** - First Place, **Emily Ward** - Honorable Mention and **Eleanor Tuck** - Honorable Mention.

★ This summary translates to a challenge to make your endeavors the best they can be. Further, be thinking how you can help the Award Chairman, **Ginger Bason**, to put together an outstanding Award packet of nominations for the year 2004, to be presented in 2005 at the State Convention in Denton.



102	Perennial Shade Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Kim Snyder	817-732-1483
111	BRIT Activities	2 nd & 3 rd Tues.	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
121	Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
123	Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
124	FW Nature Center	call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
125	FW Library at Hulen St.	8:30 a.m., 4th Thurs	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126	TC SW Sub Courthouse	June 12 & 29	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127	Veterans Park-Wildscape	June 5 & every Tues.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
129	Willow Park DemoGarden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
131	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202
132	Teen Challenge	every Wed.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
133	Thistle Hill	Wed. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
134	Union Gospel Mission	every Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
135	Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Lindsey Hannah	817-477-1696
161	CEMAP	call chairman	Benita Reese	817-483-5950
162	TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
171	School Garden Consultant	call chairman	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
172	School Garden	sign up at MG mtg.	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
303	Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
303	Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713



TCMGA Website Password

Current userid is 'xxxxxx' and password is xxxxxxxx'.

Newsletter on the TCMGA Website

Each month the TCMGA newsletter, including any names, addresses, and phone numbers, is posted on the TCMGA website. Please contact the Newsletter Committee if you prefer your information not be included on the website.

2004 Master Gardener Directory

If you have not picked up a 2004 Directory at a MG meeting OR you would like an extra copy, send a self addressed, stamped (74 cents) envelope, to **Becky Armstrong, 5919 Myra Drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063-5281**. Please include \$1 to cover the cost of the additional copy.

Note: Master Gardeners are welcome to submit articles to the newsletter for consideration. All non-regular features should be submitted to **Linda Hardy** at hardyjandl@netzero.net.

The newsletter editorial staff reserves the right to edit articles submitted for content, brevity, and correctness.

Spotlight on the Children's Imagination Vegetable Garden at the Botanic Garden

Submitted by **Marlene Deaton**

How would you like to get in some FUN extension hours, and maybe learn a thing or two yourself? Do you like to challenge kids, DARE them to do something? (They usually take the dare by the way.) How many kids can you fit inside a hoola-hoop? Do you like to paint? Do you like to eat fresh produce-straight off the plant itself? Can you identify a good bug vs. bad bug? Do you like the smell of fresh herbs? (And probably take some home for yourself?) Want to plant some unusual varieties of tomatoes, melons, gourds, beans, etc.? Ever grown potatoes (red and white varieties) in discarded car tires? Have we got a deal for you!!!

You need to participate in the Children's Garden at the Ft. Worth Botanical garden this coming school year, we promise it will be a blast. We meet every other Wednesday with 4th graders at the garden between 9-11:30 AM beginning this September through next May, covering all the growing seasons, all the different vegetables we can possibly grow, and fruits too. If you come beginning this September, we plan to have a bumper crop of tomatoes, corn, watermelon, okra, green beans – even purple green beans, cantaloupe, lettuce, Swiss chard, peppers, the list goes on and on. The pears are ripening even now. The blackberries and raspberries are making a good show. And all the grapes! We are watching them anxiously, hoping to get some before the birds do. What we don't eat or take home, we give to the Union Gospel Mission. So nothing goes to waste - ever.

As any of you involved with JMG (Junior Master Gardeners) know, gardening with kids is a lot of fun! The look on their faces at times is indescribable. And the discovery of worms of ANY kind, turtles, lizards, and an occasional garden snake will create sudden chaos and screams but you quickly learn to go with the flow and catch the "teachable moment." Kids will usually eat what they grow, especially after they see you eat it, and if that doesn't work, a dare to at least TASTE it in front of their classmates does the trick. And they discover - this really isn't all that bad - maybe even tasty after all.

What they don't realize is we are not only teaching them about gardening, we are teaching them good character traits. Like teamwork, patience, sharing, giving them confidence – raising self-esteem, following directions, etc. and an awareness that it utilizes a lot of other subjects - history, math, engineering. It takes some engineering and math to make compost bins from pallets and to make scarecrows. (And to repair them.) Of course, when you have the really nasty work to do, you ask who's the bravest. Then, when you have 20 kids claiming to be the bravest, and you ask them to help you add manure to the compost pile they really learn who is the bravest! The shy ones will watch and you catch the most shy and ask them to participate. They will do it, and after you compliment them you can tell their self-image changes a degree and the other kids attitudes toward them change also.

We also take scavenger hunts in the garden. We take the kids on tours of the Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, Trial Garden, and the Conservatory. What keeps them all behaving well? First line of discipline is the teachers. We have been very fortunate to have kids the past 3 years from Helbing Elementary, with excellent teachers who were right there in with the kids, "getting their hands dirty" alongside the kids. (They know who they need to be with, whom to keep separated, etc.) Second line of discipline is my personal promise that if any student breaks the rules, he/she and I will go sit on the bus the rest of the garden visit and that he/she will not be permitted back into the garden the rest of the school year. It has worked so far.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! The rewards are wonderful, the kids make thank-you cards that are just delightful!! You won't believe their imaginations! And their art work in everything we paint, block print, etc. A lot of them say when they grow up they want to work at the Botanic Garden. Who knows? You hear a lot about their grandmother's garden, and their favorite flower. You remind them all that the garden entrance is free, so they can ask their parents to bring them there for family picnics, etc. and they can show the rest of the family what they have planted and things they've seen.

We will hopefully have the school/garden schedule finished by the next edition of the newsletter. Come one time, or commit for a few. We guarantee it will be fun!!! If you need more information, contact **Marlene Deaton** at mdbluestar@ev1.net or **Judy Sargent** at srgntjud@msn.com. And if you are ever at the Botanic Garden, go just south of the Trial Garden past the row of trees and shrubs and come see the Children's Garden! There are HUMONGOUS gourds growing off the top of the fence (straight neck) that all the BG gardeners are salivating over to obtain seeds. And there will be a super-duper abundance of figs soon. We welcome one-time volunteers, as well as 'all the time' volunteers. These hours are counted as 'extension'. So what have you got to lose? Nothing but sleeping late on alternate Wednesdays. Please give us a call or an email. You don't have to sit in the office waiting for the phone to ring. Come out and have some fun with us!!!!

Wild bergamot

Wild bergamot, or *Monarda fistulosa*, is a member of the Lamiaceae (Labiatae) or Mint family. Along with wild bergamot, other important members of the mint family are spearmint, peppermint, rosemary, basil, oregano, sage, lavender and thyme – many important aromatic herbs. Oh yes, and do not forget henbit, that confounding spring weed we find in our lawns. Any member of the mint family can be easily recognized with a few characteristics: herbs with simple leaves arranged opposite each other on stems, tubular flowers that are bilabiate (having an upper and a lower lip) and aromatic oils that result in a pleasant scent when vegetation is crushed.



The genus *Monarda* is named after the 16th century Spanish physician and botanist, Nicolas Monardes, who wrote about medicinal plants of the New World. There are approximately 19 species in the genus *Monarda*, with 7 of those occurring in north central Texas. Other common members of *Monarda* native to north central Texas are *M. citriodora* (Lemon beebalm) and *M. punctata* (Sandy-land-sage or Horsemint).

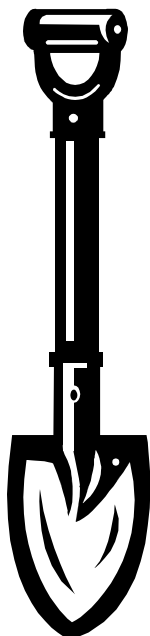
Wild bergamot is a rhizomatous perennial, growing one to four feet tall, with fine, soft hairs on the leaves and stems. The flowers occur in clusters or heads, one to four inches across, at the ends of stems. The petals are usually lavender, but can be pink or rarely white. Wild bergamot flowers from May through July, making it a good choice when you are looking for summer blooming plants. The rest of the year, wild bergamot supplies your garden with accent foliage.

Wild bergamot grows well in many soil types including sand, clay, and loams. Wild bergamot plants will grow tall in moist conditions and prefers well-drained soil. It tolerates full sun to partial shade conditions. Wild bergamot can be propagated by root divisions or from seed, optimally started in the fall.

Source: Diggs, G. M., B. L. Lipscomb, and R. J. O’Kennon. 1999. Shinners and Mahler’s Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas. Sida, Botanical Miscellany 16.



INTERN SCOOP

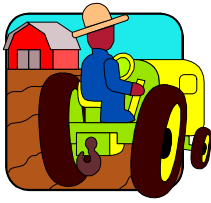


It’s the halfway point in Intern training and our 2004 Interns are AWESOME! They have been involved in almost every aspect of TCMGA and are jumping in with both feet. They have volunteered over 3300 hours, plus travel, in 4 months time. They have been invaluable at many of the school gardens, Union Gospel Mission, Teen Challenge and the Rail Market to name a few. They have not only worked many hours on the telephone, some have done computer work and others have helped Dotty with special projects.

The Intern Reunion in June was terrific. The food was GREAT as always and it was wonderful to see everyone again. We appreciate the comments everyone made to help improve the program for the coming years.

We also would like to THANK the 2004 Intern class for the lovely pottery gifts they gave us. It is really a pleasure to work with TCMGA Interns and allows us the opportunity to get to know them in a special way.

Intern Advisors



Howdy Folks--so says Big Tex! Yep, it is almost State Fair time again. That translates to volunteer opportunities at Little Hands on the Farm. The dates of the Fair this year are September 24 thru October 17. In the past two years, Tarrant County Master Gardeners have assumed the responsibility of the Opening Day of the Fair. Since we have previously planted the garden in the middle of Little Hands, we have had 'planting' day on the previous Friday--this year that will be September 17th.

The project has been a lot of fun and a lot of work. The work is made easier when we all turn out to help. It takes about 24 people to run the farm per day! Last year we split up the day, which means we have to have considerably more people. Volunteers are provided Fair entry passes and a few parking decals; we try to carpool and have central, safe places to leave your car and ride.

Put these dates on your calendar, and I will be in touch when we know for sure what our specific date will be. I know many of you will have questions; please feel free to call me, **Eleanor Tuck**, at 817-244-1772 or see me at the next meeting - September will be here before you know it!!



Master Gardeners: cut out the box to the right and staple



into the back of your MG Directory.

TCMGA Membership Changes
published August 2004

Additions to the Directory:
n/a

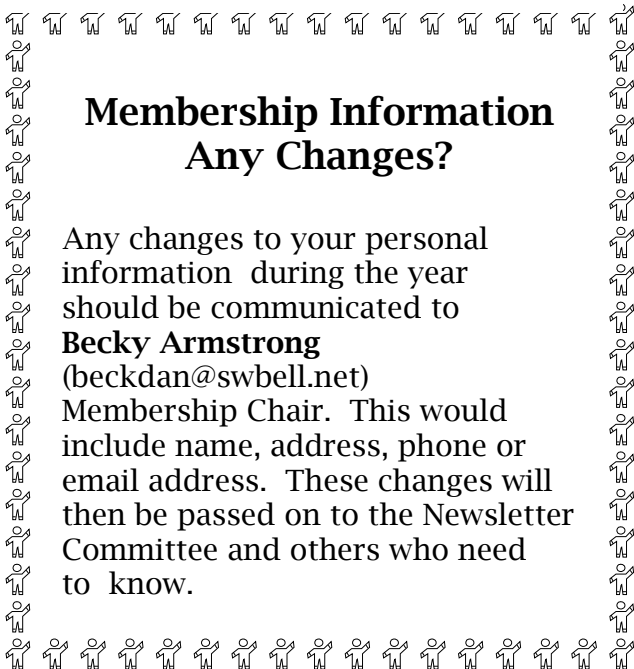
Deletions to the Directory:
n/a

Changes to the Directory

Peggy Falconer	pffalconer475@aol.com
Judy Ratzlaff	rjratzloff@ev1.net

Membership Information Any Changes?

Any changes to your personal information during the year should be communicated to **Becky Armstrong** (beckdan@swbell.net) Membership Chair. This would include name, address, phone or email address. These changes will then be passed on to the Newsletter Committee and others who need to know.



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street



Fall 2004 Calendar of Events

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sept 2 nd | TCMGA Monthly Meeting |
| Sept 9 th | TCMGA Garden Tour |
| Sept 23 rd | TCMGA Garden Tour Rain Date |
| Oct 7 th | TCMGA Monthly Meeting |

For up to the minute TCMGA news visit: www.tcmga.org
More state news: www.texasmastergardeners.com