

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association February 2008

Mission Statement

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

LANDSCAPING WITH A LITTLE HARDSCAPE

If you are interested in hardscape appeal for your yard then here are some great tips to follow. This is just a teaser article. You can check out some good landscaping books for some reference ideas and browse your internet for more ideas.

Very few homes had landscaping when I was growing up. Those with some adornment were people with time on their hands. The flowerbeds ran straight across the front or side of the house in a straight line. There was absolutely no imagination. The time for straight rows and lines are gone in favor of a more flowing natural design. Our landscaping concepts have evolved, and I say much for the better. Deeper beds are divided by a walking path in the middle that often meanders to a sitting bench at the end.

Here are some useful definitions.



Focal Point - the point of convergence to which the eye is drawn because of the design - the "bull's eye".

Balance - a state that is achieved when the elements of a design are so composed that they give a feeling of stability and security.

Mechanical Balance - balance achieved through the proper dispersal of physical materials (positive space).

- Symmetrical - formal, man-made balance
- Asymmetrical - informal, natural style without formality.

Visual Balance - achieved by the proper use of color and placement in sequence of related sizes of materials in conjunction with structural balance.

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Can you landscape with hardscape?

What has changed in landscaping during the last 50 years?

Find the answers on pages 1 and 4.

FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

We are all richer! We are 60 new certified members richer. The Fall '06 and Spring '07 Intern classes graduated and became certified members in January. They worked very hard to become certified and they finally made it. These new members contributed over 9000 hours last year. The slideshows at the graduations showed them working, touring, learning, visiting, and laughing. There was a lot of laughing.

The slideshows also showed the intern advisors who also worked very hard to get these new members certified. The advisors make sure there are plenty of educational opportunities outside of the class and among other things, they also represent our organization to the new people coming in, and are a familiar face at the meetings.

The slideshows did not show the people in our organization that helped with these classes behind the scenes. Some made sure all of the books were put together when the class started. Others helped train the newcomers on the dreaded telephone. Some trained on the MG projects. Others offered support.

These new members would not have been able to certify without the hard work of everyone involved. I am very thankful for all of you. Thanks for a job well done.

—Tammy Edwards



February 7, 2008 Program

This month, I am delighted to report that Dr. Richard Browning of the Trinity River Authority (TRA) will present our February program. He will 'reprise' and expand upon his presentation from our June 2007 field trip to River Legacy Park in Arlington.

Dr. Browning is Senior Manager, Planning & Environmental Management Division, TRA. He oversees water quality and water supply investigations for the Trinity River Basin. With 35 years at TRA, he is an expert on the Trinity River and surrounding ecosystems.

Our schedule will be:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 9:30-10:00 | Sign in and coffee |
| 10:00-11:00 | Richard Browning, "Trinity River Past" |
| 11:00-12:00 | Business meeting and snack lunch |
| 12:00-1:00 | Richard Browning, "Trinity Now & Future" |

This program will cover the history, current status and preservation aspects of the Trinity as it impacts our community. It is richly relevant to all Master Gardeners and a program not to be missed!

— Susan Stanek

Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes January 3, 2007

Program: 1st Vice President Susan Stanek introduced today's speaker Wayne Pianta from Ball Horticultural Company.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Tammy Edwards at 10:55 and welcomed members and MG guests.

- Minutes to the December 6, 2007 meeting were approved as printed in the Sharecropper.
- As outgoing Treasurer, Tammy Edwards reported the following Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account:	\$13,027.69
Savings Account:	2,577.09
3 CDs totaling:	16,015.09

This report will be filed for audit.

Announcements:

- The TCMGA March meeting date has been changed to **Thursday, March 13** due to a scheduling conflict at the Resource Connection.
- Home and Garden Show schedules, contact Judy Sargent
- Victory Boxes see Mary Margaret Halleck. Sewing day January 9.
- Shared Plants, see Dave Wilson
- Mystery Plant (Daisy), brought by Ben Oefinger
- Fall 2006 MG Class graduation: January 8. Spring 2007 MG Class graduation: January 15. See Eleanor Tuck or call 817-884-1945.
- South Regional MG Conference, June 18 – 20, Oklahoma City, OK.
- The Doug Welsh book, *Texas Garden Almanac*, is being sold by TCMGA for \$16. Members may pick up prepaid copies today from JoAnn Hahn.
- "Butterflies in the Garden" at Fort Worth Botanic Garden is March 1 – 31. Training for docents TBA.
- There are changes to the Timekeepers. They will be announced via e-mail. Timesheets sent to outgoing Timekeepers will be forwarded to new Timekeepers.
- Presentation of door prizes.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

—Submitted by Joyce Quam, TCMGA Secretary

LEADERSHIP

President—Tammy Edwards
tammy.edwards@gmail.com

1st VPresident—Susan Stanek
slstanek@charter.net

2nd VPresident—Bill Hall

Secretary—Joyce Quam
dqum5@juno.com

Treasurer—Carl Trehus
c.trehus@gte.net

Sharecropper Editor—
Derald Freeman
grreatideas@sbcglobal.net

Sharecropper Submissions—
Judy Butler
jubutl@aol.com

Activities—Kay Gunn
kaygunn2138@sbcglobal.net

Birthdays/Sunshine—LaVonne
Nowlin lavonnen@sbcglobal.net

Directory changes and
Membership—Sue Ellen Schlitzer
s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net

Steve Chaney
s-chaney@tamu.edu

TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>

TCMGA office 817-884-1944

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Line - the visual path the eye follows to produce motion.

Proportion - comparison of the relationship of the units of a composition to each other in size, quantity, and setting (environment) - often referred to as scale.

Texture - the physical characteristics of the materials in the design.

Rhythm - the apparent flow of line from the focal point; the repetition of materials giving force and movement without monotony; the sequence of color harmony, and the graduation of the materials.

Color - a design element that is extremely important, yet often given too much attention, to the detriment of the other elements. Color can evoke many emotions and is universal in its effects. It can be subtle and soothing or it can create discord

and put nerves on edge. As a result it can have great impact, positive or negative, on the harmony and rhythm in a design.

The study of the science of color can give a designer a unique insight into how to manipulate a design in order to achieve a certain

response or aid in figuring out why harmony and rhythm are not achieved. Learn to use a color wheel (purchased at craft stores with artist supplies).

Predominately cool colors like green, blue and purple give a garden the illusion of depth. Darker plants like Holly's and Privets with deep green leaves go well in the back. They create a backstop and focal point for the eye. Lighter, warmer colors do well in the front. Remember, what you see during the warm weather (Texans call 100° warm, 110° is hot) is not what you see during the cold dormant season. If you want to enjoy the area all year, plant lots of evergreen shrubs and evergreen flowering plants. These plants accomplish this. Boxwood, Elaeagnus, Gardenia, Rosemary & Lavender, Holly *Ilex spp.*, Indian Hawthorns, Juniper, Ligustrum, Oleander, Privets, Pittosporum, Texas Sage and Yew.



—by Derald Freeman

FEBRUARY GARDEN TIPS



Winter is over with the arrival of February. It is time to get out and garden again. A potted plant, tree, shrub, or rose make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones. Don't neglect those

Christmas plants. Keep in cool area with bright light, moist soil, and away from drafts for longer display.

FLOWERS:

It's time to select and plant gladiolus bulbs for summer blooms. Cannas, daylilies, ornamental grasses and mums may be divided once new foliage appears in early spring. It's also time for planting groundcovers and planting cool season annuals such as calendula, hollyhocks and nasturtium. Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.

VEGETABLES:

Early to mid-February is vegetable planting time for cool season crops such as onions, broccoli, cabbage, beets, potatoes, radishes, greens, spinach, peas, carrots, and turnips. Early planting assures a good harvest prior to summer heat.



LAWNS:

Apply a pre-emergence herbicide now for lawns that had a summer weed problem last year. The mild weather may already be triggering weed germination. The best defense against lawn weeds is a healthy, thick turf resulting from good management. Don't rely on chemicals alone!

PLANTING:

Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant, including roses, bare-rooted fruit and

nut trees, grape, blueberry and blackberry. Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants this month. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes. With plants, biggest is not always best. Medium to small sized (4 to 6 feet) usually become established faster than the larger sizes. Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly, the first year.

PRUNING:

February is the best time to prune.

Tea roses: Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes, retaining several healthy canes. Make clean, sharp cuts just above buds which point outward, trimming to 18 to 24 inches above ground. Do not prune climbers. Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.

Crape myrtles: If the seed heads bother you, just clip back the ends of the branches, but do not prune otherwise. Heavy pruning is not necessary.

Spring flowering shrubs: Wait to prune spring-flowering plants such as spirea, azalea, forsythia or quince until after they bloom.

Shrubs & trees: Before buds begin to swell for spring, finish pruning summer flowering trees and shrubs, including peach and plum trees early this month. When pruning shrubs, first prune out any dead or damaged branches; then thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; and last, shape the rest of the plant, but do not cut everything back to the same height.



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Recommended Planting Dates & Vegetable Cultivars for February

February 1 - April 1

Rutabaga (*Brassica napus* var. *napobrassica*) American Purple Top

February 5 - May 1

Radish (*Raphanus sativus*) red: Inca, Champion, Cherry Belle; White Icicle, Snow Belle

February 10 - February 25

Leeks (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *porrum*) seed, American Flag

February 10 - March 1

Beets (*Beta vulgaris*) Pacemaker III

Carrot (*Daucus carota*) Red Core or Royal Burpee's Toudo, Park's Nandor, Denver's 126

Lettuce, Head (Classic, Park's Mission

Onion, Bulbing (*Allium cepa*) Current year transplants only: yellow: Texas Supersweet (Grano 1015Y), Yellow Granex; red

Onion, Bunching [Scallions] (*Allium cepa*) Current year seed: Beltsville Bunching

Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*) Moss Curled, Plain (Italian)

Peas, English (*Pisum sativum*) Little Marvel, Wando, Dwarf Gray Sugar

Peas, Edible-Podded (*Pisum sativum*) Sugar Snap (bush), Sugar Ann (bush), Sugar Pop (bush), Super Sugar Mel (vine)

February 10 - March 10

Chard, Swiss (*Beta vulgaris* var. *cicla*) Rhubarb (red color), Lucullus, Fordhook

Kale (*Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala*) Dwarf Blue Curled, Blue Knight

February 10 - March 15

Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) Melody, Coho, Iron Duke

Lettuce, Leaf (*Lactuca sativa*) Salad Bowl, Red Sails (red color) Lettuce, Cos or Romaine

February 10 - April 1

Collards (*Brassica oleracea* var. *acephala*) Blue Max, Georgia

February 15 - March 1

Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) crowns: Jersey Giant, UC 157

Broccoli (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*) Premium Crop, Emperor Green Comet, Galaxy, Packman, Baccus, Early Dawn

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*) Early Jersey Wakefield, Rapid Ball, Ruby Ball

Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*) Snow Crown

Potato, Irish (*Solanum tuberosum*) red: Norland (early season), Red LaSoda (midseason), white: Kennebec (late season)

February 15 - April 1

Mustard (*Brassica juncea*) Florida Broadleaf, Southern Giant Curled, Tendergreen

-by Marilyn Sallee

YUM - YUM !

February is Hot Dog month.
Bring your dollars.
Remember how good those were last year?

2008 TEXAS MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE IN CONROE

April 24-26, 2008 Master Gardener State Conference in Conroe, TX
For more information check this web site.

www.texasmastergardenerconference.com

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 2, 2008, Saturday—Groundhog Day began on February 2, 1886 with a proclamation in *The Punxsutawney Spirit* by the newspaper's editor. If the Groundhog sees his shadow he expects storms and retreats back inside to hibernate for six more weeks of winter.

Since the 1993 release of the film *Groundhog Day*, that starred Bill Murray as a TV weatherman who wakes up and it's *Groundhog Day* over and over again I am convinced a good attitude on February 2 is absolutely essential.



February 5, 2008 - Tuesday - Mardi Gras is observed on February 5 and falls on the day before Ash Wednesday. The day is known as Fat Tuesday.



February 14, 2008, Thursday—Valentine's Day will be observed with roses and flowers of all types on February 14. Don't forget the flowers.



February 18, 2008 Monday—President's Day is observed on the third Monday in February.

President's Day is observed on February 18 for both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's Birthday is February 12. Washington's Birthday is February 22.



—the editor

HOLLY—The Favorite of Evergreens

My favorite evergreen is the Holly (*Ilex sp.*), from the Aquifoliacea family. There are about a dozen that are popular in Texas and all are evergreen with one exception, the Possumhaw Holly drops its leaves in the winter but puts on a dazzling show of red berries that look like a Christmas tree. At this time of year they will be covered with red berries unless the birds stripped them.

Hollies grow in zones 7-9, and many as cold as zone 5.



They are basically disease resistant. That tidbit always makes several dozen ears perk up. These are tough, tolerate to most any type of soil, temperature and moisture conditions and they keep putting on a show. Most of the hollies have fruit, but to be sure buy your tree/shrub when there are berries on the plant. These often have slow to medium growth habits so don't expect overnight results.

-the editor

REDENTA'S DONATES PLANTS FOR THE TRIAL GARDEN PROJECT

In November, Ruth Kinler of Redenta's generously donated 30 plants to the Trial Garden Project. The Botanic Garden will provide a donation plaque on the trial beds where the plants are located. In this way, Redenta's gets credit and visitors to the garden will know where they can find the plants! We hope that Redenta's is only the first of many local nurseries to become involved in this worthwhile project!

Volunteers who are preparing to plant Redenta's donated plants are (left to right).

Susan Miller,	Candy Umberson,
MiMi Mancuso,	Karen Kologe,
Pat Henshaw,	Judy Jackson,
Emily Beyette,	Claire Alford,
Nan Garvin.	



Fort Worth Botanic Garden Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of volunteer opportunities at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden during "Butterflies in the Garden" March 1-30, 2008. This is an every other year extravaganza!!! Volunteers complete an application and attend ONE 3-hour training session. Please contact Nick Reeder with your name and choice of training session: Nicholas.Reeder@fortworthgov.org or call 817-871-7966.

The sessions to choose from are:

Saturday,	Feb 2, 9:00 AM—noon
Tuesday,	Feb 5, 5:30 PM—8:30 PM
Wednesday,	Feb 6, 8:30 AM—11:30 AM

Susan Miller <semiller@sbcglobal.net>

Gardening Totes to Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been at war for over 30 years. Most of the people are very poor and, consequently, have used most of the vegetation for firewood. Colonel Clark Murff is at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, where the Afghanistan National Army is trained. At Camp Phoenix, Colonel Murff is making plans for the next group of Gardening Totes. He and his team have adopted three orphanages in Kabul, and Colonel Murff thought it would be a great idea to color the place up!

So we must get busy again. For the next shipment, we will need the same things we put in the previous Gardening Totes. The following is a list of what we'd like to include:

- Gardening gloves/garden tool/packets of seeds
- Small packages of tissues (Kleenex)
- Aprons
- Grooming items; hair brush, nail brush, manicure kit, band aids, bar of soap and towel or wash cloth
- Coloring books, crayons or colored pencils
Any school item; ruler, glue stick, pencil sharpener, spiral notebook, pens. etc.
- Flip flops, hat, barrette
- Toy gardening pail or watering can
- Candy and/or snacks (raisins, individual size)

Also, if you can sew, we will have pre-cut packets of aprons and tote bags ready for you to take home to complete and bring back to the March meeting. Therefore, please call Devanie Fergus if you would like to take an apron or tote bag home to sew.

Devanie's number is 817-861-1932. Call Mary Margaret Halleck at 817-251-1201 with any other questions.

I can't thank you all enough for all the hard work and dedication you have shown to our troops and their efforts.

--Mary Margaret Halleck

Gardening Resources Exchange

It's time to think about sharing all those seeds and plant materials we have all produced over the past year.

A favorite feature of the monthly meetings is the sharing of all the wonderful resources we have collected and produced as our gardens prosper and produce. Dave Wilson, the coordinator of this activity has "cleaned house" and discarded all of last year's resources so that we can start the new year afresh. Many MG's were faithful and frequent contributors to this activity and we all enjoyed the bounty of their efforts and stewardship. We thank the uncounted and unnamed members for their continuing support of this endeavor.

Here are a few suggestions to help all members in providing resources, as well as benefit from our members' generosity:

- Any gardening related items are welcome: seeds, plants, tools, materials, pots and planting/propagation aids.
- Please bring seeds in clear "zip-lock" bags with notes or labels to identify them for those of us who may not be able to recognize them by shape and color. Photos of mature plants would be helpful, as well.
- Plants need to have identity "sticks" in the pots as well for the same reason.
- If you have a plant that is too large to easily transport, or great quantities of plants, create a notice with all the particulars on an 8 1/2 X 11 sheet for the bulletin board.
- If you are searching for particular plants or other exchange resource items, create a notice for the bulletin board and label it boldly "WANTED" or "LOOKING FOR..."

The object of this activity is to share that which we have to help other gardeners with their gardening needs. Please participate in every way that you can...that is the mission and purpose of this organization.

Please contact Dave Wilson with questions or suggestions and comments.

RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED!!!

All that wonderful 'junk' that you uncluttered from your home, garage, shed, and yard last year provided **\$2600** to our TCMGA well deserving projects last year!

You are invited to go visit and/or work at one or two of these projects to see how they benefited from your trash to treasure items. So for 2008, be your own therapist and get busy cleaning out and bring us 'trash/treasure' for the raffle! Surely, you received Christmas gifts that don't quite match your personality. However, with over 300 members, those items are bound to match someone's personality.

In March you will get one free ticket for a donated raffle item.

The 2008 Raffle Committee
Lucurtis Williams, Donna Morris, Joanne McClendon, Pat Higgins, Sandra Johnson

CALADIUM BULB SALE

We will be taking orders for Caladium bulbs at the February 7 Master Gardener meeting to be delivered at the April meeting. The same four varieties will be available that we had last year.

These varieties are: Candidum Classic, Sunrise, White Queen, and Carolyn Whorton. Photographs of each variety will be available for your review at the meeting.

The performance of the bulbs last year was excellent. The bulbs will be #1 variety and purchased from the same source we used in 2007.

Price is 60 cents each
No limits on quantity per order

Orders cannot be accepted after the February meeting. Your completed order must be paid by cash or check at the time of ordering. You can call 817-737-9890 with any questions.

—Ways & Means Committee, Bill Hall



Birthdays for this month

- February 1 - Charlie Shiner, Kay Gunn
- February 4 - M. J. Martinez, Phyllis White
- February 6 - Sher Dunaway
- February 7 - Pat Lovejoy
- February 9 - Edwynna Lewis
- February 12 - Greta Beckler, Louise Kelly-Bellew
- February 14 - Ileana Craft, Sue Ellen Schlitzer
- February 15 - Beatrice Stevenson
- February 17 - Ed Vaughan
- February 18 - Ildeliza Galaviz
- February 19 - Barbara Munn
- February 20 - Terry Mann
- February 24 - Marion Badey
- February 25 - Evaline Woodrey
- February 26 - C. J. Bolton
- February 27 - Edith Pewitt, Margaret Collins, Judith Martin
- February 29 - Toni Hernandez

LaVonne Nowlin—lavonnen@sbcglobal.net

MARCH MONTHLY MG MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED

The March meeting date has been changed.

Instead of the MG meeting being on the first Thursday of the month **we will meet at our usual location on Thursday, March 13.**

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	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Cindy Woelke	817-421-4201
312 BG Trial Garden	Call chairman	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
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	First Mon.-Warm Place 10 a.m., 2nd-4th Mon. - Reg. Schedule	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.	Gayle van Leeuwen Barbara Gates	817-472-7264 817-465-6656
326 Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	(Contact project leaders below)		
Mowing/Edging:	Jerry Sorenson, jerryasorenson@charter.net		817-427-9009
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
TCU students:	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817-294-2414
Greenhouse:	Nancy Curl, nu_curl@yahoo.com		817-319-1795
Compost:	Charles Shiner, mcshiner@sbcglobal.net		817-548-7117
Roses:	Karen Kologe, KPK@charter.net		817-924-6449
Perennial beds: (developing)	Joann Hahn, joannhahn@att.net		817-923-9250
	Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-838-7321
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net		817-295-2883
Orchard and Berry	Renee Beckum jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net		214-914-6597
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat. 2 nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	Thurs. & Sat 9-12 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 8:30 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 2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	1st Sat, 9-12 Tues 1-3:30 p.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
408 TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
<u>School Gardens</u>			
601 Alice Carlson	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Call chairman	Carl Trehus	817-481-3435
611 Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598

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



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Feb 1-3	Fort Worth Home & Garden Show
Feb 7	TCMGA monthly meeting
Feb 29-Mar 2	Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show
Mar 13	Monthly MG meeting (2nd Thursday instead of 1st Thursday)
Mar 14-16	Will Rogers Home & Garden Show
Apr 5	Earth-Kind Rose Symposium—Cleburne
Apr 11	JMG Advisory Board Meeting
Apr 19-20	Chamblee's Rose Adventure—Tyler
Apr 24-26	Master Gardener State Conference in Conroe www.texasmastergardenerconference.com
May 5-7	Pizza Ranch
May 13	Interpretation of TCMGA Community Garden for Tarrant County Commissioners Court
May 19-21	Waterama
Jun 18-20	Southern Regional MG Conference—Oklahoma City, OK



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