



Mission Statement

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

President's Notepad

The beginning of the year brings many themes. The one I have chosen is the New Years Resolution, or more aptly the New Years Aspiration.

Our outgoing President, **JoAnn Hahn**, has started many great new initiatives, but a year goes by too quickly to achieve them all. Together we can resolve to further improve the Master Gardener experience. As our organization becomes larger, we need better organizational structure, communication and at times, focus. We will achieve better leadership through leadership development at all levels. While some prefer to just "dig in the soil", many have been gracious and even eager to accept organizational tasks.

We have been blessed with the talents and energy of **Dotty Woodson**. We will continue to be blessed by the knowledge and energy of **Steve Chaney** as he takes the reins as our Master Gardener Advisor.

Our mission is clear - extension volunteer educators. The ways we achieve this mission are rich and varied. I look forward to a year of accomplishment, a year of friendship and a year of fun.

Warren

January Monthly TCMGA Program

It is time to make those New Year's Resolutions soooooooo--- maybe a good one would be.....

- #1 Attend all TCMGA meetings in 2005!!!!
- #2 Attend all TCMGA meetings in 2005!!!!
- #3 --- Oh well, you've got the idea.

Our January program will be all about gourds. **Bobby Dunfield**, from my hometown of Frisco, will be our speaker. He grows, dries and "decorates" gourds and we will learn how to do our own. Bobby will bring some to sell so bring that \$\$\$\$ you get for Christmas and buy yourself a gift!!!

9:30 Sign-in and coffee.

10:00 Gourds with Bobby Dunfield

11:00 Business meeting and social.

12:00 More on Gourds with Patrick Butterworth!

See you January 6th!

Ginger Bason



HOSPITALITY NOTES - Kudos to Ginger Bason for an outstanding Christmas brunch for our December meeting! The facilities were lovely, the food was wonderful and Master Gardeners are the absolute best company in the world. **Our next regular meeting is January 6th, 2005.** **Joyce Quam**, returning as our Hospitality Chair for 2005, will be e-mailing or calling those who signed up to remind you. Best wishes for a continued wonderful and safe holiday season!

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., December 2, 2004 by President **JoAnn Hahn**. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

The following special guests were introduced: **Judy Ketchum** from the Resource Connection, **Mary Benevides** and **Steve Chaney** from the Extension Office. **Ann Couch** advised that **Mary Benevides** will be retiring at the end of the year and will become a 2005 Master Gardener Intern. After being introduced by **President Hahn**, **Steve Chaney** gave out five and ten year pins to Master Gardeners. He also advised of sign-up for the first Home and Garden Show to be held January 7-9. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact **Shari Stanfield**. He advised that in 2005, the Earthkind Center at the Resource Connection is planned to be up to 5 times larger than it is now.

President Hahn advised a total of \$793 was available for disbursement to projects from the profits of the monthly raffle. \$200 had already been spent for soil movement from Cresson. **Joy Lease**, Raffle Chair, proposed the following project amount awards:

\$100 to Alice Carlson Learning Center

\$190 to Thistle Hill

\$281 to Brewer Middle School

\$110 to Teen Challenge

\$110 to Henrietta Creek

The membership voted to approve the disbursements.

Debbie Bollinger, Awards Chair, presented the 2004 Master Gardener Awards to the following:

Volunteer of the Year - **Sharon Chastain**

Extra Mile Award - **Ginger Bason**

Special Merit Award - **Emily Ward** and **Judy Sargent**

Education - **Ben Oefinger**

Intern Award for Intern of the Year - **Jim Nelson**

Intern Special Award - **Bill Keller**

Master Gardener of the Year - **JoAnn Hahn**

Master Gardener of the Decade - **Eleanor Tuck**

Parliamentarian **Ben Oefinger** presided over the Installation of Officers for 2005:

Installed were: President - **Warren Tingley**

First Vice President - **Ginger Bason**

Second Vice President - **Ann Couch**

Secretary - **Judy Butler**

Treasurer - **Rita Hottel**

President Hahn recognized the Executive Board, Advisory Board and Committee Chairs and members. **Ginger Bason** advised that the following Programs are scheduled for 2005: January - Gourds presented by **Bob Dunfield**, February - Propagation, March - Little Hands, April - Men's Garden Club. **Delores Geisel** reminded everyone that 2004 time sheets were due no later than Friday, Dec. 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

Thanks for the Great Welcome to Tarrant County

I was a bit concerned when I interviewed for this position, fully aware of all of the wonderful achievements the TCMGA along with your longtime MG Coordinator **Dotty Woodson** have accomplished over the years. With the assurance of **Dr. Joan Gillespie** that **Dotty** and all of the TCMGA would be open for a new coordinator, I tentatively assumed the job on September 20.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive several e-mails and phone calls welcoming me to my new position, long before I even got here. It has been nothing but a continual outpouring of confidence from everyone over these last few weeks. Please accept my appreciation to all of you for welcoming me to this new job as well as to the TCMGA. My goal is to meet and visit with each and every one of you, to give me a chance to get to know you, as well as a chance for you to get to know me.

Whenever a new person takes over, the first reaction is 'Oh no, now everything is going to change'. Please put that feeling aside, there is only one goal that I have been tasked with and that is to work with you to reach even higher than before. The old saying that you have to crawl before you walk, walk before you run is very appropriate here. Let's work together to see what new heights we can take this organization to, are you ready?

My management style is to take things slowly and cautiously, seek good advice from people involved, proceed slowly, and have fun. Having fun is a very important aspect of life; we can accomplish a lot more goals and have fun doing it then to just drudge through life. I have asked **Dotty** to help me in this transition period, to work together to achieve all of our goals. She is anxious to start on some new goals and has assured me she will be glad to give any advice she can to help us reach our new goals.

Please feel free to come and introduce yourself, sit down and visit for a moment, make some good suggestions on how to improve our organization or find out more about me. My door is always open, so don't be a stranger. I am working on remembering names and faces, yet the older I get the harder it seems to be. Don't be offended if I don't have it down right away, just remember there are lots of you but just one of me.

My e-mail is s-chaney@tamu.edu and my phone number here at the office is (817) 884-2700. Feel free to call or write anytime. My cell phone is (817) 629-1176. Please feel free to call that number if you cannot reach me at the office. I have a small house in Weatherford 5 1/2 miles south of I-20 on Tin Top Rd. Feel free to stop by if you're out that way. I have found out that an acre is too much to mow with a push mower, so if anyone has a used riding mower for sale let me know. Once again, let's have fun and accomplish lots of cool stuff over the next few years.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. 2005 is going to be one great year!!!!

Sincerely, Steve

2005 Dues Update

As of December 12th, 214 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.** After December 31st, dues are \$24 for reinstatement.

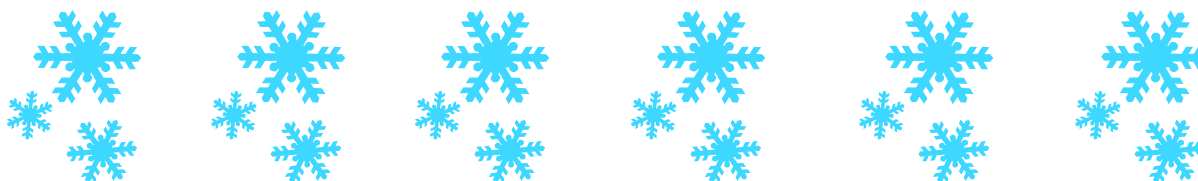
Dues may be paid at the monthly meeting or mailed to 2005 Treasurer **Rita Hottel** (116 Cliffside Drive South, Burleson, 76028-3306). There will be a list of members who have paid at every monthly meeting, in case you are unsure if you've paid or not.

New Items**January 7 - 9****Howard Garrett Home and Garden Show
contact Shari Stanfield at 817-685-9990**

<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. 2 nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 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.	4th Thurs, 10 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126 TC SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, 4th Tues.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Jan 11, 18, 25 1:00-3:30 p.m.	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. starting in March	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713

School Gardens

172 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mondays	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



Little Hands on the Farm It's a Wrap for 2004!

In 2004, the Tarrant County Master Gardeners contributed 1230 hours, including 237.5 of travel. In State recognition terms, that translates to \$21,087.04 in contributions to the children who attended Little Hands on the Farm. It took 81 of us to get the job done with 15 MGs doing more than one trip to the Farm site. You can do the math and know that many of you worked long and hard for the benefit of children's learning.

Additionally, 9 MG worked very hard behind the scenes. **Frank Durda** designed and built the arbors, **Vera Beck** made the scarecrow and **Rosemarie Mercado** painted the signs. Then there were folks like **Susanne Mills** who picked up plants from one of the donating growers, **Penny Yost** and **Candy Umberson** (along with **Mary Alice Renner**) painted the arbors; transplanting the donated plants from 4" to gallon sizes took the expertise of **Joyce Hallbauer**, **Judith Caldwell**, **Hope Porter**, **Penny Yost**, **Susanne Mills**, **Tammy Edwards** and **Mary Alice** and ET. The morning of Planting Day, **Jerry Tuttle**, **Tammy Edwards**, **Penny Yost** and **Mary Alice** helped load the truck at two different locations before going to Dallas.

But long before we got to these stages, there was at least one planning meeting and one trip to Dallas to view the site to be sure everything was as we had left it! Ha! many weeds met us and wires were being strung everywhere, but it was coming together.

Do you realize that **Mary Alice Renner** has designed the garden each year and each year, it is with a different theme? Then she goes about soliciting plants from some of the local nurseries and growers--as does **Dotty Woodson**. These things are what make our display at LHOV very different, in that **Mary Alice** and **Dotty** propagate a lot of our plants and solicit growers rather than depend upon **Sondra Wallace** and the Fair.

Sondra Wallace is the owner of Barntours, Inc. and was instrumental in working with the Texas Fair to bring Little Hands from Indiana. She is

the Director of Little Hands and the person with whom we coordinate.

And, needless to say, I am the one who calls you and calls you until you sign up to work! With many thanks to each of you.

Submitted by **Eleanor Tuck**

TCMGA Members Invited to Trier, Germany

The Master Gardeners will be looking toward a trip to Trier, Germany in the late spring or early summer 2005. Through Fort Worth Sister Cities International, an exchange is in the planning stages for the Master Gardeners to travel to Trier and have a tour program hosted by the Trier Kleingarten, which is a comparable garden club. The Master Gardeners would participate in summer festivals, be treated to tours of area gardens and vineyards, and see how the area wines are made. More detailed information will be available in January.

INTERN SCOOP



Interns, your calendars are marked and the date is near. **Tuesday, January 4th, 2005** is GRADUATION DAY! It will be held at the Rail Station across from the Extension Office from 6 – 9 pm . **Note: this event is also for MGs who are recertifying for 2005.**

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



Cutting Back Perennials Before or After the First Freeze?

Submitted by **Dotty Woodson**

Watching the blue, purple, red and white salvia flowers, the yellow copper canyon daisy flowers, the gold Mexican mint marigold flowers and some late flowering roses blowing in the wind throughout my garden sure brighten these cold rainy days. I am so enjoying cutting flowers every day to bring in my home. But as every fall, I am challenged by the dilemma: when should I cut back the perennials - before or after the perennials freeze?

I am very tempted to say the best time to cut back perennials is when you have time. This time of year is very busy for all of us. The average first frost is November 15 but I still have many plants in flower and tomatoes and peppers still to harvest. I cannot make myself cut back flowering plants. But I know eventually a freeze will come and I will want to tidy the garden by cutting back the perennials and applying another layer of mulch.

I always harvest any seed I want to save in September and October. I placed all the seeds in labeled envelopes to dry. Later, I will transfer the seeds to jars or plastic bags. Be sure to date and label all the seeds. If the perennials are finished for the season, cut the plants back any time you have time after the first of November. Cutting back perennials too soon in the fall will encourage new growth, which is susceptible to freeze damage.

Cut back soft tissue perennials before a freeze. For example, my many cannas have finished flowering. If the cannas freeze, the soft tissue becomes difficult to cut and unpleasant. If I cut back the cannas and other soft tissue plants before a freeze, the plants are easy to cut back and cut into small pieces to put into my compost bin.

I cut back my purple coneflower plants after I collected all the seeds. I left the lower foliage on the plants so the plant could still store carbohydrates away for the spring green up. I trimmed back my asters when they finished flowering just because they take up so much room. I will cut the aster plants back even further after they freeze.

I will cut back to the ground all the other perennials after they freeze. I shred all the perennial trimmings and put them in my compost pile or use the trimming as mulch over the perennials. The microorganisms that break down shredded leaves and perennials trimming do not stop working during the winter. Use all the trimmings as mulch. The trimming mulch will be compost by spring.

If you have room in your yard for a brush pile, use some tree, shrub and perennial branches to create a brush pile. A brush pile provides a nesting area for many birds and other creatures during the winter.

Ornamental grasses with tall seed heads and foliage blowing in the winter add sound and fullness to the winter garden. Cut back ornamental grasses in later winter or early spring before the new growth starts. New growth in the spring will quickly grow and cover the stubble of ornamental grasses.

Many perennials do not freeze during mild north central Texas winters. Autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*) and rosemary are two perennials that have not frozen back in many years. I have pruned my Autumn sage and rosemary many times to keep the plants from growing too large and to encourage more flowers on the salvia.

If you have any questions about when and how to cut back your perennials, call the Master Gardener office, 817-884-1944, any time Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30. Master Gardeners are Extension volunteers and would be glad to answer your questions.

Cut Back Before the First Freeze

Any soft tissue plants	Banana
Cannas	Amaryllis
Crinum Lily	

Cut Back After the First Freeze

All herbaceous and woody perennials damaged by freeze

Cut Back Before Growth Starts in Spring

Ornamental Grasses

Cut Back in the fall as you have time

All perennials not in flower

Feature Plant: Shumard's Oak

Submitted by **Amy Trauth-Nare**

I have to admit that it really bothers me when I see a new residential development being planted with the same short-lived plants – fruitless mulberry, Bradford pear trees, boxwood shrubs, and red-tipped Photinia. There are so many great native plants to choose from in Texas, we should never have to rely on exotics as the mainstay of our landscapes. Native oak trees are one example of the variety from which we can choose. It is likely that Texas has the largest diversity of oaks in North America, with more than 40 species. In north central Texas alone there are about 15 native oaks.

Shumard's oak, or *Quercus shumardii*, was named after Benjamin Shumard, a Texas state geologist in the mid-1800s. All oaks, members of the genus *Quercus*, are a part of the beech family, Fagaceae. Other genera in this family are beeches (*Fagus*), chestnuts (*Castanea*), tan-oaks (*Lithocarpus*), and southern-beeches (*Nothofagus*). Most are tall, long-lived trees of hardwood forests. Oaks are notorious for hybridizing – Shumard's oak, for example, will readily hybridize with Texas red oak (*Q. buckleyi*) and Blackjack oak (*Q. marilandica*). When two species of oaks hybridize, it can be almost impossible to accurately identify them. The best way to identify any oak is to use fully expanded, mature leaves and acorns.

Shumard oak can be identified by some key characteristics. They are large trees, up to 30 m tall and the leaves are 8-18 cm long and deeply lobed with rounded sinuses. On the undersides of mature leaves tufts of white hairs are conspicuous where two veins meet. The acorns are 16-25 mm wide, 20-25 mm long and flat at the base. The cup or "hat" covers less than a third of the acorn. In the fall, the leaves of Shumard's oak turn a beautiful red color. Oddly, the leaves do not immediately fall from the tree after its autumn color. Instead, the leaves will brown and remain on the tree through the winter, until the first signs of spring when new growth occurs.

Like many oaks, Shumard oak can be propagated from fresh, mature acorns. Shumard oak will grow in many habitats, but thrives best in moist forests and upland limestone woods. It will grow in sand, loam, clay, and limestone soils. Shumard oak will grow in part shade and full sun conditions. While they are not terribly fast-growing, Shumard oaks can be strategically planted in order to provide valuable shade for your house or yard.



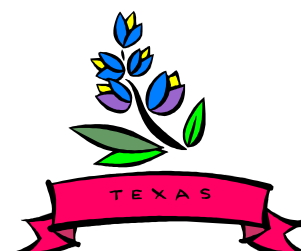
News from State MG Meeting

Submitted by **Eleanor Tuck**

The annual business meeting for the State Master Gardener Organization was held Saturday, December 6, 2004, at Texas A&M. The election of officers for the coming year was held and two of our local members were elected. **Emily Ward** will serve her second term as Treasurer and **Mimi Lyles** will serve in 2005 as Second Vice President. Congratulations to both!

In the meeting, **Doug Welsh**, Ph.D., reviewed the progress on the umbrella 501c3 designation. He also asked for ideas for criteria to establish an Emeritus Master Gardener status.

Ginger Bason and **JoAnn Hahn** represented TCMGA as Directors to the State organization. More information on the state organization is available at texasmastergardeners.com and will be actively kept up-to-date thanks to **Doug Richards** of Granbury along with **Marva Beck** of Centerville.



**WEBSITE
TELEPHONE
SCHEDULE
AVAILABLE
JANUARY 1**



Starting on January 1, the Master Gardener telephone volunteer schedule will be maintained on the TCMGA website. We will no longer have to make the trip to the extension office in order to book our telephone hours. If we have forgotten when we are scheduled, the schedule is as close as our own PC. Volunteers will enter whatever schedule is available at the extension office, as of December 27, for hours starting in January. You will be able to volunteer using the internet starting January 1. The following are instructions for using the calendar. If you have any problems or questions, please call **Carolyn Barnard**.

1. From the TCMGA website (www.TCMGA.org) select Calendars, then Master Gardener Telephone Schedule
2. Click on ADD EVENT.
3. Enter Name (First and Last) and telephone number. Certified will default to Y. If you are an Intern, just change that to N.
4. Click on SAVE AND CONTINUE.
5. Enter the START and END TIMES of your shift. The options are 8:30AM – 12:30 PM and 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM. You can either enter the date in the format mm/dd/yyyy or use the > button to display a calendar and pick the date you have chosen. Since there are so many of us who will be using the schedule, do not attempt to use the ‘RECURRING SCHEDULE’ button.
6. Click on the SAVE button.
7. If you wish to enter additional shifts, just repeat Steps 3-6.

When you have saved the last schedule, select the “VIEW CALENDAR” option in the “SELECT COMMAND BOX” and you will be

returned to the Calendar where you can see your name and print out a calendar as a reminder.

If you are not able to use the electronic schedule, you can still go to the Master Gardener desk and have someone there print out a calendar for you and then enter your name on the website calendar for the date you select.

If you need to change or delete your name from the schedule, call the Master Gardener desk and someone there will do it for you.

**WAYS AND MEANS
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ways and Means has many exciting opportunities for MGs at upcoming monthly meetings:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| January | Taking Orders for Logo shirts, tee shirts, sweatshirts |
| February | Taking Orders for Caladiums |
| March | Taking Orders for Caladiums
Vendor Tables |
| April | Distributing Caladiums |

VENDOR TABLES

There will be VENDOR TABLES at the March TCMGA meeting. Tables are available for \$15.00 and are only available to TCMGA members. Call Ann Couch 817-732-7103 to reserve your space.

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!

Barbara Sides 1-1; Nancy Bannow 1-2;
Joy Lease, Sally Allsup 1-4;
Marlene Deaton, Beverly Adkins 1-5;
Mary Lowry 1-6;
Derald Freeman, John Hammack 1-8;
Jerry Tuttle 1-9; Barbara Durnan 1-11;
Lauris Meissner 1-17; Dave Wilson 1-18;
Mary Ann Kleuser 1-19; Nancy Dozier 1-21;
Mary Edholm, Betty Floyd 1-22;
Eleanor Tuck 1-23; Bob Steele 1-24;
Rose Marie Mercado, Glenda Page, Joy Perry,
Pat Woodall 1-27; Dolores Geisel 1-31.

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.

TCMGA Membership Changes published January 2005

Additions to the Directory:

none

Deletions to the Directory:

none

Changes to the Directory

Dick Dobrovolny 2108 Ridgewood Street
Bedford, TX 76021
817-318-0220

Carla Pickens 682-518-7345



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



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| January 4 | 2004 Intern Graduation & MG Recertification Dinner
6-9 p.m. at the Rail Station. |
| January 6 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection |
| January 7-9 | Howard Garrett Home and Garden Show |
| February 5 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting at Resource Connection |
| February 25-27 | Neil Sperry All Garden Show -Arlington |

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