

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

January 2008

Mission Statement

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

January Garden Tips

The chilly winter weather is perfect for gardening. The cooler temperatures make heavy tasks, like digging and bed preparation, a less-sweaty activity. You can use bad weather days to stay warm inside and plan what you will grow and where. Take time to look through your garden photos from last year to decide what you want to change this year.

TRANSPLANTING:

This is the time to move plants around your landscape, while they are fully dormant from cold temperatures. Small and young plants recover from root loss quicker. Remember to trim some top growth to compensate for the loss of some of the roots. Once the plant is moved, water it thoroughly and apply a few inches of mulch over the root area. Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.

Most container-grown nursery stock can be planted during the winter. When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially when dealing with bare-root plants. The medium to small sizes (4 to 6 feet) are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.

PLANTING:

Plan flower and vegetable gardens now before the rush of spring planting. You can prepare the soil for beds by mixing in plenty of organic material like compost and fertilizer. This way the soil is ready for immediate planting when the plants arrive.

Start seeds indoors now for planting in late winter and early spring: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale, lettuce, parsley, petunias and begonias. Tomato, pepper and eggplant seed should be started in late January for transplanting in March. Late January is also the time to start transplants of marigolds, periwinkles and other summer flowers. Use a com-

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FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed the Christmas luncheon. Thanks to everyone that helped put it together. I say everyone, without naming names, because I know it took more than Joy to find the place, decorate the tables, get the door prizes, work the sign in and book sales tables, and all the other tasks that we didn't even know about. It was a great luncheon.

While we were there, we heard about two Master Gardeners with over 1200 hours. Our outgoing President, who received MG of the Year, had over 1200 hours. Jim Beeler received a very prestigious award, Emeritus, for his consistent years of service beyond the requirements and in many different areas. He averaged at least 1200 hours per year. We can't all put in 1200 hours in a year but wouldn't it be fun trying. (If we did, the timekeepers would surely get their 1200 hours.)

When we belong to an organization, the more involved we are the more we belong and are a part of the organization. I encourage you all to make it to as many meetings as possible this year and visit a few projects that you haven't seen yet. I know this is going to be a great year!

Wow, can you believe another year has come and gone? Is it already time to make New Year's Resolutions again?

—Tammy Edwards



January 3, 2008 Monthly Program

Welcome to another 'happy new year' of gardening! To start us off right, we will hear from **Wayne Pianta**, Technical Product Representative for Ball Horticultural Company. Wayne was the keynote speaker at last year's International MG Conference in Arkansas. He was/is also an Aggie, former Extension Horticulturist, former director of the Tyler Rose Garden, and much, much more.

Wayne will share his most requested presentation, "Where Do Your Plants Come From?". The talk will trace popular plants from the consumer garden backwards through the entire supply chain that originates with plant breeding and product development by companies like Ball Horticultural Company. We will get a 'sneak peek' about new plants that we will see in garden centers this spring.

In the afternoon, Wayne will continue with "Best Color for Your Landscape", practical information that you can take away and use for the spring landscaping plans.

9:30-10:00	Sign in, coffee
10:00-11:00	Wayne Pianta, "Where Do Your Plants Come From?"
11:00-12:00	Business meeting, lunch
12:00-1:00	Wayne Pianta, "Best Color for Your Landscape"

See you January 3rd – you will want to be sure and brave the weather for this special treat!

—Susan Stanek

Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes December 6, 2007 Christmas Luncheon at Texas Star, Euless, Texas

- President Ginger Bason welcomed TCMGA members and guests to the annual Christmas luncheon. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. with 122 TCMGA members (signed in) and a number of guests in attendance.
- Jo Ann Hahn and Eleanor Tuck presented Jim Beeler with the honorary title of Emeritus Member of TCMGA stating his significant contribution to TCMGA.
- Business meeting recessed at 11:20 a.m. Lunch began, drawings were made for gifts and the Ukuladies performed.
- Business meeting resumed at 12:05 a.m.
- The minutes of the November 2007 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.
- The Treasurer's Report was given as follows:

Income:	\$ 3,014.00
Expenses:	\$ 303.85
Checking acct. balance:	\$14,156.45
Savings acct. balance:	\$ 2, 528.97
CD total:	\$15,905.93
- President Bason reported that Open Days, held at six Fort Worth gardens on October 14, 2007, received a total of 2,957 visitors. A portion of the day-of sales tickets earned TCMGA over \$4,500. Bason asked members to begin thinking about what gardens should be included in the next Fort Worth Open Days in October 2009.
- Joyce Colegrove, chair of the Raffle Committee, recommended the disbursal of \$2,600 in raffle funds as requested by TCMGA Project Chairs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation and approved by the membership.

Union Gospel Mission, Gay Larson, Chair:	\$440.00
Alice Carlson School OLE, Sharon Chastain, Chair:	\$460.00
FW Botanic Gardens Trial Garden, Susan Miller, Chair:	\$ 67.00
Fitzgerald Elementary, Leeann Rosenthal, Chair:	\$540.00
Little Hands of the Farm, Eleanor Tuck, Chair:	\$150.00
Resource Connection Community Garden, Jim Nelson, Chair:	\$169.00
SW Sub Courthouse, Gailon Hardin, Chair:	\$340.00
Teen Challenge, Debbie Bollinger, Chair:	\$440.00
Union Gospel Mission, Gay Larson, Chair:	\$440.00

President Bason reported that Union Gospel Mission recognized TCMGA member Bill Hall for his work at the mission and presented Education Awards to TCMGA members Nancy Curl and Pat Higgins.

TCMGA Award Committee Chair, Jo Ann Hahn presented the following 2007 TCMGA Awards:

Intern Extra Mile: Karen Kologe, Earl Alexander, Nan Garvin
 Intern of the Year: Bill Vandever
 Above and Beyond: Dolores Geisel, Joy Lease, Bill Keller
 Extra Mile: Bill Hall, Judy Butler, Susan Stanek
 Education Superstars: Derald Freeman, Charlie Shiner
 Educator of the Year: Edith Pewitt

LEADERSHIP

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

TCMGA office 817-884-1944

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Special Merit Award: Jim Nelson, Pat Higgins

Project Superstars: Gay Larson, Janet Riley, Kay Yount

Project Person of the Year: Sharon Chastain

Master Gardener of the Year: Ginger Bason

- President Bason thanked all those who had served on her Executive and Advisory Boards for the last two years. Joy Lease presented Ginger with an engraved stone: "TCMGA President 2005-2007."
- Joy Lease thanked the Christmas Luncheon Committee and all those who helped set up and decorate.
- President Bason announced that the Doug Welch book, *Texas Garden Almanac*, is being sold by TCMGA for \$16. Members could buy or order a copy that day from Jo Ann Hahn.
- President Bason installed the new TCMGA officers for 2008:
 President: Tammy Edwards
 1st Vice President: Susan Stanek
 2nd Vice President: Bill Hall
 Treasurer: Carl Trehus
 Secretary: Joyce Quam
- Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

—Submitted by Joyce Quam, TCMGA Secretary

Victory Tote Bags Delivered

The first of the 200 victory tote bags, shipped in mid-November, have been delivered to Iraq. Major Suttee from Ramadi said the Marines received and handed out the totes.



LITTLE HANDS ON THE FARM FOR 2007

What began as a small undertaking six years ago has developed into a very large project as you can see by the multiple listings below. The acceptance and approval of the work of Tarrant Master Gardeners by the Staff at Little Hands on the Farm is obvious in that this year we were called upon for two extra undertakings.

WORK PERFORMED	HRS	Workers
Volunteers	6	61
Planning	27.5	5
Potting	21	7
Arbors	21	7
Pre-planting, watering, truck loading	8	5
Planting day	52	26
10/08/2007	281	40
10/15/2007	96	16
Tear-down	24	12
Gathering cane poles	10.5	4
Driving	199	
TOTAL HOURS	725	

But before we get to that: HATS off to the October 8th PM shift Master Gardeners who drove as much as 3 hours, because of the Columbus holiday traffic, to get to the Fair grounds to volunteer another 4 hours and then drive home!! The AM shift graciously stayed over until these folks could arrive. Our Tarrant County MGs are outstanding in every sense of the word.

Prior to the opening of the Fair, Sondra Wallace contacted me to help develop a plan for permanent plantings at the site. I started making contact with some of our experienced and long time Master Gardeners. The two who had the time, and time was of the essence, were Emily Ward and Laura Hunter. Both have taken extensive Landscape Design courses at A&M and have been instrumental in overseeing the re-establishment of Thistle Hill here in Ft.

Worth. They made at least two trips to the site just measuring and planning and then several meetings with Mrs. Wallace to finalize what plants she would need. On Planting Day both ladies were there directing the planting and the site will look great all year.

Secondly, we were called upon to fill in a second day for a school that canceled their commitment and 16 Master Gardeners came forward. This is an example of Sondra's trust that Tarrant can and will come through. Some of our MGs worked every day that we had some task and others provided invaluable assistance behind the scenes; i.e., watering the plants until we were ready to load them into the truck—and that occurred at 7:30 AM!!

LHOF Staff find it hard to know exactly how many children pass through the site on any given day. They know that most years see as many as 5000 persons total at LHOF to include children and their parents. This year the estimate is closer to 6000 persons and our TCMGA feels certain that 50% of that number came through on Columbus Day!!

Perhaps the most important aspect of making this project work is the support of Steve Chaney contacting various nurseries to ask for donated plants. Based on our planning persons' list, he calls the nurseries, primarily Seville Farms who have helped us year after year, Esther Proctor our own MG who has also helped us year after year and Harry's Nursery in Weatherford who really came through for us this year in an emergency. Just before our big day—planting—Steve contacts the County Facilities Department to use their truck and drivers to get the plants over to LHOF site. Thank you, Steve.

This seemed to me to be a particularly outstanding year accomplished by THE Tarrant County Master Gardeners. We look forward to another year but after a year's rest!

—Eleanor Tuck

Five Steps to Your New Water Conserving Landscape

By Steve Chaney, Texas Cooperative Extension, Tarrant County



It's that time of the year and as you're trying to decide what your New Year's resolution is going to be, why not make it a "New Landscape" that conserves water. We had lots of rain this year, and everyone has

forgotten about the previous years of drought. Why not start the New Year off with some easy yet effective conservation ideas.

The first step of a successful garden is planning, and the winter is the best time to get your ideas on paper. Find a nice day and go out and really look at your yard. Find where the grass is weak, where is the shade, where is the sun. Do you have enough room for the things you want or do you have areas that you don't like anymore? Ask yourself where your private area is, where your service area is, where your family area is? To properly plan, you must first ask all of these questions and then try and find the answers. You may have additional questions depending on your location and needs. Take a moment and write the questions and the appropriate answers down so you will remember. You will need them for the next few steps.

The second step is to take a soil sample in each of the areas that you want to improve, i.e., sod, garden, flower beds, trees, etc. You can get a soil sample kit at your local Extension Service office. Simply follow the directions, and you will receive a comprehensive analysis back in 10-12 days. The health of your soil and the type of your soil will make the difference between a successful landscape and one that struggles forever. So many of our soils are high pH clays that have very small amounts of organic material left in the soil. Lack of organic material contributes to minimal nutrient levels as well as to a minimal water holding capacity. In most cases, the simple addition of well finished plant derived compost is all our soils need.

The third step is choosing the best plant material for your area, perhaps even your particular neighborhood. If you're new to an area, take some time to look at the homes in your area and see what grows well. Consult your local Extension office and Native Plant Society for plants that grow well in your soil type with minimal maintenance and water. With a little care and time you can plan a plant palette that will give you all the colors and texture you could ever want with minimal water usage. Wouldn't it be nice to have plants that bloom or have foliage color all year round and never have to water or fertilize?

The fourth step is to choose the most efficient irrigation system for your landscape. In several of our arid western states, they no longer allow any water to be sprayed in the air. We now have the drip system technology to use minimal amounts of water while maximizing efficiency in our landscape. It is increasingly easy to convert an irrigation system to a drip system with simple household skills and tools in your garage. You can find qualified help on-line or at many of your local nurseries. All you have to do is ask.

The fifth and last step is to mulch, mulch and mulch. The use of a well chosen natural mulch has been found to be our best, slow release fertilizer. The addition of 3" of mulch to your beds will help reduce the soil temperature, reduce weed seed germination, and improve soil moisture retention as well as the slow release fertilization we could all use in our landscapes.

As you can see it takes lots of planning and forethought to make a great water conserving landscape, the success of your garden depends on it!

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Two holidays come in January.

January 1, 2008, - Tuesday - New Year's Day. Historically, it was originally observed on March 15 in the old Roman Calendar. New Year's Day first came to be fixed at January 1 in 153 BC

In New York City, the world famous 1,070-pound, 6-foot-diameter Waterford crystal ball, weighing 1,070 pounds and 6-foot in diameter, located high above Times Square is lowered starting at 11:59:00 p.m., or the last minute of the year, and reaches the bottom of its tower at the stroke of midnight. It is sometimes referred to as "the big apple" like the city itself; the custom derives from the time signal that used to be given at noon in harbors. Times Square was originally built in 1904, was 25 stories tall, a 395 foot skyscraper and acknowledged as the second tallest building in the world.



In England and Scotland an extra round of football is played. In Pasadena, California, United States, the Tournament of Roses is held, with revelers viewing the parade from the streets and watching on television, followed by the Rose Bowl football game. In Vienna there is a New Year Concert. The Polar Bear Clubs in the northern hemisphere plunge into the cold water on New Year's Day. In Philadelphia, the Mummers Parade is held on Broad Street. In Russia the New Year is greeted by fireworks and drinking champagne.

In Australia one of the world's largest fireworks displays draws 1.5 million people to the harbor.

Robert Burns (1759-1796) wrote the lyrics to Auld Lang Syne in the 1700's. that is sung at midnight on New Years Eve.



*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
and days of auld lang syne?*

January 21, 2008 - Monday - Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday

In the United States, there are 10 federal holidays set by law:

New Year's Day	January 1
Independence Day	July 4
Veterans Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25

The other six are set by a day of the week and month:

M.L. King's Birthday	Third Monday in January
Washington's B'day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Thanksgiving	Fourth Thursday in November

mercial peat-light soil mix in a clean flat. Place in a warm, bright spot. Cover the tray with a clear piece of glass or plastic or saran wrap until the seeds have sprouted. Place in very bright light to keep the seedlings from stretching. Plant asparagus roots as they become available at garden stores.

PRUNING:

The dormant season of winter is the best time to prune shade trees to correct problems, clean out dead wood, removing lower limbs and crowded branches, and allow more light to reach the ground. January and February are the months to prune fruit trees. Annual pruning keeps the harvest within reach and stimulates new growth for next year's crop. Peaches, plums and apricots need this annual pruning.

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.

Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs over winter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.

PLANT ONIONS IN JANUARY!

Small onion transplants grow very well in our Texas soils and are hardy in cool temperatures well below freezing. Varieties to consider are the short day varieties which include Texas 1015Y (Texas Super Sweet), Grano 502, Yellow Granex, White Granex and White Bermuda. Onion "sets" or transplants can be purchased in small bundles (50-100/bundle) at most nurseries and seed/fertilizer stores in late December and January.



Onions need full sun and cool days. The soil should be worked to a depth of 8-10" and should have good drainage. Spread 2# of 10-10-10 fertilizer over a 100 square foot area and mix into the top 3-4" of soil. Pick out the best-developed plants and plant 3/4" to 1" deep and 2 to 3 inches apart. Onions need plenty of water during their early rapid growth; water at least once a week. Once the plants are leafing out and have several leaves, fertilize again every two or three weeks. Onion harvest should occur in May and June or when the onions have matured to the desired size.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Water and fertilize houseplants and container plants only when needed and not by the calendar.

The life of the plant received as a Christmas gift can be prolonged keeping the soil moist providing drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units. Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.



Birds of all kinds appreciate a constant source of seed, suet and water during the winter. You'll enjoy all the activity in your yard while providing a valuable service for our feathered friends. Just remember that once you start feeding, you should keep it up through the winter.

Compost piles should be turned at least once during the month. Leaves are abundant and should be shredded before adding to the pile. Add animal manure or clippings from winter rye for a source of nitrogen. The pile should be at least 3 cubic feet in volume to help hold in the heat generated by decomposition. Check the pile for moisture level. It should be neither too wet or too dry. Add water if it is dry or dry matter if it is too wet.

—by Marilyn Sallee

MASTER GARDENER AWARDS FOR UNION GOSPEL VOLUNTEERS

Bill Hall was awarded the Master Gardener of the Year for 2006 for the Union Gospel Mission, Tarrant County Project.

Carolyn Critz was awarded the Master Gardener of the Year for 2007 for the mission.

Pat Higgins received the Education Award because she gave 4 horticulture seminars for the residents of the mission in 2007. Pat is a Level II Master Gardener.

Nancy Curl, an intern, received the Education award for 2007. She compiled a coloring book on flowers and presented it as a "Day in the Gardens" with poster contest, to educate the children living at mission.

These awards were given to the Master Gardeners at the annual volunteer Union Gospel Mission banquet in November.

—Gay Larson



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

Many projects are in the works for the Community Garden at the Resource Connection. Each month one of these projects will be highlighted in the Sharecropper.

This month you will be brought up-to-date on the plans for an orchard. While the plans have not been finalized or budgeted, the following is how Renee Beckum, the orchard coordinator, sees the project:

In an area approximately 50 feet by 150 feet, the plan is to show how fruit trees and berries can be a part of any normal suburban garden. Apple trees will be espaliered; grapes on an arbor will be the focal point; berry bushes (thornless blackberries) would be used as a fence or divider; peaches and plums will be grouped to make a canopy; pomegranates will be on one side of the arbor and Asian pears on the other side to mark the entrance. As the arbor will be the high point of interest, the espaliered apple trees will provide the backdrop for the area.

While the orchard may be a little larger than what a homeowner would normally have to work with, this proposed project could provide many ideas for how to effectively have a mini-orchard. If the project is approved and budgeted, Renee will be looking for volunteers to assist with moving soil and planting.

This is just one of the many projects planned for the future at the Community Garden. So think about coming out and being in on the **ground** floor of what is going to be an exciting venture.

—by Judy Butler

EMIRITUS AWARD

Since the Texas Master Gardener Emeritus program began there have been only 5 Emeritus in our state organization. At the TCMGA Holiday Luncheon on December 6, we presented our first Master Gardener Emeritus Award. This is an honorary title awarded to a retiring Master Gardener and is a distinctive honor, not a right. It is given to a Master Gardener who has made significant contributions to the program over the years.

Jim Beeler joined Master Gardeners in 1992. For the next 13 years he did telephone duty on every Wednesday, all day. He was one of our most reliable and knowledgeable Master Gardeners, and we depended on him to know the right answers. He always knew when I, a new MG, had spoken to a group because the following Wednesdays were busier than usual with people asking for him by name. They would remark that “the lady from the Speakers Bureau said that you would be able to help me with this problem”.

He served as President from 1995-1996 and followed that with two years as Nominating Committee Chair. In 1998, a need was seen for interviewing prospective candidates for the Master Gardener Program, and he was the original Chair for two years.

He served on the Speakers Bureau for many years giving countless talks to civic groups on various horticulture subjects. Home and Garden shows would often see him for at least one shift, but more than likely he'd cover 2 or 3 shifts for people that couldn't make it at the last minute.

He taught Intern classes from 1996 to 2000. Between 1994 and 2002 he averaged 1200 hours of service per year as a Master Gardener. Our Extension Director, Joan Jacobsen, spearheaded the acknowledgement of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court and saw that he was honored with a Special Achievement Award for his extensive volunteer work.

Whether there was a committee spot that needed to be filled, an extra hand needed somewhere, or a program that had to be given, he could be counted on. We are thrilled to have Jim Beeler as our first Tarrant County Master Gardener Emeritus.

—by JoAnn Hahn

Texas Cooperative Extension Offers Another Volunteer Opportunity

The Master Wellness Volunteer program is a Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) program that will provide volunteers with 40 hours of training in health and nutrition education and in return, the volunteers agree to give back 40 hours of service.

The volunteer opportunities are diverse – giving presentations for local community groups, assisting with cooking classes, passing out information at health fairs, and much more. Previous health or wellness training is not required, but an interest in living healthfully and helping others do the same is.

The application deadline is January 18, 2008 and the trainings will begin January 30, 2008. For more information or an application please call Dana Tarter, County Extension Agent – Nutrition & Health at 817-884-1294 or e-mail d-tarter@tamu.edu.

The Texas Master Gardener Association State Board meeting

The Texas Master Gardener Association State Board meeting was held in College Station on Saturday, December 1, 2007.

Ginger Bason presented the new simplified TMGA forms that are to be used for submitting entries for State awards. They are posted on the State web site for easy access.

Doug Richards, web master for the State, will be retiring from this position which needs to be filled as soon as possible. A job description will be posted on the State web site (www.texasmastergardeners.org). If anyone is interested please contact Doug.

A new name and logo for Texas Cooperative Extension will be introduced on January 9. We will be part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Andrew King was introduced as the Extension Graduate Assistant. He is sponsored through money generated by our purchase of TMGA license plates. Andrew has been involved in horticulture all his life as his family has been in the nursery business for 92 years.

The Master Gardener Handbook will be going through a revision with a specialist in each field reviewing and assisting with changes. It is expected to be available by January 2009.

Texas Master Gardener Association has been granted a State umbrella 501c3 status for local associations who have qualified but are not currently covered. Our Tarrant Master Gardener Assn. will not be under this since we

have had our 501c3 for many years, and we were told that it would be of no advantage to file under the State. Guidelines for compliance that would apply to all associations will be posted on the State web site..

A five year plan for the State association was updated, and counties were asked to review and see where they could take a leadership position. You can view this plan on our web site, and a copy will be posted on our bulletin board at the January meeting.

Dates were given for the following: State MG conference for 2008 will be hosted by Montgomery County on April 24-26; State MG Conference for 2009 will be hosted by Harrison County: Regional MG will be in Oklahoma City on June 18 -21,2008; International MG Conference will be in Las Vegas on March 22-26 2009 and the International MG Conference will be in Charleston, West Virginia on October 11-15, 2011 Information and registration will be posted on the state web site when available.

Final business for the day was the approval of minor by-law changes and the election of Officers for the 2008 year. Elected were: President Garey Wiley - Johnson County; 1st Vice-President Doug Quicksall - McLennan County; 2nd Vice-President Lynn McKillop - Ft Bend County; Secretary Brenda Cunningham - Dallas County ; Treasurer Homer Babbitt - Parker County.

—JoAnn Hahn.

TCMGA monthly meeting.

For March, we have been 'pre-empted' in the gym. I am working on either moving the location (Plan A) or the date to March 13th (Plan B). MG's will be updated.

—Susan Stanek.

Burleson Star Runs Story on MG Victory Boxes Efforts

The November 28 issue of the Burleson Star newspaper extols TCMGA efforts for victory boxes to Iraq. For a copy of the story email derald@greatideas.com.

—Derald Freeman

Thistle Hill Update

Thanks to our Thistle Hill Volunteers, Master Gardeners, Extension and Steve for the support during our transition the past two years. We have accomplished much with all of your help.

Nicotiana alata, flowering Tobacco Heirloom seeds from Monticello Gardens were planted in the front bed adding to our growing list of Heirloom plants. We are working on an updated list of plants that can be found in the gardens.

Historic Fort Worth has received a grant to establish an Enabling Garden for children with special needs. Historic Fort Worth also understands the mission of the Master Gardener program and has included a grounds person to do maintenance. That leaves Master Gardeners time to present educational programs and continue the restoration program.

The "KEY" group of young people at Crowley High School will be working with Master Gardeners at the McFarland House in restoring the three terraced gardens on the bluff.

Please come and visit us. We would like very much to have your input on our projects.

—The Thistle Hill Group

Donated Plants For Trial Garden

Redenta's generously donated plants to the Trial Garden. They will be getting a recognition plaque on the beds.

Those of us that were there last Tuesday (11/27/07) to plant them are Susan Miller, Candy Umberson, Mimi Mancuso, Karen Kologe, Pat Henshaw, Judy Jackson, Emily Beyette, Claire Alford, and Nan Garvin.

—by Susan Miller



Birthdays for this month

- 1-1 Patti Gordon, Barbara Sides and Concha Jones
- 1-2 Nancy Bannow and Linda Winn
- 1-4 Joy Lease and Sally Alsup
- 1-5 Marlene Deaton and Beverly Adkins
- 1-8 Derald Freeman and John Hammack
- 1-9 Jerry Tuttle
- 1-11 Barbara Durnan
- 1-12 Sandy Flory
- 1-13 Paula Wilbanks
- 1-14 Tom Scott
- 1-17 Lauris Meissner
- 1-18 Dave Wilson and Paula Sklar
- 1-19 Mary Ann Kleuser
- 1-20 Demetra Larremore
- 1-21 Nancy Dozier
- 1-22 Mary Edholm and Betty Floyd
- 1-23 Eleanor Tuck
- 1-24 Bob Steele
- 1-26 Avon Burton Loudermilk
- 1-27 Rose Marie Mercado, Glenda Page, Joy Perry, and Pat Woodall
- 1-29 Traci Martin and Deidre Heir
- 1-31 Dolores Geisel

—by LaVonne Nowlin

Caladium Sale

Back by popular demand, caladium will again be offered for sale this year. Orders will be taken at the February and March monthly meetings.

Varieties available will be Classic, Sunrise, White Queen, and Carolyn Whorton. Price is 60 cents each.

—Ways & Means Committee—Bill Hall

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 BG Perennial Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Cindy Woelke	817-421-4201
312 BG Trial Garden	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	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 Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-923-9250 817-838-7321
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net		817-295-2883
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

Jan 3, 2008	TCMGA monthly meeting
Jan 8	Fall 2006 Intern graduation
Jan 10	Spring Intern Class begins
Jan 15	Spring 2007 Intern graduation
Jan 19	Neil Sperry Landscape School
Feb 1-3	Fort Worth Home & Garden Show
Feb 7	TCMGA monthly meeting
Feb 29—Mar 2	Neil Sperry Home & Garden Show



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

