



Happy New Year !!!

Greetings from JoAnn

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a new year at Master Gardeners.

The format for the meetings will remain the same (79 out of 96 surveys were in favor of it): 9:30 to 10 sign in: 10 to 11 workshop: 11 to 11:20 business meeting; 11:20 to 12 meet, greet, and eat: and 12 to 1 program. Business meetings will be short and concise; all announcements will have to be in writing or e-mailed to me prior to the workshop.

Make sure you pick up a list of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Project Chairs at the January meeting. Their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are included. If you have questions, suggestions, or constructive criticism, you will know whom to contact. No organization can reach its potential without a membership that is informed and where all opinions are heard.

Kim Snyder and Becky Armstrong are working hard to get a directory to you early this year, but they need your help. Check last year's directory, and if any changes are needed in your entry let them know. It is important that we know how to reach each other.

Check out the new Sunshine Committee, Dave Wilson's new Plant Exchange features "Let's Swap a Plant" and "Come and Get It", and our new MG bulletin board for posting messages.

Please try to attend the January meeting, as we will be presenting the budget and electing a nominating committee for next year's officers.

JoAnn

Master Gardener Program

The January program should interest both the guys and the gals. Hope everyone will start off the gardening NEW YEAR with the TCMGA Meeting on January 8.

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee
- 10:00 ALL ABOUT BEES - See and learn about bees and buy things that the bees have made!!
- 11:00 Business Meeting and social time
- 12:00 ALL ABOUT WORMS - All you ever wanted to know about worms and how to grow them in your very own home! Learn about great products worms provide that we can use in our gardens!

2004 Master Gardener Directories

The 2004 Master Gardener Directory will be printed early this year. If you have not taken care of your 2004 dues, please either mail Warren Tingley (2709 Park Place Court, Arlington, TX. 76016-5891) or stop by and take care of business at the next MG monthly meeting on January 8th. Make checks payable to TCMGA; dues are \$20.

ANY CHANGES? If there have been any changes to your personal information since the last directory (name, address, phone, email address), you can either see Becky Armstrong or Kim Snyder (Membership Co-Chairs) at the next MG meeting or email Kim Snyder at dirtkicker6@aol.com. All changes are requested by January 8th.

NOT SURE IF ANY CHANGES? The TCMGA membership info/spreadsheet has been posted to the website. To access this spreadsheet (in pdf) you must have a username and password. The group username is: fall and the group password is: tlc9m4g4a (this will not be posted to the website!). Having a group login helps us to not have to reset forgotten passwords etc. The username and password will be updated monthly. You must read your newsletter to get the new info; the info won't be found anywhere else (except from other TCMGA members!).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INTERN CLASS OF 2003!!!!

Whew! the year is over for the 2003 Interns! Graduation and the "Blue Badge" are just around the corner.

As usual we had a great Intern class. The 2003 Interns volunteered over 2280 community hours and over 2225 extension hours. They also had over 1054 CEU hours even though they didn't need CEU's.

We continue to marvel at how everyone finds their niche. Several of the Interns have agreed to chair or work on committees; several have spent many, many hours in the office; some have discovered the rewards of working at BRIT. Some have become welcome regulars at Union Gospel Mission, Thistle Hill, Veteran's Park Wildscape and other projects. A couple will be taking leadership of new projects in the coming year. Everyone has found their niche!

We also marvel at the closeness each class develops. Many make true friendships with their classmates and fellow Master Gardeners that last a lifetime.

Intern Advisors

WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH!

Many thanks to **Diane Criswell** for arranging the party with great food and fun at BK Catering. Thanks also to Ken Barham for collecting the money, and Ginger Bason and Brenda Weemes for decorating. A very enjoyable event!!!

#102	Perennial Garden	various	Kim Synder	817-732-1483
#111	BRIT	call for dates	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
#121	Composting Demo	1 st Saturday 2 nd Saturday	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
#124	FW Nature Center	various	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
#125	Library on Hulen Street	last Thursday	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
#126	SW Sub Courthouse	2 nd Sat. & last Tues.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
#127	Veterans Park	1 st Sat. & each Tues.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
#129	Willow Park Demo Garden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
#131	Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. & 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202
#132	Teen Challenge	every Wednesday	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
#133	Thistle Hill	3rd Wednesday	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
#134	Union Gospel Mission	every Monday	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
#171	School Garden Consultant	varies	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
#172	School & Community Gardens	varies	Linda Williams	817-907-5668

Call the project leader on each workday confirming that the work day is a "GO" for January.

Fresh Asparagus in August???
submitted by Ben Walker

I have approximately two acres of asparagus on my farm in Parker County. One variety, Jersey Knight, is a hybrid for the south; the other, Jersey Giant, is more of a cool climate variety. Both are all male hybrids.

According to the asparagus trials conducted by Dr. Nancy Roe in Stephenville, Texas, **Jersey Giant** will exceed production of **Jersey Knight** 2 to 1. She and a few other experts thought summer production was possible, but other experts did not agree. A few articles I've read said people in California and other areas had produced in the summer. I decided to try.

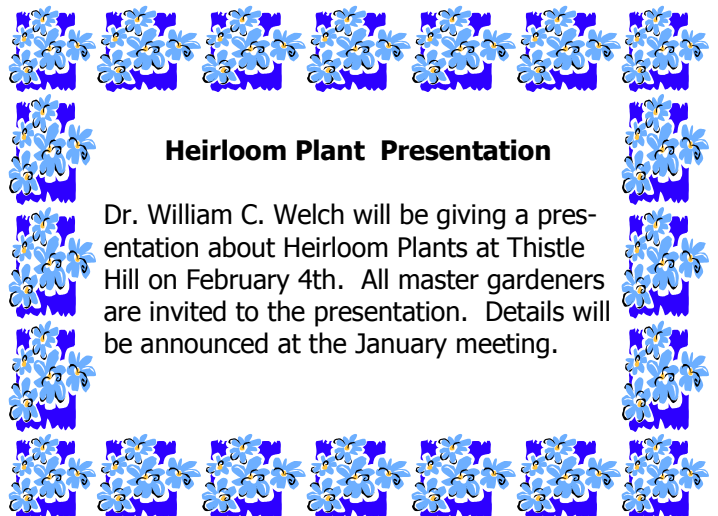
I wanted to make asparagus the centerpiece of my commercial garden. I planted Jersey Knight first and Jersey Giant the next year. Not only did I want more asparagus, but also I wanted larger "giant" asparagus. Spacing between the crowns at planting is what gives you more "jumbo" spears, not the name "giant."

Four years later I found out how much asparagus will produce. Both fields in the spring at peak production will yield 150-200 pounds per day for about three weeks before declining. There is about a 6-week production period. I was overwhelmed!

Since "Jersey Giant" holds a tighter head in warm weather, I harvested Jersey Giant during April and May this year. I let Jersey Knight go to fern until July 15; then I mowed it down, fertilized with urea and put a drip irrigation system on each row. I watered for 48 hours to thoroughly moisten the soil. About five days later here came the asparagus. NOTE: If you harvest in the spring, you can't harvest in the summer; one harvest per season only. This was a two-year trial.

Jersey Knight **spring** production rapidly rose to 80 pounds per day for three weeks. The **summer** production pounds jumped to 80 lb. for one day. After that, it declined to 10 pounds per day until it leveled off at about 40 lb. per day for three weeks. Production was five weeks.

In order to use both fields of asparagus each year, I will harvest Jersey Giant in the spring and Jersey Knight in the summer. Jersey Knight is probably the only asparagus able to be produced in this area in the summer. Jersey Giant will have many open headed spears even in warm spring weather. Jersey Knight holds a beautiful tight head to 15 inches or more in the spring and will remain fairly tight 12"- 14" in the heat of the summer. I am sure the intense heat of August caused a minute difference in taste, but my customers certainly didn't mind. I was able to market my whole crop to their delight and mine. If you want great asparagus in the spring, order Jersey Knight in this area. www.jerseyasparagus.com



Heirloom Plant Presentation

Dr. William C. Welch will be giving a presentation about Heirloom Plants at Thistle Hill on February 4th. All master gardeners are invited to the presentation. Details will be announced at the January meeting.

Mission Statement

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

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

2003 Annual Master Gardener Report

- **Tarrant County Master Gardeners** volunteered 33,000 hours.
- An average of 120 Master Gardeners attended 9 Master Gardener meetings where MG **Laura Hunter** arranged a workshop and a lecture providing 2 CEUs each meeting and TCMG president **Katye Kowierschke** kept order, **Ginger Bason** and her volunteers kept us eating, **Ken Barham** reported the bottom line and **Don Blanton** recorded it all for posterity.
- The **TCMG Advisory Committee** met the third Thursday of every month led by TCMG president Katye Kowierschke.
- The second Thursday of each month, **Debbie Bollinger** led Master Gardeners on field trips.
- CEU opportunities were offered which included 2 speakers bureau trainings, one on AV equipment and forms and **Emily Ward** provided an Enviroscape training, vegetable gardening, Texas Smartscape, Landscape School, Native Texas Orchids, Orchid Growing, plant ID classes for Tarrant, Hood, Johnson and Erath counties' Master Gardeners, **Lee Ann Rosenthal** arranged a tree class with **Larry Schaapveld**, photography with **Tim Baker**, 4 computer classes taught with **Benita Reese**, Advanced Plant Pathology, Orientation, Leadership, Texas Tree Trail, Pruning and Texas Master Gardener award training with **Mimi Lyles**.
- At the Extension office, **Master Gardeners** reported answering 5,988 phone calls and sending 2,805 fact sheets by mail or e-mail.
- Master Gardeners have volunteered at 16 successful projects. These demonstration gardens and landscapes are important to the Master Gardener and Extension mission whether for a small audience like Union Gospel Mission or a large audience like the employees at Resource Connection. This next year, I hope you all will make an effort to visit a few projects you have not visited before. Thistle Hill, the Applied Learning Center at Alice Carlson and the Perennial Display Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden are newer projects that deserve your attention. But do not forget the ongoing projects such as the Liberty Garden in Southlake's Bicentennial Park. If you have questions about any projects, contact **Mary Alice Renner**, Project Committee Chairperson at 817-738-6925 and watch the Master Gardener newsletter for more information. I want to thank all the project chairpersons and the dedicated Master Gardeners who continue to support these worthwhile projects.
- The **Master Gardener Speakers Bureau** broke all records this year presenting 124 programs reaching 6,278 people. WOW! Many people benefited from the information they received and learned a little more about Master Gardeners and Texas Cooperative Extension. Thank you **Edith Pewitt** for running herd on all the Master Gardeners who love to present programs and share their knowledge through the Speakers Bureau. I want to thank all the Master Gardeners who give talks and presentations. You all have created a professional reputation for the Speakers Bureau through your presentations and the slide and power point programs you have created. The Speakers Bureau will have a new laptop computer and power point projector available next year thanks to the fundraising and Master Gardener project committee.
- Intern Advisor Chairperson, **Pat Lovejoy**, and her team of Intern Advisors assisted 47 Interns to graduate.
- **Master Gardeners** provided TAMU students **Lauren Blair Hickman**, **Corey Hoobler**, **Laura Fick** and TCC student **Cindy Hess** with scholarships totaling \$3800.00.
- **Tarrant County Master Gardeners** held a regional meeting where 42 Master Gardeners from 11 different counties attended.
- The **Tour of Gardens** led by **Judy Butler** provided education for 200 plus and involved 100 Master Gardeners.
- Master Gardeners enlisted by **Berry Bock** provided information to thousands of people at 3 Home and Garden Shows, the Neil Sperry Show, and the Mayfest Texas SmartScape demonstration.
- **Craig Turley** and **Mike Sutton** provide leadership for the Neil Sperry radio show every weekend.
- **Millie Ruby** and her volunteers provide screening for the Howard Garrett radio show every weekend.
- **Master Gardeners** helped provided a learning experience for thousands of youth at Pizza Ranch, Waterama, Henrietta Creek tours led by **Sue and Ray Short**, Little Hands on the Farm led by **Eleanor Tuck** and **Mary Alice Renner**, Burlington Northern Family Day Picnic and the Neil Sperry Show.
- **Steve Prenger** and **Ginger Bason** provided information at the Santa Fe Rail Market on the weekends.

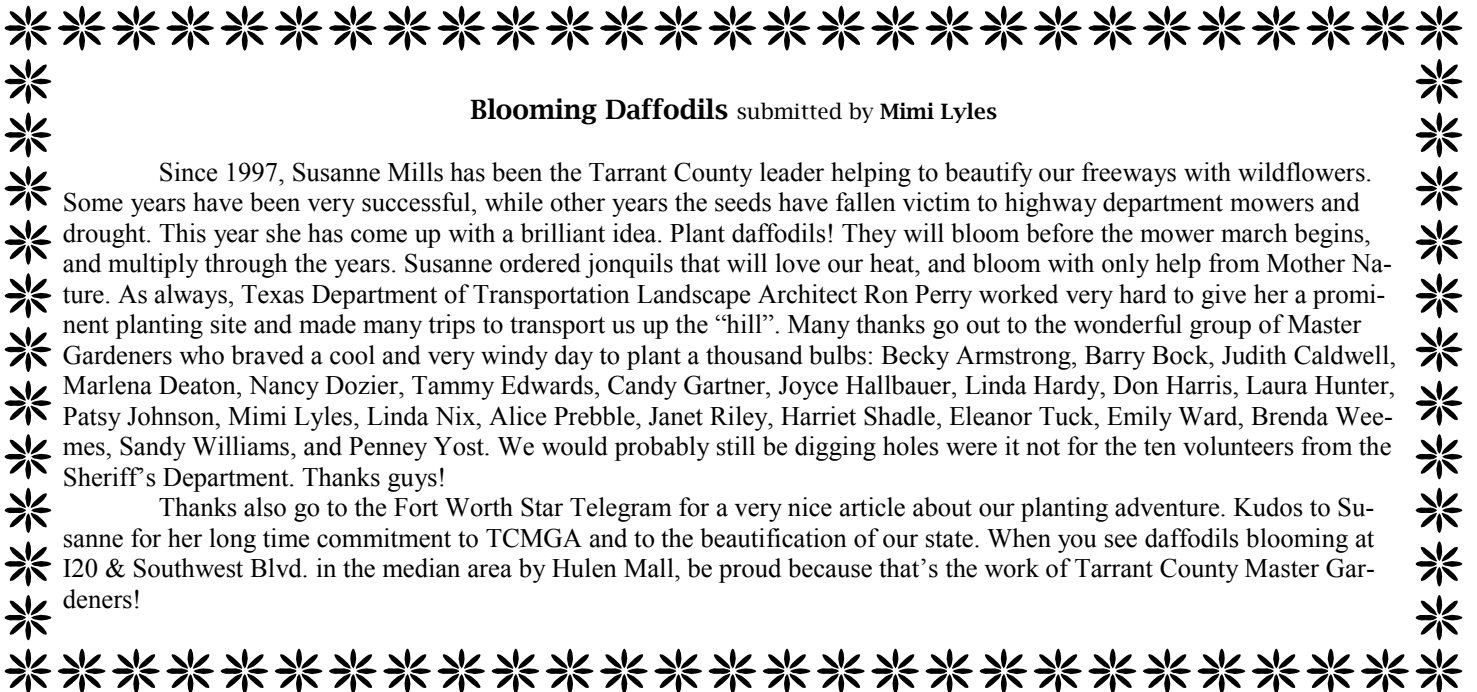
- **Fund Raising** from the meeting raffles, vendors and Tour of Gardens provided funding for scholarships and projects.
- The **Master Gardener Exhibit** was displayed at the Fort Worth Garden Club show and Flowercade.
- TCMG delegates **Eleanor Tuck** and **Emily Ward** represented TCMGs at the quarterly State Master Gardener meetings.
- The **Enviroscape** demonstration was used at Envirofair and several schools.
- **Tarrant County Master Gardeners** were recognized with awards and honors: Little Hands on The Farm by the State Fair of Texas, Enviroscape Exhibit at the State Master Gardener Conference, Junior Master Gardener County Program of the Year and Wendi Carlucci Day by the City of Southlake.



Sunshine Committee submitted by LaVonne Nowlin

Beginning in January, we will have a Sunshine Committee. The purpose is to inform Master Gardeners of illnesses or deaths and send cards or notes. Sending cards will be reserved for immediate family members. LaVonne Nowlin is the Chairperson of this committee. Other committee members are Judy Ratzlaff to handle members whose names begin with A-H, Mary McCoy I-R, and Ed Vaughn S-Z. At each Master Gardener meeting, a table will be available to request cards be sent. Please call or email to the committee member responsible for the appropriate alphabet letter to notify them of an illness or death. If the committee member is unavailable, call or email LaVonne. If you have any suggestions please contact LaVonne.

In addition, there will be a bulletin board at the TCMG meetings to post anything pertaining to Master Gardeners. Things like announcements of weddings, births, reminders for workshops, or asking for a favorite recipe from something eaten at the meetings, etc. Just to keep all of us in touch!



Blooming Daffodils submitted by Mimi Lyles

Since 1997, Susanne Mills has been the Tarrant County leader helping to beautify our freeways with wildflowers. Some years have been very successful, while other years the seeds have fallen victim to highway department mowers and drought. This year she has come up with a brilliant idea. Plant daffodils! They will bloom before the mower march begins, and multiply through the years. Susanne ordered jonquils that will love our heat, and bloom with only help from Mother Nature. As always, Texas Department of Transportation Landscape Architect Ron Perry worked very hard to give her a prominent planting site and made many trips to transport us up the "hill". Many thanks go out to the wonderful group of Master Gardeners who braved a cool and very windy day to plant a thousand bulbs: Becky Armstrong, Barry Bock, Judith Caldwell, Marlana Deaton, Nancy Dozier, Tammy Edwards, Candy Gartner, Joyce Hallbauer, Linda Hardy, Don Harris, Laura Hunter, Patsy Johnson, Mimi Lyles, Linda Nix, Alice Prebble, Janet Riley, Harriet Shadle, Eleanor Tuck, Emily Ward, Brenda Weemes, Sandy Williams, and Penney Yost. We would probably still be digging holes were it not for the ten volunteers from the Sheriff's Department. Thanks guys!

Thanks also go to the Fort Worth Star Telegram for a very nice article about our planting adventure. Kudos to Susanne for her long time commitment to TCMGA and to the beautification of our state. When you see daffodils blooming at I20 & Southwest Blvd. in the median area by Hulen Mall, be proud because that's the work of Tarrant County Master Gardeners!

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2003**

The Tarrant County Master Gardener Association met December 4, 2003 at BK catering for the Christmas social and business meeting. There were 96 members present.

Our President, Katy Kowierschke called the business meeting to order at 11:05 AM. No minutes or financial report were read due to late publication of previous month's Newsletter.

The President turned the floor over to Sandy Williams, Chair of the Raffle Fund. Sandy Williams advised that the monthly raffles for 2003 had made \$1670.00 for the project fund. She advised that 5 project leaders had presented request. They are:

- Thistle Hill request \$50.00 and \$50.00 was recommended.
- Henrietta Creek Orchard Junior Master Garden request \$300.00 and \$250.00 was recommended.
- Union Gospel Mission requested \$450.00 and \$350.00 was recommended.
- Teen Challenge requested \$940.00 and was recommended for \$500.00.
- Speakers Bureaus requested \$2500.00 and was recommended for \$500.00.

Sandy Williams then asked the members for question and/or comments. None were made and Carole O'Connell made the motion to award the funds as recommended. The motion passed.

Seven donated door prizes were given away in random choice of birthdays. Dottie Woodson gave all in attendance a desk clock from Tarrant County.

The floor was given to Barbara Munn and she presented the members and interns that were voted on by the members for their work during 2003. They were:

Master Gardener of the Decade: Eleanor Tuck

Volunteer of the Year: Ginger Bason

Extra mile Award: Debbie Bollinger, JoAnn Hahn and Joyce Hallbauer

Special Merit Award: Don Graves

Education/Educator Award: Sue Short

Recognition for Perfect Attendance: Ken Barham, Nancy Bannow, Ginger Bason, Susan Draper, Frank Durda, Don Grave, Bill Harris, Kayte Kowierschke, LaVerne Henry, LaVonne Nowlin, Hope Porter, Cynthia Riley, Susan Stanek, Taylor Stephens-Parker, and Dave Wilson.

Recognition of Garden Tour Hostesses: Steve Prenger, Kathy Beeler, Linda Williams, and Dave Wilson's church.

Intern Advisors, Guiding Light/Guidance Award: Nancy Dozier, Peggy Falconer, Pat Lovejoy, LaVonne Nowlin, Charlie Shiner, and Patsy Johnson.

Intern Hospitality: Tammy Edwards

Intern Timekeeper: Nancy Bannow

Intern Special Award: Barbara Finholt, Devaine Fergus, John Olsen, Kim Snyder, Mike Warren, and Sharon Chastain

Intern of the Year: Joy Lease

Master Gardener of the Year: Pat Lovejoy

Katie Kowierschke asked our Parliamentarian Ben Oefinger to install the 2004 officers. They are: President – JoAnn Hahn, 1st Vice President – Ginger Bason, 2nd Vice President – Ann Couch, Secretary – Don Blanton, and Treasurer – Warren Tingley.

No other business was brought before the members and Katie Kowierschke adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Submitted by Don Blanton, Secretary

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 TCMGA Calendar of Events

January 6, 2004	Master Gardener Graduation and Re-certification Dinner
January 8, 2004	January Master Gardener meeting
January 13 to February 26	2004 Master Gardener classes
January 23, 24, 25	Howard Garret Show
February 20, 21, 22	Home and Garden Show
February 27, 28, 29	Neil Sperry Show

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