



Mission Statement

To support and assist Texas Cooperative Extension by providing the community with information on horticultural practices consistent with Texas Cooperative Extension recommendations.



President's Notepad

It has been a dry spring and is showing promise of a hot summer. That sounds like Texas! As Master Gardeners, we can accomplish important things by teaching and by example. In our educational efforts, we should be carrying the message of water conservation and water quality at every opportunity.

I hope all of you visit the Alice Carlson Learning Center. Not only is it a state award winner that you need to see, but the hard work and talents of the dedicated people that have developed this site have created a unique place to emphasize these very points. You can see the water collection and storage system from the school roof and the water feature that runs the pumps with solar collectors. Like all projects it is a work in progress, but what a work!

Everyone has a tremendous challenge to make fellow citizens aware of the finite amount of water and the tremendous need to conserve this precious resource. I am preaching to the choir but the choir must sing regularly and loudly about this topic. As we discuss plant selection, watering techniques, soil preparation, mulching, etc., we can accomplish much. While working in this heat, do not forget to water yourselves. It is essential that it is recycled.

Good gardening, Warren



July Monthly TCMGA Program

Now that we've been to Delaney Vineyard and learned how hard it is to grow grapes in our North Central Texas soil, it would seem Mr. Delaney would have no serious competition from TCMGA MGs any time soon! We had a wonderful time touring the vineyard and learning about the wine making process. Many thanks also to **Mary Margaret Halleck** and **Cindy Woelke** for opening their gardens to us afterward.

Native plants and their use in our landscape will be the subject of our July meeting. **Rosa Finsley**, a nationally known native plant specialist and former owner of Kings Creek Nursery, will be our speaker. Rosa is also a highly sought after landscape designer and will share tips for incorporating native plants into the home landscape and other landscaping tips and hints.

9:30 Sign-in and coffee.
10:00 Native Plants - **Rosa Finsley**
11:00 Business meeting and social.
12:00 More Native Plants - **Rosa Finsley**.

The Raffle is back this month so don't forget to bring a few extra ones or maybe a five. Please contact **Barbara Finholt** if you would like to contribute an item, as well. July is a hot month to get out, but it is well worth your time to hear this wonderful speaker and then of course, there is the wonderful MG fellowship to enjoy! Hope to see you there!

Ginger Bason

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2005

Meeting called to order by President **Warren Tingley** at 10:45 a.m. at the Delaney Vineyard in Grapevine, Texas. 92 Members were in attendance.

Minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

The following members were elected to the Nominating Committee:

Debbie Bollinger
Mary McCoy
Wilda Turner
Evaline Woodrey

Dave Wilson will be Chairman of the committee.

The results of a Scholarship Committee study were presented to the membership. As no record can be found of any previous scholarship recipient using their horticulture education to benefit Tarrant County, it is recommended that all future TCMGA scholarship funds be used for Master Gardener Specialized Training. It was proposed that two members be selected for each future class by **Steve Chaney**, up to a maximum of \$250 each. The membership approved this recommendation.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

Hospitality Notes by Joyce Quam

Happy Independence Day!! Our Master Gardener program on July 7 is sure to be real "firecracker" so our lunch table will need lots of veggies, fruits, sandwiches, chips and desserts. What do YOU like? Will YOU please bring something? Please call or e-mail me so I'll know what's coming. See you there!

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.

Happy Birthday,
Master Gardeners!

7-1 **Ione Stanley**
 7-4 **Sue Ann Spurlock**
 7-5 **Don Graves and Linda Stuard**
 7-6 **Barbara Finholt**
 7-7 **Mary Alice Renner**
 7-13 **Mary Lipscomb Llewellyn**
 7-16 **Monte Swatzell, Betty Clark,**
 and Nona Batiste
 7-18 **Doris Hill**
 7-19 **Joyce Hallbauer**
 7-20 **Cathy Anderson**
 7-26 **LaVerne Henry and Linda Gray**

Keys to Proper Landscape and Garden Watering

By Steve Chaney

In just a few short weeks we will be in the midst of another hot Texas summer. Properly watering plants during the summer tends to be one of the most confusing and misunderstood of all the gardening chores. Quite often, even ardent gardeners fail to recognize inadequate watering until it is too late and plants are badly damaged or dead.

“How often should I water?” and “how much water should I apply?” are two of the most-often asked questions from gardeners and non-gardeners that we receive during this time of the year. Since water is both essential for healthy plant growth and often costly to apply in quantity during the summer, it is important to get it to the plant’s roots efficiently and keep it there.

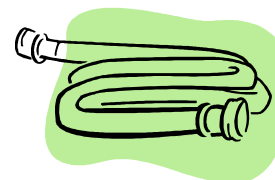
The following tips are suggestions for easier and more effective watering for your property. These techniques should apply to all gardening, from shade and fruit trees and vegetable gardens to lawns and houseplants.

- Never water strictly by the calendar. We don’t drink water ‘every ten minutes’ or ‘every hour’, so why shouldn’t plants be watered ‘every two days’ or ‘once a week’? Instead, learn how to recognize dry plants and soil and use these as your tip-off for watering. Too many factors determine how fast a soil dries, for us to put watering on a regular basis.
- When your plants are dry, water them thoroughly. Water lawns so that the soil will be wet several inches down, to encourage deep rooting and drought tolerance. One of the worst mistakes people make in their gardens is trying to ‘sprinkle’ them each day by using their thumb and the end of a running hose. Most gardeners just don’t seem to have the patience to stand in one spot long enough for deep water penetration. Water trees by taking the

sprinkler off the end of the hose and letting water barely trickle out and run slowly for several hours out under the drip line (not up near the trunk). Be sure and keep an eye on this so that runoff does not occur.

- Most of your plants should be watered in the early morning when there is no wind and no evaporation. Evening watering increases the likelihood of disease invasion, as the majority of diseases develop most rapidly in cool, moist conditions. Early morning watering is also the most efficient time to water, as your water pressure should be the highest since most people are asleep.
- While watering your lawn, try to keep water off the leaves of trees and shrubs as much as possible. This is especially important for such plants as crape myrtles and roses, which are troubled by leaf diseases which spread rapidly on wet surfaces.
- Symptoms for plants which have been kept too wet are about the same as for those kept too dry. Roots in waterlogged soils die and do not take up water, so plants wilt and turn yellow.
- Organic matter, such as shredded pine bark and composted manure can increase water absorption when they are worked into our native soils. To keep moisture in the soil, use a thick mulch such as shredded pine bark, cypress, cedar, grass clippings or tree leaves. In addition to reducing evaporation, mulches also keep the soil cooler and make weed pulling much easier.
- Always soak chemical fertilizers into the soil immediately after application. These materials are excellent sources of plant foods, but they are also salts, and can pull water out of plant tissues, resulting in burn, unless they are watered into the soil.

For plants to thrive during the upcoming summer months, they will need plenty of water, but equally important is properly applying much needed water.



TCMGA Spirit Committee

I would like to take a moment and thank you for the wonderful work you have all done in supporting Tarrant County as well as Extension this year. So many of you have unselfishly volunteered a tremendous amount of time for the benefit of our community. Believe me it shows and there are many people that are in your debt.

This first six months has been a whirlwind and doesn't look like it's going to slow down anytime soon. The positive side of it is every time I looked up and took a breath, one or more of you were working right along with me. I am still in the process of visiting all of your wonderful projects, my goal is to visit each and every one in the next month or so. To this end it has been suggested to me that we find some new and innovative ways of awarding recognition to our Master Gardeners for all of these superb projects. The goal being individual recognition as well as group recognition for all of the wonderful projects being maintained by you.

Warren Tingley and I were talking the other day of the possibility of forming a 'Spirit Committee', composed of at least one member from each year the TCMGA has been in existence. This committee would meet and discuss possible ways to recognize both individual and group efforts. Extension has a committee similar to this and they have come up with some wonderful innovative ideas to recognize our Extension colleagues.

This committee would ideally meet every quarter or more if needed to brainstorm and then make suggestions that could then be implemented. As in any undertaking such as this, there is a commitment that must be made for time and lots of thought. My pledge to you is that I will be there in the trenches with you, brainstorming and working to help make this association the best in Texas. If you will work with me on this, we should continue to grow and excel and reach all of our

individual goals as well as our group goals.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we can get this committee off the drawing board and working industriously to help make this association the best it can be.

Sincerely
Steve Chaney

The Parrot Tree

Just a quick piece of trivia for everyone's enjoyment - who knows where the "Parrot Tree" is? No, it is not a new form of tree. It's just a tree full of parrots!

I recently had the opportunity to experience this tree up close and in person, believe me it was quite a eye opener. For those of you have never seen it, get on 35S to Seminary Drive and then go west till you hit 6th Avenue. Turn left on 6th and then go to Boyce and look at the house on the southeast corner. You will see hundreds of green parrots!

These are Monk Parrots, "Myiopsitta monachus". The average length is 12" on these temperate South American birds. They have extensive gray coloring in the face and some under parts, with wide beautiful blue v's on their wings. They are predominately bright lime green and are just gorgeous to watch. These parrots are very communal; they share huge nests 4 foot by 4 foot or more.

If you have never had the opportunity to see these beautiful birds, do yourself a favor and go see them. Be sure and take your friends and loved ones and tell others. Just a neat piece of trivia concerning Ft. Worth that some of you might not be aware.

Keep up the good work and most important of all, HAVE FUN!

Steve Chaney

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>Managers Phone</u>
301 BRIT Activities	call chairman	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
311 Perennial Garden	7:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 st , 3 rd & 5 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
312 Trial Garden Data	2 nd & 4 th Tues.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
313 BG Cottage Garden	call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1st, 3rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	every Mon. 8 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Proj.	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Donna Turner	817-473-8253
325 Weston Gardens Docent	call chairman	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555
326 Teen Challenge	every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
399 Gardening with Dotty	last Tuesday monthly	Dotty Woodson	817-884-1296
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat. 2nd Sat.	Don Graves Charlie Shiner	817-465-1667 817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	call chairman	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4th Thurs, 8:30 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, 4th Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
405 Liberty Garden	call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	Tues 9-12:00, 1st Sat 9-12:00	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
407 Willow Park DemoGarden	2 nd Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
408 TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 st Mon. or 3 rd Wed.	Sue Short	817-439-3202

School Gardens

601 Alice Carlson	8:30 a.m. Mon/Thurs	Sharon Chastain	817 926-2575
602 Bransom	call chairman	Glenda Page	817 447-8348
603 Brewer	call chairman	Joyce Hallbauer	817 367-3582
604 Fitzgerald	3:15 p.m. Wed	Leeann Rosenthal	817 237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Contact Ginger	Ginger Bason	817 838-7321
606 South Davis	call chairman	Mary McCoy	817 891-0598
611 Children's Garden	Apr 6 & 27 9-11 a.m.	Judy Sargent	817 589-0221

FORT WORTH BOTANIC GARDEN PERENNIAL GARDEN PROJECT

Submitted By Patsy Johnson

As most of us know, the Japanese Garden area in the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden was once a rock quarry. But did you know that the Perennial Garden area was once a gravel pit? The first garden to be put on the site was a cactus garden. The cactus garden was built in 1934. The rocks that you see today in the hillsides were added at that time. It was in 1983 that the site was converted to a perennial garden.

During an Intern field trip to the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden in 2003 Intern **Kim Snyder** remarked how sad it was to see the perennial garden suffer from so much neglect. Head Gardeners of the Botanic Garden have such large areas they must maintain, it is difficult to keep all areas in prime display condition at all times. After some discussion that day several of us decided it would be a worthwhile Master Gardener project.

The entire first year was spent removing overgrown ruellias and wood violets. We mulched as quickly as we could clear an area to help discourage re-growth of weeds. By fall we had started to add plants and spring bulbs. In late winter we cut back many over grown plants to bring them back under control. **Sharon Chastain** began to map the garden for us.

In 2004 we decided we would make more of an impact, if we divided the garden into areas, and chose one Master Gardener to be over each area. This would allow us to more easily become familiar with plants in each area, and know the care they must have. We each have a notebook to list existing plants, and plants we will want to add to our area in the future.

During the heat of the summer **Mary Nell Hubbard** drew up a plan for a specific area.

Visitors view this area as they come down into the perennial garden. The planting was achieved in late October between rainstorms.

Cindy Woelke finished the west hillside, and moved on to work the south hillside. Cindy has had to plan for dry rocky areas and shady rocky areas. You need to see the different sedums on the west hillside during late summer/early fall.

Lou DeSantis has put a lot of hard work into the woodland garden area. In clearing the area of heavy undergrowth, he has uncovered two rusty black haw shrub-trees, and has been able to highlight three Japanese maples. Many trees and shrubs have been added to the area this year. Lou hopes to help create a path through the area for easier viewing by visitors.

Charlotte Berck has successfully researched and identified a Buddleia Lindleyana. There was much discussion among garden staff as whether or not the shrub was even a buddleia. Other unusual plants in Charlotte's area are Roja Santa and almond verbena (a shrub).

Two of our newer Master Gardeners **Janet Riley** and **Deborah Garrison** have come into the Perennial Garden with much enthusiasm. Janet has experience in working in a nursery and landscaping. She is working to make one of our shady areas eye appealing. Debbie is planning for some summer color in another area.

Joyce Colegrove and I have found an easy way out of work. We have established a Master Gardener Auxiliary. **Bill Colegrove** has been known to show up in the fall and remove all the dying taro from the stream. **Jerry Johnson** has helped moved mulch from over the hill into the flowerbeds. Both, Jerry and Bill, just finished trimming the dead wood from the crepe myrtles under the watchful eye of Delinda Driver, our garden staff sponsor.

We welcome all of you to join us any time you can. We meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 AM and work until 11:30 AM. Feel free to

come whichever Wednesday you can, and work only as long as you can. In the hot summer months we will start working at 7:30 AM and quit when we are melted. Please bring your own water with you. We can use a variety of talents: mapping, identification, photography, garden design and, oh yes, people who like to weed.

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden
Perennial Garden is TCMGA Project #311.
For information about volunteering,
contact Project Chair **Patsy Johnson**
at 817-292-5358.

Congratulations to **Mary Edholm!**
Her single bloom miniature rose
won a Blue Ribbon at the recent
Fort Worth Garden Club Flower
Show May 5th - This was her first
time to enter. Way to go, Mary!

We go in withering July
To ply the hard incessant hoe;
Panting beneath the brazen sky
We sweat and grumble, but we go.
- Ruth Pitter

No occupation is so delightful to me
as the culture of the earth,
no culture comparable
to that of the garden ...
But though an old man,
I am but a young gardener.
- Thomas Jefferson, *Garden Book*, 1811

Special Thanks to Special People

If you didn't make the tour of East Ft. Worth members' gardens, you missed a gardener's delight. Thanks to **Judy Butler's** dedication and hard work, around 60 members met on a Friday morning at Judy's church in Handley to appreciate the remarkable and charming results of her 3 years' efforts toward renovating the church grounds. Dividing into 4 groups, we then were treated to a surprising variety of immaculately tended home gardens, each with its own personality, reflective of the homeowner. We are most grateful to the following members for their generosity, hospitality, helpful hints and hard work....

Werner Pilgrim whose cottage theme with colorful pots, pots, everywhere pots, raised beds, abundance of perennials and his beloved roses are a tribute to Texas gardening at its best.

Harriett Shadle whose artistry and talent for shade gardening, landscape design and architecture and creative water features, made us feel as if we had walked into a cover of Southern Living.

Dolores Geisel whose terraced hillside demonstrated the best of both shade and sun gardening, with easy access to all levels, pristine beds and those beautiful Lacecap hydrangeas.

Tammye Kuntz (a very brave intern!) whose use of Japanese influence was evidenced by the simplicity of design, plant and stone arrangement and a remarkably creative bamboo guttering system.

Finally, if you haven't already, let Judy know how much you appreciate the organization, planning and attention to detail that she devoted to make this a rousing success. The directions were great!

Joy Lease, Activities Chair

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 7	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - Resource Connection
July 24-27	International Master Gardener Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
Aug 4	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - Resource Connection
Sept 1	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - Resource Connection
Sept 20 thru Nov 15	Fall 2005 MG Intern Class
Sept 30	Little Hands on the Farm begins at the State Fair
Oct	Annual Landscape Design School (10/11, 13, 18, 20, 29)

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