



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

It isn't often that I am speechless but I was at the January meeting upon receiving the award. Thank you to all the members from all the recipients that were honored. We are all winners so be sure to tell each other how important to TCMGA we all are.

There are many that do work that goes unseen and unknown to the membership as a whole and I wish there was a way to give an award to each and every member, the shovels come close, so wear them with pride and a BIG thank you for all you do.

If you missed the January meeting you missed out on a chance to win the Mystery Plant (a bay tree) so come and try to win in February. You also missed out on three chances to win a \$20.00 gift card to Lowe's, Home Depot or Marshall Grain. February could be your lucky month but you must be present to win.

Also, if you have an interest in serving on a committee PLEASE ask a board member or committee chair and if you have an idea PLEASE share it with one of us. We are always looking for new ideas to improve TCMGA.

WELCOME to the intern class that graduated Jan. 10th. We are expecting big things from you!!!!

Are there any of you that can teach us how to do a RAIN DANCE??????????

—Ginger Bason

February Monthly TCMGA Program

Wow! There was such a positive response to our program on BATS and on Vegetable Gardening that I'm thinking maybe this "assignment" isn't all bad! It is very gratifying to get such warm feedback. I want to extend our great appreciation to **Ben Oefinger, Warren Tingley, LaVonne Nowlin, Ed Vaughan, Don Graves and Ben Walker** for the time and energy they gave in sharing their knowledge for successful vegetable gardening.

Lynn Barber, President of the Fort Worth Audubon Society, will be our guest speaker at the February 2nd meeting. She holds a PhD. in bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin and a JD from Duke University Law School. Lynn will begin our 10:00 am program on North Texas Birding and will address things to do to attract birds in your yard as well as some of the birds around north Texas in the winter.

At 12:00, Lynn will show and tell all about "2005 Great Big Year of Texas Birding".

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee
- 10:00 North Texas Birding, Attracting Birds to your Garden – **Lynn Barber**
- 11:00 Business meeting and social
- 12:00 2005 Texas Birding – **Lynn Barber**

Hope to see everyone in February.

—Joy Lease



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - January 5, 2005

President Ginger Bason called the meeting to order at 11:05. 151 members were in attendance. The following business items were approved: minutes of the December 2005 meeting and the budget for 2006.

The following announcements were made:

At the February meeting, the sign-in desk will be moved to the outside hall in order that latecomers will not disturb the program in progress.

Newsletter information needs to be turned in to Tammy Edwards by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Door prizes will be awarded at all meetings this year.

Shari Stanfield is signing up people to work the Neil Sperry Home and Garden Show in February.

Each month a mystery plant will be brought to the meeting. Members can attempt to identify the plant. There will be a drawing for the plant at the end of the meeting.

Steve Chaney announced the following:

The TCMGA organization provided over 40,000 volunteer hours this year.

There were 113 members with over 100 hours.

The dates for the Home and Garden Shows were incorrect as posted in the newsletter.

Information on the Advanced Master Gardener Training will be announced shortly.

Barbara Munn announced Awards to the following members:

Warren Tingley:	Past President
Ginger Bason:	Master Gardener of the Decade
James Nelson:	Master Gardener of the Year (1,000 hours in 2005)
Judy Ratzlaff:	Volunteer of the Year (513 hours in 2005)
Kay Gunn, Mary McCoy and Charlie Shiner:	Xtra Mile Award
Sharon Chastain, Pat Lovejoy, Joyce Quam and Warren Tingley:	Special Merit Award
Gailon Hardin (412 hours in 2005) and Derald Freeman:	Education/Educator
Joy Poppelreiter:	Intern of the Year
Donna Morris, Sharon Clark and Ashley Moncrief:	Intern Special Awards



Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

You might think that Gladiolus grow from bulbs....wrong!

They actually grow from a closely related cousin, the "corm". Read what Dr. Welch has to say about 'glads.

Gladiolus in the Garden

By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Gladiolus are grown for their showy spikes of flowers which come in many colors. There are large-flowering types as well as small glads that may be used as background plants in the garden, or in rows, or as cut flowers for the home. If care is given to a planting schedule, flowers can be available from early summer until frost. To achieve this, the corms are planted at various times, usually at 2- or 3-week intervals, from as early as mid-February until the last of April. Set the corms 4 to 5 inches deep and 5 to 6 inches apart in groups or rows.



Gladiolus prefer well-prepared garden soils with good drainage. As soon as plants are 6 to 8 inches tall, apply fertilizer, such as 13-13-13, at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet. Organic fertilizer sources, such as cottonseed meal, also work well. Water thoroughly when soil appears dry, and stake if necessary.

To save gladiolus corms for next year, dig the corms after the foliage has dried in late summer or fall. Remove the soil and snap off the dead tops. The old or original corm may be removed and discarded at this time. Spread the corms out on the garage or storage-room floor and allow to dry for 3 to 4 days. Place the corms in boxes with dry peat moss or sawdust. If a large number is involved, make some boxes that are 3 to 4 inches deep with bottoms made of hardware cloth. Store in a dry, cool place at a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees F. Check them periodically during the winter for signs of rotting or rodent damage, and discard

those affected.

At least two species of gladiolus are considered heirloom plants in our area and may be left in the ground and grown as perennials. *Gladiolus byzantinus*, sometimes known as cornflags, mark many old home sites and cemetery plots in Texas and the South. Their magenta and rarely-white flower spikes are smaller than the hybrids usually available in florists and nurseries.

Another interesting gladiolus is *Gladiolus natalensis*, sometimes known as the parrot gladiolus. Flowers of this species, which is native to Africa, are larger than those of *G. byzantinus*, and are a brilliant combination of yellowish green and red.

Both of these gladiolus may be grown as perennials, and usually increase in numbers each year. They are commercially available, however, only from specialty bulb sources.

Gladiolus Trivia

Name: Gladiolus, gladiola, "glads", and even "Sword Lilly". Why Sword Lilly, you might ask? It's because of their long, sword-like leaves thus named by Romans.

Popular sp: "Gladiolus *byzantinus*."

Origin: South Africa

Color: White and soft pastels, pinks, oranges, peach, yellow, red and purple.

Corms are modified stems.

Intern Class Announcement

Dr. Bill Welch will be speaking at the intern class on February 28th and not March 8th.

Everyone is invited to attend. Unfortunately the room is small.

—Steve Chaney

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>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	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	Every Mon. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Project	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. 2 nd 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.	4 th Thurs, 10 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 1-1:30, 1 st Sat 9:30-noon	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
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	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
603 Brewer	Call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817-367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Call chairman	Margaret Hare	817-763-5054
606 South Davis	2 nd & 4 th Thurs, a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden	Wed - Call chairman	Dolores Geisel	817-446-4536



MASTER GARDENER LOGO ITEM SALES

This year TCMGA will again be offering the Master Gardener Logo Items for sale to TCMGA members. Our list will include T-shirts, long and short sleeve khaki and denim work shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts and various other items. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer women's sizes as well as the men's sizes offered in the past.

So that we can get the best prices possible, we will order only once from our vendor after all of member orders have been collected. You will be able to order the items you want at the February and March TCMGA meetings. Your payment will be required at the time of your order. We expect the items to be available at the April TCMGA meeting.

We will also be offering a selection of #1 grade Caladium bulbs only at the February meeting. All items must be pre-paid by either cash or check.

—James Nelson
817-467-2304 nelsonj2@swbell.net

SPECIAL THANKS

..to Marilyn Sallee for helping with the 2006 MG directory and to Charlotte Krystinik for the cover design. It is now finished and if everything goes as planned, we hope to have it printed in time for the February meeting.

Thanks also to all who got their timesheets in and paid their 2006 dues in a timely manner. With the change in our certification year to October 31st, hopefully the process will go even smoother next year.

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR TIME-SHEETS MONTHLY! If you need a copy of the timesheet, check the website; call or e-mail Dolores Geisel or Pat Lovejoy; or pick one up at a meeting.

—Pat Lovejoy

SCRAPBOOKING FUN

Have you ever looked through the many TCMGA Scrapbooks???? A few of them will be available at the monthly meetings for members to look through and enjoy.

If you have pictures, printed material, and souvenirs etc. for 2005 please get them to Debbie Bollinger to be included and please begin saving and sending items for 2006.

Happy Birthday,
Master Gardeners!

- 2-1 Charlie Shiner and Kay Gunn
- 2-4 M. J. Martinez and Phyllis White
- 2-6 Sher Dunaway
- 2-7 Pat Lovejoy
- 2-9 Edwynna Lewis and Jim Beeler
- 2-11 Tina Castillo
- 2-12 Greta Beckler
- 2-15 Beatrice Stevenson
- 2-17 Ed Vaughan
- 2-19 Barbara Munn
- 2-20 Terri Mann
- 2-21 Renee Ramsey
- 2-24 Marion Badey
- 2-25 Evaline Woodrey and C. J. Bolton
- 2-27 Edith Pewitt, Margaret Collins, and Judi Martin.

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month 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.

Texas Master Gardener Association State Meeting

At the quarterly meeting of the TMGA the following officers for 2006 rotated into these positions; Jan Shannon, Nueces –President: Mimi Lyles, Tarrant- 1st vice President: Wayne Rhoden Past President. The following were elected: Karen Bittner, Hood - 2nd Vice President: George Ammerman, Guadalupe - Secretary, and Virginia Kreps, Wichita-Treasurer.

Master Gardener membership statewide is now just under 5,000, with 400 of our members now trained as specialists. Specialist classes so far this year will be Propagation-Tarrant in mid May; Oak Wilt- Bell, June 20 and 21st: Rainwater Harvesting-Menard, July 22 and 23. Information as to cost and registration forms can be found on the state web page (texasmastergardeners.com)

A hurricane relief donation of \$1000.00 from the state association will be sent to the Botanical Garden in Beaumont, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Plans for the 2006 MG conference in College Station are being finalized. Look for details on Tours, Workshops, Speakers, and Lodging on the web page (state). Space will be limited, so make your reservations early.

Background checks for all Master Gardeners are required statewide.

The Guidelines for Emeritus Status to recognize outstanding individual contributions to TCE have been finalized and can be found on our web page or posted at our monthly meetings.

Submission forms for state awards were revised and submissions will be sent out of state for external judging.

Our state web site, (texasmastergardeners.com), carries a current listing of events that are of state-wide interest to MG's. Please check it out.

by JoAnn Hahn

NAME BADGES

We hope you will wear your name badge at meetings. If you do not have yours, we can provide a name tag so everyone knows who you are and ask that you donate a dollar.

—The Advisory Board members thank you.

Authorized Purchase

The Executive Board authorized the purchase of a \$50 embossed brick for the Garden Council walk at the Botanic Garden

—Judy Butler

GARDENING RESOURCES EXCHANGE

At each monthly meeting we continue to offer a *Resources Exchange Function* designed to allow members to share and acquire resources without cost. Among these are seeds, seedlings, bulbs, root stock, cuttings, and other live material as well as tools, potting and transplanting supplies and propagation supplies. Any materials and equipment related to gardening are welcome.

When members bring materials to the resource exchange, please bring seeds in heavy “zip lock” bags with legible notes explaining the plants which the seeds will produce with a description of the plant size and environmental needs, and preferably a color photo of the mature plant. These are available from web sites if the member does not have a digital or film photo taken by the member. Live plant material should be likewise labeled with some kind of a labeling system.

If members have large items or plants available for rescue and transplanting, or any items which are impractical to transport to the meeting, please bring a printed description, and photo if possible, for display on the bulletin board.

If members are searching for a particular item or plant material, bring an “I’m looking for a ...” notice for the bulletin board.

This exchange is an excellent means to share resources with each other. Please participate by bringing resources to share, and picking up resources to improve your garden.

Submitted by Dave Wilson

Thank You

Ray and I want to thank everyone that worked at the orchard this year, putting in the gardens, maintenance, and getting ready for the Sept. and Oct. field trips. We had a wonderful year in 2005, with approximately 6000 children coming through, that’s not counting parents and teachers. We could not do this without the help of the fantastic master gardeners and friends that give their time and energy. The children learn so much from this experience and we get so many good reports from the teachers that visit each year. Thanks to all of you that worked, you know who you are and the list is too long to print. We are looking forward to another great year. Thank you, Sue and Ray Short-Henrietta Creek Orchard.

—Sue Short

Garage Sale



Our third annual MG garage sale will be held during the first part of the April meeting. Start planning now to bring those items you no longer use or think another Master Gardener would like.

All kinds of things sell: pots, plants, books, tools, and anything related to gardening. You will need to price your items before you bring them to the meeting.

All proceeds of the garage sale go to funding our TCMGA projects. We will also have a silent auction for items deemed to be of great quality or interest.

We have raised approximately \$600 each year we have held this sale.

Let's beat that total this year!

—Judy Butler

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-5504



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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| Feb 10-12 | Fort Worth Home & Garden Show |
| Feb 24-26 | Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show |
| Mar 10-12 | Will Rogers Home & Garden Show |
| Feb 28 | Dr. Bill Welch speaks at the MG Intern Class |
| March 8-9 | Water-rama |
| Mar 11 | Johnson County MG Lawn & Garden Show |
| Mar 25 | Spring Yard Smart Seminar |
| Apr 4-7 | TCMGA pilots a new Level 2 Master Gardener Class |
| May 2-4 | Pizza Ranch |
| May 4-7 | Mayfest |
| May 4-6 | Texas Master Gardener State Conference in College Station |

—Steve Chaney

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