



Mission Statement

To support and assist Texas Cooperative Extension by providing the community with information on horticultural practices consistent with Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations.



President's Notepad

The end of this Master Gardener year is upon us. Hours are in, new officers will be installed and another year of gardening, learning and fun ends and begins. I want to thank each of you for making the past year special for me. Many of you I have come to know better, many activities have become more familiar and my own learning and development continues. Steve has finished a year with us and is a tremendous asset to our program (he thinks we are also to his!). I continue to be impressed with the accomplishments of talented people working together. We can and do make a difference.

Have a very happy holiday season, health and happiness in the coming year and, of course, good gardening!

Warren

December Monthly TCMGA Program

I hope the TCMGA Projects aren't suffering because everyone is at home trying out those new recipes from the November meeting. There is still a lot for Master Gardeners to do and those hours count for us and for the state funding, so don't spend all of your time in the kitchen!

Reservations for the Awards Celebration on Thursday, December 8th must be made by December 5th. Mail your \$15.00 to Rita Hottel TODAY.

Location: Rivercrest Country Club
Time: 11AM- 1PM
Dress: Holiday casual.

Lots of door prizes and delicious food! Come find out who is awarded this year's Master Gardener of the Year, Intern of the Year, and more. It won't be the same without you!

Ginger Bason

2006 MG DUES

Don't forget 2006 dues are due by December 31st. Thanks to all who have paid so far. Dues can be paid at the Christmas brunch or mail to **Pat Lovejoy**, 125 William Wallace Dr., Burleson, TX 76028. If you plan to pay after the Christmas Brunch, please mail the checks to **Crystal Jones** at the Extension Office.

*** NOTICE ***

Beginning 2006, there will be a \$5 subscription fee to receive the newsletter via US Mail. Payment can be made at monthly meetings.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - November 3, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President **Warren Tingley** at 10:50 a.m. on November 3, 2005 at the Resource Connection. 148 Certified Members and winter Interns were present. Also at the meeting was the complete class of fall Interns.

President **Tingley** welcomed **Marilyn** and **Hilda** from Parker County who will be joining the Tarrant County Master Gardener Assoc.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

Treasurer **Rita Hottel** provided the Treasurer's report. Printed copies were available. She also requested all outstanding bills be turned in as soon as possible along with any changes to the budget for 2006.

It was reported by President **Tingley** that a Telephone Call Committee has been established and will be fully functioning in the near future.

Steve Chaney reported that **Marty Leonard** has donated \$2,500 to the Tarrant County Master Gardeners. This money will be utilized to help offset the cost of \$5,000 for the purchase of three (3) laptop computers and projectors for the TCMGA Speakers Bureau. The membership approved this purchase. An Education Committee has been established to review all Speakers Bureau presentations for conversion to PowerPoint.

The following announcements were made:

Kay Gunn, Intern Advisor, presented the fall Intern Class members and requested information on projects which they may begin working.

Barbara Munn requested the form for Master Gardener Awards be completed and turned in.

Dues for 2006 were being accepted at the meeting as well as tickets were being sold for the Holiday dinner on December 8th.

Ginger Bason reported that the unofficial dollar amount collected for the Garden Conservancy is over \$11,000.

Members were requested to complete the questionnaire on the TCMGA website. This will assist **Carolyn Bernard** with future plans.

Steve Chaney provided information on the Citizen Forester Program, and the rose sale at the Antique Rose Plantation. He also reminded members of the requirement to have all hours through October 2005 turned in immediately.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

Good Times Were Had By All A Special Thank You

Before we get too caught up in planning for next year's activities, it's important that we look back on 2005 and express our sincere appreciation to the Activities Committee and other MGs who devoted many hours and lots of hard work in arranging, scheduling and sprucing up gardens to make this year's field trips unforgettable.

Remember our fabulous bus tour in March to see the Azalea Trail, the IDEA and Heritage Gardens, the wonderful lunch and the stop the Chamblee's Nursery in Tyler? **Susan Stanek**, with the assistance of **Joyce Colegrove**, made all the arrangements with the bus line, the Smith County Master Gardeners, the lunch facilities and Mark Chamblee for his rose propagation demo. It couldn't have been a better field trip.

We followed in March with a trip to the beautiful Clark Gardens, flawlessly arranged through the Parker County Master Gardeners by **Joyce Colegrove** and **Barbara Durnan**. A tasty boxed lunch under the trees, and a bit of shopping, capped off this delightful walking tour.

Cruising through East Ft. Worth's member gardens was a highlight in May, thanks to our "Maven of the Maps", **Judy Butler**, who led us to view her own efforts on her church property; **Werner Pilgrim's** charming cottage garden; **Harriett Shadle's** beautifully landscaped, hillside shade garden, pool, dry stream and gazebo; **Tammye Kuntz's** Asian-inspired garden; and **Dolores Geisel's** terraced, manicured and equally beautiful property. And, no one got lost!

Being of faint heart, the committee elected to avoid group trips in the hottest months, but geared up again in September, spurred on by our resident "Gallop Gadabout", **Carla Pickens**, who arranged our visit to Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, as well as the tasty lunch. This is a remarkable piece of once privately held property, and members were inspired to take lots of notes and pictures of plants and the landscape design.

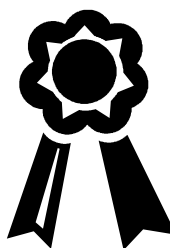
Not to be held back by only one challenge, **Carla** was also responsible for the fun visit to members' gardens in October. Interestingly, each of these gardens demonstrated how residential landscapes can effectively use native and adapted plants to

create beautiful, lush, yet very different settings. **Pat Lovejoy's** shady backyard, complimented by her lovely deck, is a testament to the benefits of organic gardening at its best. Wending our way, we then found **Cynthia Riley's** log cabin in the midst of a natural setting, with charming yard art at every turn, and, for those listening, were treated to her gifted musical talents. Following lunch and shopping, we knocked on **Ben Oefinger's** garden gate to be greeted not just by beautiful landscaping but a true Halloween treat. The Oefingers went all out to decorate for the season and were most gracious in opening their home to our group.

It was, indeed, a very good year!

Activities Chair, **Joy Lease**

The Activities Committee would also like to thank **Joy Lease** for her hard work at making the 2005 Activities so outstanding. We will try to keep up the good work next year.....
Judy Butler, Joyce Colegrove, Barbara Durnan, Carla Pickens, and Susan Stanek.



SPIRIT COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Spirit Committee has taken on the project of identifying members who have received either the Master Gardener of the Year or Intern of the Year Awards. We need to have the information for the years 1987 thru 2004. There are gaps in or existing data bank, therefore we need your help.

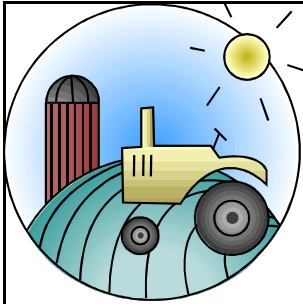
Please call **Marlys Karsh** at 817-738-6892
or email **Joyce Colegrove** at
joycecolegrove@yahoo.com.
Please identify yourself in the email
Subject line as MG Award info.

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Managers Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
312 Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
313 BG Cottage Garden	call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1st, 3rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	every Mon. 10 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325 Weston Gardens Docent	call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326 Teen Challenge	every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
399 Gardening with Dotty	last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat. 2nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4th Thurs, 10 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	1st & 2nd Tues, 1-3:30 pm & 1st Sat	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
407 Willow Park DemoGarden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
408 TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mon/Thurs	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Bransom	call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603 Brewer	call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	3:15 p.m. Wed	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Contact Ginger	Ginger Bason	817-838-7321
606 South Davis	2nd & 4th Thurs, 9:00 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden		Judy Sargent	817-589-0221



Little Hands on the Farm 2006

Another Year Another Big Success!

A big and sincere 'thank you' to each of you who helped with Little Hands on the Farm this year. As usual, it was a huge success. Each of you contributed much to the farming education of each child - and many times to his/her parents!!

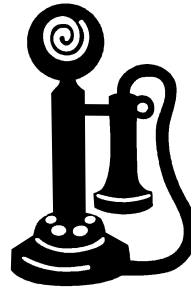
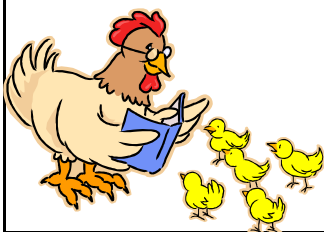
Preliminarily, let me tell you that TCMGA contributed 384 hours plus travel time. This does not include Steve's nor Dotty's time. You may not realize that they were responsible this year for procuring all of the plants and getting them transported to the Fair grounds - thanks, you two, you made us look good!

And did you know that there had to be a pre-planting trip? Five of our MGs went over to Dallas and spent time checking on the grounds, determining what we would need to plant, and most importantly, 'sturdifying' the arbors (is that a good word?). Then there was Planting Day, Opening Day, a couple of extra days to help out, and then Clean-up Day. But there were multiple phone calls necessary to get everything and everyone organized. I understand that we messed up at least once and for that I apologize.

This report would not be possible, were it not for Betty Floyd and her countless hours and energy expended to make this work this year. She was there everyday except the extra days, and she kept her enthusiasm and

positive, quick smile. Thank you, Betty.

Eleanor Tuck



CALLING COMMITTEE

Kathy Howard has volunteered to call members without e-mail to keep them informed about Master Gardener activities. If you are in that category or need to be called for some other reason, please let Kathy know at 817-285-9804. Thanks Kathy for volunteering to do this!

Membership Committee

Happy Birthday,
Master Gardeners!

- 12-1 Carole O'Connell, Sharon Chastain, Bill Keller
- 12-3 Mary Flanagan
- 12-4 Linda Young
- 12-5 Judy Childers
- 12-7 Ann Couch
- 12-8 Susann Draper
- 12-15 Candy Umberson
- 12-16 Julie Hames
- 12-17 Melissa Cadenhead, J. Howard Davis
- 12-18 Jolene Hetrick
- 12-19 Patsy Johnson
- 12-20 Sandra Johnson, Donna Christ
- 12-21 Pam Sustaire
- 12-22 Nelda McClinchey
- 12-23 Carolyn Critz, Joyce Miller
- 12-24 Kathleen McKinney
- 12-25 Rita Hottel
- 12-26 Dick Dobrovoiny, Susan Slagle
- 12-27 Ester Proctor
- 12-28 Maxine Graham
- 12-29 Joyce Quam
- 12-30 William T Bryant
- 12-31 Mary Benavides

Dr. Welsh Addresses Fall Interns

submitted by **Eleanor Tuck**

Recently, I had an opportunity to hear **Doug Welsh**, Ph.D. from A&M, and our Master Gardener Coordinator for the the State of Texas. As many times as I've heard Doug speak through my years of MG, I seem to always learn something. Then I began to wonder how many of you have had an opportunity to hear Doug talk about Master Gardeners, both in a historical sense and in a current sense.

Anyway, here are a few of my notes: the originator of Master Gardeners, from Washington state, was a horticultural agent who realized that he could not possibly handle all the requests from home owners and farmers who needed horticultural help. Thus, **David Gibby** started a MG chapter.

At the present time, in Texas there are 115 MG programs out of 254 counties. Check the wall in the phone office to see if you recognized some of the charter members of our Association who are still active. They got us started in 1987!

Dr. Welsh stressed that Master Gardeners are Volunteers for educational needs of the communities in which we live; however, he always stresses that MGs are educators - not cheap labor. He further states that while we, the MG, do not make the Horticultural Agent's job easier, we do change their roles. Extension was built on Demonstrations—how many of you remember the cooking demonstrations and sewing classes of yesteryear? (Some still continue.) In Texas we think Demonstrations really began in Terrell, Texas, to deal with the cotton boll weevil.

Doug spent a lot of time emphasizing the role of Junior Master Gardeners and of school gardens, in general. There are now over 500 in Texas, and research is very positive about

these programs. Research is showing that children who participate have better school attendance and their academic skills are also better. An interesting fact is that our school gardens are reaching the ethnic minorities to a high degree. Remember who helped you plant your first seed or plant? Research is also showing that these children have a higher consumption of fruits and vegetables—we do tend to eat what we grow!!

Additionally, school garden research is demonstrating a higher number of parents involved and seems to be keeping young girls interested in the sciences and math! But above all, there must be ownership of the garden—nothing looks worse than a fallow garden in the summer.

In 1990, there were 730 Master Gardeners in the state and in 2003, we had 5450 MGs with over 350,000 hours of service. The Aggie website, alone, has had 9 million hits per year and is rated the largest in the world. Does this make you feel you a part of something really big??

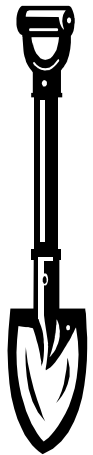
The State Association or Texas State Master Gardeners is an Association of Associations. Each of you is a member. You may attend the quarterly meetings held in A&M and the next one is December xx, 2005. Each Association has two Directors and two Alternates, whose responsibility it is to attend these meetings and to represent you and your concerns. It is also a great opportunity to meet folks from other counties and to exchange ideas. Doug pointed out that COMMUNICATION is critical and the biggest challenge. The State Association is a means we can all use to keep in touch. The membership in the State Association now involves 68 counties and 4,830 Master Gardeners. That should make for a great Annual meeting which will be at Mecca, as Dr. Welsh called it—A&M!

Save the dates May 4, 5 and 6 of 2006 - our state convention. Watch the website for more info. Preliminarily, we will have **Peggy Cornett**, the Garden person of Thomas

Jefferson's Monticello, to speak, and she has been asked to make T.J. come alive as a Gardener. And there will be highlights of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and what their real assignment was. Theme of the Conference is Sharing our Garden Heritage. The Friday night speaker will be **Ben Welch**: People and Volunteer Programs.

Intern Scoop

Submitted by **Kay Gunn**



MG DIRECTORY
NOVEMBER UPDATES

Bev Adkins	badkins@charter.net
Billy Joe Gabriel	817-926-4441 billyjoetexas@yahoo.com
Evaline Woodrey	remove e-mail

Note: Send updates to **Pat Lovejoy**
at patlovejoy@att.net.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|--|
| Dec 8 | TCMGA Christmas Awards/Social |
| Jan 5 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection |
| Feb 2 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection |

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