



Mission Statement

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



President's Notepad

Reviewing the past year is usually done in December, but I would rather discuss the future of TCMGA. You have elected outstanding officers for 2005, and even though they are not "official" until January 1st, they are busy putting together committees, the Advisory Board, programs and special events for next year. Also, we have a new Horticulture Agent, **Steve Chaney**. **Dotty** has provided us with outstanding leadership doing a period of exceptional growth these last several years. But as she moves on, we are fortunate to have someone with his experience leading us into the future. A planning document for the future course of our group has been written, and a by-laws Review Committee is in place to help us look ahead and make adjustment as we grow. Please make it your task to become familiar with these items. In fact, the new leaders need your input in all aspects of TCMGA. If you have recommendations, constructive criticism, or compliments, let the appropriate person know. And please attend the monthly meetings or serve on a committee if asked. We grow and improve as individuals and as an organization when we are involved. So get involved; make it a New Year's resolution! Have a safe, happy and joyous holiday. Thanks for making this year so rewarding for me.

JoAnn

December Monthly TCMGA Program



Holiday Meeting & Awards Ceremony December 2nd, 2004

Our December Awards Celebration will be here soon, so get those holiday sweaters and socks out of mothballs and join the TCMGA festivities.

The December 2nd meeting will be our Holiday Awards Celebration. We will meet for brunch at **The Club at Fossil Creek** at **10:00 am**; the awards/meeting will follow.

Tickets MUST have already been purchased. Sorry, but no late reservations can be made due to cost.

Please join us for a delicious brunch, fellowship and awards presentation. There will also be drawings for some great door prizes!

Ginger Bason



HOSPITALITY NOTES from Joyce Quam News Flash! **Don't bring food to our December 2nd TGMGA gathering!** Brunch is provided. I hope you have purchased your ticket for this Holiday Celebration event. Thank you to the many friends who provided food for our November TGMGA meeting! **Our next regular meeting is January 6th, 2005.** I will be e-mailing or calling those who signed up to remind you. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
Meeting Minutes - November 4, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President **Joann Hahn** at the Resource Connection. 134 members were in attendance. The minutes of the October 2004 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper. Treasurer **Warren Tingley** advised a Treasurer's report was available for review. Also, he asked all members 80 years and older to please advise him of their age in order to waive their yearly dues. Dues are to be paid by December 31st. President **Hahn** advised of the following:

TCMGA Website: The website will now have a travel feature. Project Manager **Devanie Fergus** needs winter schedules for TCMGA projects. A Long Range Planning document is posted on the website. Members are requested to review it.

Evaluation forms for Master Gardener Day were passed out at the meeting and **Ginger Bason** requested that they be completed and turned in before the end of the day.

Joy Lease has changed the raffle procedure to allow for direct selection of the item(s) a member may wish to win. Also, door prizes will be given at the Holiday social in December. Members were requested to sign up for donation of items. Tickets for the Holiday Social on December 2nd must be paid for in advance.

Cindy Fuller with the City of Ft. Worth Sister Cities Program was available for answering questions on the Program with Sister City Trier, Germany. A trip to Trier in May or June, 2005 is being considered.

Neil Mansfield with Feed by Grace Mission was also available to talk with Master Gardeners about his group. Currently based in Grapevine, it will be moving to Ft. Worth next year. They would like to find a Master Gardener to be an officer in their faith based organization and for Master Gardeners to teach gardening classes at the Presbyterian Night Shelter once they get established in Ft. Worth.

Any changes for the Master Gardener 2005 directory need to be turned in as soon as possible.

Leeann Rosenthal needs volunteers for the Wildflower Seeding on November 10th. She also needs help at Fitzgerald Elementary School in Arlington and the Fort Worth Nature Center. Dates and time were posted on the Information Board.

Steve Chaney advised the Botanic Gardens is in need of docents for tours in various areas of the Gardens. Training times were listed on the information board. He also advised the A&M Advanced School of Floral Design will be holding classes on Dec. 4 and 5 at A&M. The cost is \$140.00. He noted that a division of effort has been worked out between him and **Dottie Woodson**. He will be responsible for the Master Gardener Program and **Dottie** will handle commercial efforts and the Junior Master Gardener Program. **Dottie Woodson** has set up a training date of November 17th from 10 -12 at the Extension Office for presenters to speak to groups on the Junior Master Gardener Program.

Members were directed to the Information Board other items of interest.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

THANKS FOR A GOOD YEAR!

Submitted by the **Activities Committee**

The Activities Committee: **Tammy Edwards, LaVonne Nowlin, Janet Riley, Charlie Shiner**, and chairperson, **Patsy Johnson** would like to thank everyone who helped make this year so successful. We only had one last minute cancellation and one rainy day to spoil an A+ effort. The committee willingly met monthly and was active vocally and physically in planning this year's activities. Special thanks goes to **Mary Margaret Halleck** for planning the trip to Dillard's Feed Store and Proctor's Wholesale Nursery in Weatherford.

When we started the year, we asked TCMGA President **Jo Ann Hahn** what her idea(s) were for activities; then we began planning to achieve them. It was decided, if we were going to tour members' gardens, we wanted to know who had problems, and how did they solve them. We toured gardens that had to overcome major water problems, composters who fit big production in fairly small lots (and those who use trash cans), landscapes that went from hard work formality to native plant informality and still fit into the area, who designed and built their own 'greenhouses', who do fairly major propagation in their garages, and who turned already in place sprinkling system into a more efficient soaker hose system for flowerbeds.

Thanks to: **Mary Nell Hubbard, Taylor Stephens-Parker, Charlie Shiner, Mary Lou Brieger, Raelene Darling, Mary Margaret Halleck, Tammy Edwards, Joyce Hallbauer, Judy Ratzlaff, Gay Larson, Kay Yount and Patsy Johnson** for opening their gardens, sharing their problems and how they solved them.

TCMGA took two road trips this year. Our first was to A&M Research Center/Dallas. Although this trip was not as well attend as other activities, those of us who went were

treated to tours of **Dr. Merchant's** lab and introduced to his staff, **Dr. Ong's** research area, and **Dr. George's** CEMAP gardens. It was well worth the trip.

Our last activity was our biggest. We like to go out with a bang, but, also, **Janet Riley** had to work hard to keep up with the standards that were set earlier by her fellow committee members. Roses are her favorite plant, so she researched places we could visit. She found Antique Rose Plantation on the Internet, and began plans for our visit. She asked the fee in order to include a tea, and was quoted \$5.00. Our tea turned out to be a feast! So besides an informational tour, we came home with very full tummies.

2005 Dues Update

To date, 90 members have paid their 2005 dues. Thank you! For the rest, **dues must be received by December 31** or your name will be dropped and the directory printed without your name. Prompt dues payment is essential to printing the directory early and making it a year long resource. **Please make checks for \$20 out to TCMGA.** Dues may be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed to 2005 Treasurer **Rita Hottel** (116 Cliffside Drive South, Burleson, 76028-3306).

If you are 80 years old as of Dec 31, 2004 and wish to be dues exempt, please notify the Treasurer. We do not keep a record of member's ages.

If do not receive your dues on time, we encourage you to pay the reinstatement dues of \$24 and remain active. There will be a list of members who have paid at every monthly meeting, in case you are unsure if you've paid or not. Let's get this behind us and get back to gardening!

Submitted by **Warren Tingley**
2004 Treasurer

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Managers Phone</u>
102 Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
111 BRIT Activities	call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
121 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2nd 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.	will not be working the 4th Thursday until Tues Nov 30th 10AM	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126 TC SW Sub Courthouse	Dec 11th	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Dec 4 and all 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. 10 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
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

School Gardens

172 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mon s thru mid Dec	Sharon Chastain	817 926-2575
172 Bransom	call chairman	Glenda Page	817 447-8348
172 Brewer	2 nd & 3 rd Thursday	Joyce Hallbauer	817 367-3582
172 Fitzgerald	3:15 p.m. Wed	Leeann Rosenthal	817 237-7180
172 Oakhurst	Contact Ginger	Ginger Bason	817 838-7321
172 South Davis	call chairman	P.J. Lockwood	817 860-1680

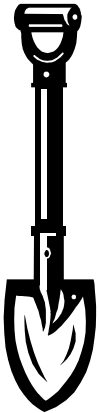
Environmental Projects Partnering with NPSOT Win Award

Submitted by **Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT)**

The North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, who works with TCMGA maintaining demonstration projects at the **Southwest Library**, **Southwest Sub-Courthouse** and **Molly Hollar Wildscape** at Veterans Park, received the NPSOT 2004 Example Award at the recent State NPSOT Symposium. The Example Award is given for partnering with other organizations in maintaining demonstration gardens.

Special thanks go to all the Master Gardeners who work on these demonstration gardens and helped us win this award!

The North Central Chapter NPSOT



INTERN SCOOP

Interns, mark your calendars. **Tuesday, January 4th, 2005** is GRADUATION DAY! It will be held at the Rail Station across from the Extension Office from 6 – 9 pm (menu & cost to follow). **Note: this event is also for MGs who are recertifying for 2005.**

By now the end is in sight. Some of you are finishing up the final 4 hours in the office that will complete the dreaded 72 hours. Most of you are well on your way to receiving the 100 hour award. It is great to see so many of you serving on committees and taking on projects for 2005. It has been a pleasure to work with such a good group of volunteer gardeners. You are a wonderful addition to TCMGA!

Graduation is a special night for you. Invite your spouse or significant other, and family members to join us for dinner to celebrate the end of your intern year and the official “**blue badge**”.

Intern Advisors

Gearing Up for 2005 Meet the New Intern Advisors

Even as the 2004 Interns look toward the completion of their volunteer requirements, plans for the 2005 Interns are well underway. Orientation for potential Interns was held on September 22nd and **Ann Couch** scheduled interviews for October 6th. Intern Advisors for 2005 are **Berry Bock, Devanie Fergus, Doris Hill, Bill Keller, Joy Lease, Dixie Norwood, LaVonne Nowlin, Carla Pickens, Judy Ratzlaff, Charlie Shiner,** and chairman **Kay Gunn.**

What a fun and enthusiastic group they are! And we look forward to working with both **Dotty** and **Steve.**

Submitted by **Kay Gunn**



Update on Urban Plant Detectives

The data observations and spraying are finished and now the number crunching begins. All the information has been turned into **Dr. Kevin Ong** to do ‘statistical magic’. Master Gardeners met with **Dr. Ong** one final time at the Botanic Garden on November 5th to review and recap the project. Participating MGs identified many benefits of participating in the program: learning how to use pump up sprayers, mix a variety of both liquid and powder chemicals, treatment application, identify and quantify plant disease, make and record scientific data observations, and even some basic detective work! The learnings of these twelve individuals will ripple out beyond the original group with knowledge sharing with other MGs and the larger community.

With this, the two goals of the project are complete: 1) ‘to equip Master Gardeners with the knowledge of doing basic research’, and 2) ‘to equip Master Gardeners with the knowledge to interpret the data scientifically.’ Further, the information gathered from this project will be used by **Dotty Woodson** and several MG’s to create a ‘goldmine’ research paper to be submitted to Extension.

Many thanks to those who participated in the project: **Nancy Dozier, Devanie Fergus, Linda Hardy, Patsy Johnson, Joy Lease, Barbara Munn, Joyce Quam, Judy Ratzlaff, Susan Stanek, Warren Tingley, Eleanor Tuck, and Cindy Woelke.** They have paved the way for future TCMGA data observation / gathering projects.

For all who are interested in participating in a study like this, **Dr. Ong** plans to have another project with training beginning in February. More information regarding this project will be available in January. Hats off to **Dr. Ong** for developing this super program for MGs.

Submitted by **Susan Stanek**

HOLLY SPECIMEN TREES

by Derald Freeman

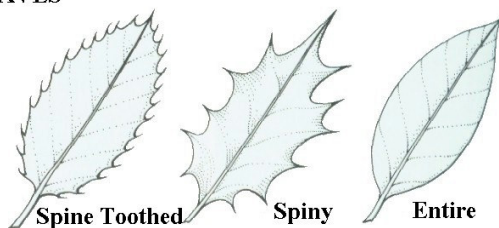
Have you tried it all? Not quite!

You have tried or considered Crape Myrtles, Bradford pears, and other shrub-like trees for your landscape? The only problem is they are beautiful in the summer all leafed out. But when fall comes and they drop all the foliage and look like scarecrows. Why not consider the Holly?

The Holly, *Ilex* sp. is from the Aquifoliacea family. The genus has over 400 species of evergreen and deciduous trees, shrubs, and climbers. There are about a dozen that are popular in Texas and all are evergreen with one exception, the Possumhaw Holly, which drops its leaves in the winter but puts on a dazzling show of red berries that look like a Christmas tree.

Most hollies grow in zones 7-9, many as cold as zone 5. Hollies typically have three types of leaves. Normally leaves are thick and leathery.

ILEX LEAVES



Some species have spiny leaves that are sharp like needles, so plant them away from a walk and just admire them.

The beneficial characteristics of Hollies disease/insect resistance, tolerate most any type of soil, heat and cold tolerant, and keep putting on a show. Most of the hollies have beautiful red berries for fruit/seed. Most hollies are dioecious with some plants only growing female or pistillate flowerets and some only grow male or staminate. To make

sure you do not purchase a male plant, purchase hollies when there are berries on the plant.

My favorite is the 'Nellie R. Stevens' (*Ilex cornuta* 'Nellie R Stevens'). This tall beautiful holly is a vigorous, conical, evergreen female with sparsely spiny leaves and produces abundant scarlet fruit. It makes a splendid screen by a fence or as an accent next to the house. It is disease resistant, tough as nails, and requires little or no attention.

The *Ilex cornuta* 'Needle Point' holly is a close cousin to NRS holly.

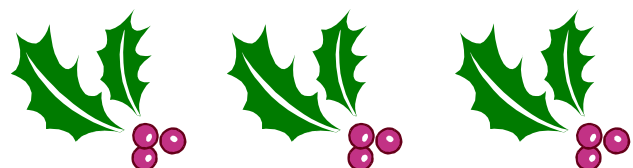
The yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, is commonly grown as a trimmed hedge, tolerates a variety of soils, likes full sun to shade, and will thrive drought soil conditions. This one has small, thin, dark leaves, without the leather appearance of many other hollies.

Burford holly, *Ilex cornuta* 'Burford' is an excellent evergreen choice for a tall shrub under windows or down the side of your house. Leaves have a single spine and produce red berries freely.

To further add to your list of desirable hollies consider the following choices.

'East Palatka' is a pyramidal female tree, 'Foster' has a rounded, pyramidal form with orange-yellow berries, and of course the 'Mary Nell' that has a pyramidal form, dark olive green leaves with short spines and vivid red berries.

Which is best for you? Read about them and make your selection on height and width. The beauty of selecting hollies is, you just can't make a wrong decision.



Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee would like to remind all of the TCMGA members that if you know or hear of someone that is ill or has a death in their immediate family, we would like to know about it so we can send them a card. Please contact **LaVonne Nowlin** at lavonne@ev1.net.

Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

Carole O'Connell 12-1; Sharon Chastain 12-1; Bill Keller 12-1; Mary Flanagan 12-3; Linda Young 12-4; Judy Childers 12-5; Ann Couch 12-7; Susann Draper 12-8; Candy Umberson 12-15; Melissa Cadenhead 12-17; J. Howard Davis 12-17; Jolene Hetrick 12-18; Patsy Johnson 12-19; Donna Christ 12-20; Pam Sustaire 12-21; Nelda McClinchey 12-22; Joyce Miller 12-23; Kathleen McKinney 12-24; Rita Hottel 12-25 (a Christmas child); Dick Dobrovolny; Ester Proctor 12-27; Maxine Graham 12-28; Joyce Quam 12-29; William T. Bryant 12-31.

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in November and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because **LaVonne Nowlin** does not have it. Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.

TCMGA Membership Changes published December 2004

Additions to the Directory:

none

Deletions to the Directory:

none

Changes to the Directory

- Patricia Cravener** cravener@highstream.net
- Joyce Hallbauer** jhalltcmg@airmail.net
- Eleanor Tuck** etuck@sbcglobal.net



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.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street



Winter 2004 - 2005 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| December 2 | Holiday Meeting and Awards Ceremony
10 a.m. at The Club at Fossil Creek |
| January 4 | 2004 Intern Graduation & MG Recertification Dinner
6-9 p.m. at the Rail Station. More details forthcoming. |
| January 6 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection |

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