



Thoughts from JoAnn

Six hundred MGs from around the state descended on Corpus Christi for a very successful State MG Conference. TCMGA participated in the state awards program by entering two of the seven categories. In the Program of Project competition we nominated Thistle Hill (**Emily Ward**, project chair) and won 2nd place, and in the Educational Exhibit and Poster Showcase, we also nominated Thistle Hill and won 1st place. This took a lot of planning, paperwork, hauling, setting up and dismantling of all materials. A big thank you to all of the MGs who worked on this program.

In May we also participated in Flowercade and took 2nd place in the club competition thanks to **Mimi Lyles** and **Susanne Mills** who designed our display and carried it out at no cost to TCMGA by bringing and using their personal collection of beautiful garden items. We had numerous MGs enter individual entries and the blue ribbons flowed. Another project to receive an award this month is the Hulen Library project (**Evaline Woodrey**, project chair). Fort Worth Garden Club will be recognizing them for an outstanding native plant garden and one that encourages people to plant a like garden. We are fortunate to have all these talented people that work so hard and bring recognition to TCMGA

As you get ready to enjoy your summer vacation give some time and thought to whom you would like to have as your officers for next year. As this organization gets larger, so do the responsibilities of the officers and the members. Your job is to see that we have a diverse, well-informed group of officers that will carry out the mission of TCMGA and look forward to its future. The nominating committee will need to notify the membership of their selections prior to the September meeting; if you have recommendations, let them know this summer. **Wendi Carlucci** is chair; members are **Ken Barham**, **Don Graves**, **Joyce Quam** and **Sandy Williams**.

JoAnn

Master Gardener Program

Did you hear on the news that traffic jams were occurring all around Tarrant County, caused by Master Gardeners stopping to identify wildflowers???

Robert George really did a great job teaching us how to identify wildflowers at the May meeting and Stella Rowan Prairie is the perfect place to use the knowledge or just enjoy the beauty.

Our **June 3rd meeting** will be our annual social event. **Meet at the LANCASTER THEATER, 300 S. MAIN, GRAPEVINE, TX at 11:00 am. Note the time and location change!**

11:00 Barbara Baker will show us how to use flowers from our home gardens in our homes.

12:00 Short Business Meeting and Lunch. **EVERYONE bring your own lunch, TCMGA will furnish the beverages.**

After lunch we will visit 3 gardens in the Grapevine area. Maps will be available at the meeting.

Have a great gardening month,

Ginger Bason



HOSPITALITY NOTES
from **Joyce Quam**

Thank you to the people who brought goodies for the May Master Gardener meeting. We are a hungry bunch! Well, you're off the hook for the June 3 meeting! It's BYOLunch Social and Garden Tours Day starting at the Lancaster Theatre in Grapevine. Iced tea and pop will be provided. The people who signed up for food for June are asked to bring food on August 5, the next MG meeting. Thanks again to the generous food providers!

Meeting Minutes, May 13, 2004

President JoAnn Hahn called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. on May 13th, at the Resource Connection. Attendance for the May meeting was 126 Interns and Certifieds. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper. Treasurer Warren Tingley expanded on the Treasurer's report and provided explanations for some of the entries.

The following items were discussed:

- (1) Sharecropper guidelines for items to be published were clarified. A non-profit event will be limited to a 1 to 2 line listing with a contact person. Garden-related items will be posted on the boards at the monthly meetings.
- (2) Due to the unforeseen problem of the 2004 Directories being stolen (along with Kim Snyder's car), they are being reprinted and will be ready in approximately 3 weeks.
- (3) Awards:
 - (a) TCMGA had entries in 2 categories at the State Convention in Corpus Christi. In the Project Category, the Thistle Hill Project received a second place and in the Poster Category, the Thistle Hill entry won first place.
 - (b) Ten to fifteen Master Gardeners entered different divisions at Flowercade. Among the winners were Mimi Lyles and Suzanne Mills with a 2nd place.
 - (c) Hulen Library Project won a Native Plant Award recognizing native plant gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 for lunch.

Submitted by Judy Butler, Secretary

Newsletter Guideline
Reviewed with membership on May 13th, 2004

The following statement is a guideline regarding publication of events in the TCMGA newsletter. This is necessary to responsibly conserve funds for newsletter printing and mailing and to keep the newsletter to a reasonable size.

Event publicity of non-profit organization events will be limited to a 1-2 line listing of the event and contact information only. No lists of plants, directions, or other information will be included. Contact information will be limited to either a website name and/or a name and telephone number. All events must be garden related.

Mission Statement
Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

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

What's a Master Gardener to Do?

COME TOUR WITH US submitted by the **Activities and Events Committee**

We had a disappointment on our last tour; one of the garden owner's was ill and we only had one garden to tour. But, what a garden! MGs spent several hours touring and admiring the garden of **Tammy Edwards**. It was hard to decide which feature you liked more. Thanks to all the touring MGs who took the news, of having only one garden to tour that day, with good grace and mutterings of 'shucks, that's okay'. We did miss seeing a good example of what can be done with bad soil and pass-along plants. Get well, soon, **Fatima Gamerio**.

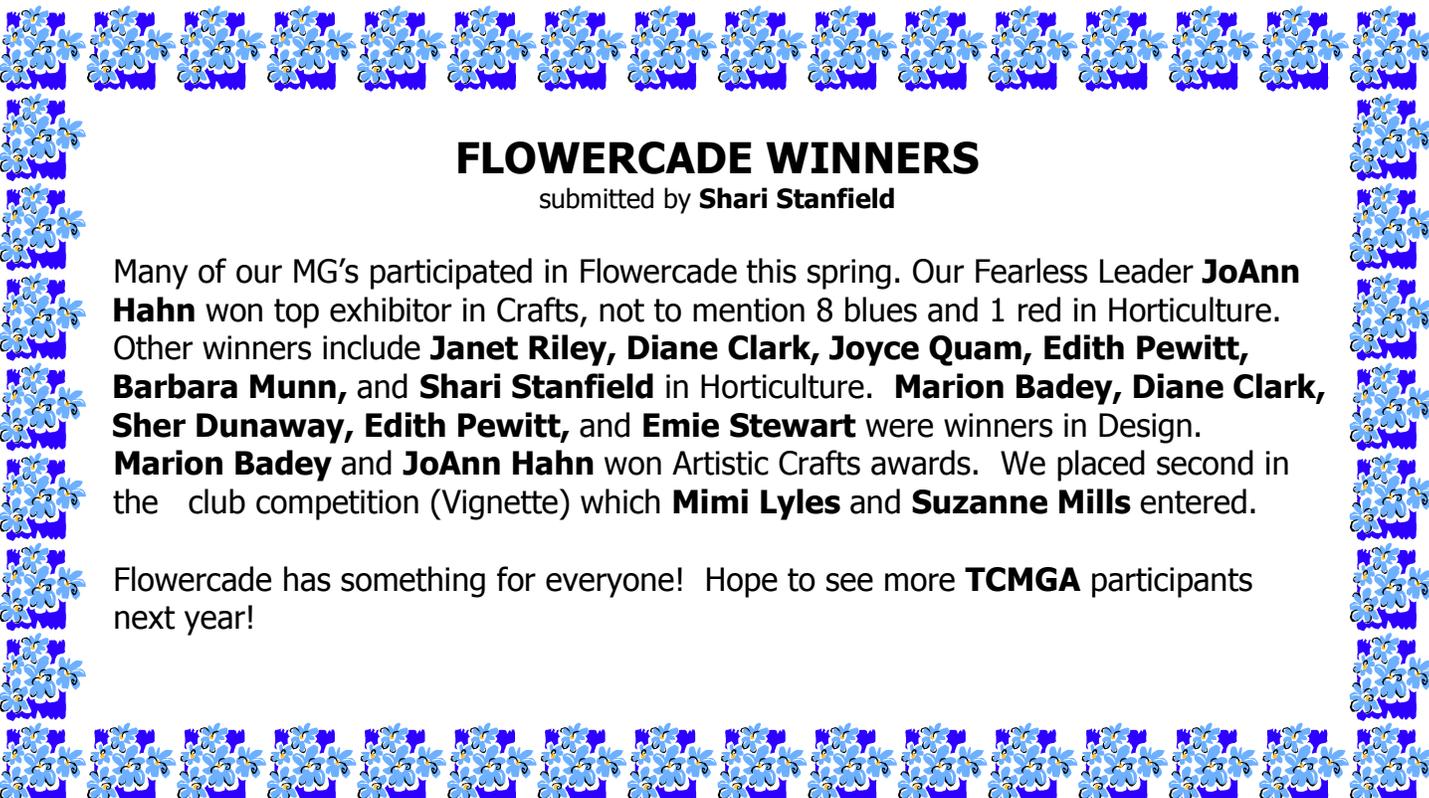
Our next TCMGA garden tour will be held, Thursday, June 10. We will meet at 8:45 AM in the Kroger parking lot at 9114 Camp Bowie West. This is the corner of Spur 580 (the west end of Camp Bowie) and I 820 on the west side of Ft. Worth. Directions/maps to the meeting place will be handed out at the TCMGA meeting June 3. Look for our table at the meeting and pick up your directions. We have set one rain date for the tour – June 24. If it rains both days, the tour will not be held.

The first garden on our June tour sits on a hill. The gardener practices water conservation through water collection bins, smartscaping and composting. This gardener also has a pond and a great view in the backyard.

The second garden is on a 65-acre lake with a large oak tree. The property is on 2 acres with a stone walkway, large deck with pots of tropicals, birdhouses and a 20' round pond with a waterfall. They move plants to make a more cohesive vista and replace any plants that are hard to tend to, so the garden is always in transition.

The third garden is also in transition. (Aren't all of our gardens?) There is mature landscaping and a very interesting tree that is host to a rose that managed to grow into the tree. The gardener has added a new flowerbed with paths that lead around the bed.

Come tour with us Thursday, June 10 at 8:45 AM. Pre-signup and pick up your directions/maps at the Activities & Events table at the June 3 TCMGA meeting. Call **Patsy Johnson**, 817-292-5358 for answers to your questions.



FLOWERCADE WINNERS

submitted by **Shari Stanfield**

Many of our MG's participated in Flowercade this spring. Our Fearless Leader **JoAnn Hahn** won top exhibitor in Crafts, not to mention 8 blues and 1 red in Horticulture. Other winners include **Janet Riley, Diane Clark, Joyce Quam, Edith Pewitt, Barbara Munn, and Shari Stanfield** in Horticulture. **Marion Badey, Diane Clark, Sher Dunaway, Edith Pewitt, and Emie Stewart** were winners in Design. **Marion Badey and JoAnn Hahn** won Artistic Crafts awards. We placed second in the club competition (Vignette) which **Mimi Lyles** and **Suzanne Mills** entered.

Flowercade has something for everyone! Hope to see more **TCMGA** participants next year!

102	Perennial Shade Garden	8:30 a.m., Weds.	Kim Snyder	817-732-1483
111	BRIT Activities	2 nd & 3 rd Tues.	Kay Yount	817-292-7690
121	Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
		2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	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.	8:30 a.m., 4th Thurs	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
126	TC SW Sub Courthouse	June 12 & 29	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
127	Veterans Park-Wildscape	June 5 & every Tues.	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. 9 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
171	School Garden Consultant	call chairman	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
172	School Garden	sign up at MG mtg.	Linda Williams	817-907-5668
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.	Carole O'Connell	817-921-0713
324	Weston Gardens	Needed in June	Rose Marie Mercado	817-923-9555



TCMGA June Meeting - Location

Our June 3rd. meeting will be at the Lancaster Theater, 300 S. Main in Grapevine.

Texas A&M offers Entomology class - July 12-16

Texas A&M will be presenting an Entomology class July 12-16, 2004. For more information, check the web site: <http://insects.tamu.edu/mgtrain/>. **Eleanor Tuck** attended last summer and highly recommends it. She would love to talk to you about it.

TCMGA Website Password

Current userid is 'xxxxxxx' and password is 'xxxxxxx'.

Newsletter on the TCMGA Website

Each month the TCMGA newsletter, including any names, addresses, and phone numbers, is posted on the TCMGA website. Please contact the Newsletter Committee if you prefer your information not be included on the website.

Spiderwort

Spiderworts belong to the genus *Tradescantia*, named for John Tradescant, a New World explorer who brought many new plants back to England in the mid-1600's. Spiderworts are hybridized and widely planted in England. They are still a favorite in English cottage gardens, but ironically, are rarely planted in native North American habitats. Spiderworts, or widow's-tears are members of the family Commelinaceae, also called the dayflower family, because the flowers only last for a day, or on hot days, only for a few hours. There are several species of spiderworts native to Texas, but *Tradescantia occidentalis*, or Western spiderwort and the hybrid *Tradescantia x. andersoniana* are most available in this area.

Spiderworts are herbaceous perennials with long, thin leaf blades similar to grass and grow in clumps one to three feet tall. Their blooms open in the morning and the plants will flower from late spring through fall. The rest of the year the green foliage adds texture to garden and landscape beds. Flowers of spiderwort are about one inch wide, deep purple, lavender, blue, pink, or sometimes white, with three petals and three sepals. The six hairy stamens on each flower are most likely the origin of the common name, since they resemble the legs of a spider. Flowers are borne at the ends of stems or in leaf axils and green leafy bracts usually subtend the inflorescences.

Spiderworts are incredibly adaptable. They are primarily shade plants, preferring a half day of shade, but will tolerate more shade with less blooms or more sunny locations with less foliage. Spiderworts will grow in many soil types, from poor, rocky soil to rich organic soil and can tolerate dry to boggy conditions. The spiderwort in my yard is in a location that receives morning sun and dappled shade in the afternoon. They make a nice ground cover on the edge of woodlands or under trees in a residential lot.

Spiderworts can be propagated readily from seed and by division of shoots. They should be divided every few years to avoid becoming overgrown. If leaves become overgrown or sunburned, cutting them back will encourage fresh, new growth.

INTERN SCOOP

The 2004 Interns have been busy, busy, busy, since classes ended in February. They volunteered 257 Community /Extension hours, 64 hours at school projects and spent 100 hours going on field trips. They have also completed 76 hours of training on the Master Gardener telephone. All in all they have volunteered over 575 hours and have traveled 160 hours!

We have a "bumper crop" of Interns volunteering at the Botanic Gardens. This is a wonderful opportunity for Interns to be involved in gardening in their community. The Botanic Garden staff is very appreciative of all Master Gardener involvement in their programs and gardens.

Just look around and you will see one of our 2004 Interns volunteering at projects throughout our area.

Intern Advisors

Standing Rules Proposed Addition To be voted on June 3, 2004

Proposed Standing Rule:

4. Upon the death of a TCMGA Member, the association will provide \$25.00 towards the purchase of a memorial book for the Master Gardener library. This book will be inscribed "In Memory of -----" and will be a long lasting tribute to our honored member.

Rationale

This rule will help solve the confusion resulting from the death of members, their families or loved ones. The rule will guide us in the selection of memorials and ensure consistency in these unfortunate circumstances. Of course, individual TCMGA members are free to express condolences as they see fit.

Submitted by **Kay Yount**

After hearing Barney Lipscomb's enthusiastic and scholarly talk in April, followed by Robert George on wildflowers in May, we thought you'd like to hear a little more about their workplace – BRIT! The Botanic Research Institute of Texas came into existence when Southern Methodist University closed its herbarium in the late 1980s. At that time, volunteers in Fort Worth stepped up to the plate, as it were, to keep the collection in Texas. At the present time, BRIT has about 1,000,000 specimens mounted and filed in the plant collection.

TCMGA got involved in 1999 when it was decided that such a botanical treasure should be known to and supported by the horticulturists in the area. Master Gardeners assist BRIT in achieving its mission of conserving our natural heritage by mounting dried plants and filing them in the herbarium. Volunteers contribute substantially to the daily work in the herbarium as they contribute approximately 50 hours a week. Last year, 26 Tarrant County Master Gardeners earned a total of 685.5 hours working at BRIT and mounted about 1,000 specimens. Currently, there are about 10 Tarrant County MGs who volunteer on a regular basis. In addition, there are Master Gardeners from Hood, Johnson, Parker and Denton counties. Several Master Naturalists also volunteer at BRIT so it makes for a core group of folks who have a common interest in conserving the flora and fauna of the area. Resident botanists are always happy to help identify any plant brought in by master gardeners. Last year one of the MG volunteers discovered an orchid in Johnson County that had not been found there before. Monthly Brown Bag luncheons offer additional opportunities to learn more about plants. Volunteers are also welcome at the periodic BRIT Distinguished Lecturer series where researchers, authors and others present a scientific lecture on an aspect of Texas botany.

BRIT treats their volunteers very well. The director of BRIT honors volunteers at an annual dinner party at his home with staff providing entertainment. Each of the past two years, BRIT has dedicated a book to the library in the name of each volunteer. Volunteers are frequently included in birthday parties, staff luncheons and seminars in the Education Center.

The BRIT field trip/open house for the TCMGA interns is planned for late June. Additionally, three mounting classes are planned each year in the herbarium. Training classes for those who would like to learn to mount specimens are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month. After training, volunteers may work on any day that is convenient for them. If you are interested in the classes email me at kjyount1@airmail.net or call me at 817-292-7690. Class size is limited to 6 people because our supplies are limited. After volunteers are trained, they may come any day of the week but the first few times supervision is helpful.

TCMGAs frequently come in small groups and work in the morning then go to lunch together. BRIT is one of the few places where you can get 2-6 hours in a day, so if you are in a crunch to get your hours in, BRIT is the place to be! It is also a good place to work in the summer – all nice, cool and air-conditioned. It is not clean however, so wear short sleeves and bring an apron.

For more information on BRIT, contact project chairperson **Kay Yount** at 817-292-7690.

Henrietta Apple Orchard Docent Training

Sue Short will instruct docent training for Henrietta Apple Orchard July 21st at 9:00. It will last about one hour, and will give instructions to and acquaint participants in tours of the orchard.

If you are interested call Sue at 817 439-3202 or e-mail at ss.apple@juno.com

Vegetable and Fruit Show at Rail Market Celebration

The North Central Texas Farmers Market, Texas Cooperative Extension, and the Fort Worth Rail Market is sponsoring a Vegetable and Fruit Show **June 19** at the Rail Market Summer Celebration. Entry is free. Awards will be given to amateurs, professionals and youth. Bring your best vegetables and fruits.

Schedule of Events

8:00 a.m. until sell out of farm-fresh produce
 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Master Gardener Q & A Table
 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Vegetables and Fruit entry
 10:30 a.m. Judging
 10:00 a.m. Best Backyard Vegetable Gardens,
Dotty Woodson, Horticulture County Extension Agent
 12:00 noon Chef series presents Allain Vervil, Executive
 Sous Chef at Kalamata's at the Worthington Hotel
 2:00 Awards will be presented by Rebecca Miller,
 Meteorologist NBC5

Farmers Market News

Master Gardener **Ben Walker**, North Central Texas Farmers Market Manager, invites you all to the Fort Worth Rail Market. Starting May 15th, the Farmers' Market is open each Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Now available: Heirloom tomatoes, salad greens, cabbage, broccoli, onions, beets, radishes, turnips, cucumbers, squash, Brazos blackberries and fresh herbs.

Summer Chef Series

Master Gardener **Becky Konvicka** has arranged for some of the best local chefs to demonstrate at the Rail Market each Saturday. This is a must. The Summer Chef Series is each Saturday 12 Noon - 2 pm. The series is FREE and sampling is encouraged!

Chef Series Schedule

May 22 Brian Olenjack, Chef, The Chisholm Club
 June 5 Denise Shavandy, Chef/Owner, Pegasus
 June 12 Judie Byrd, Chef/Owner, The Culinary School
 of Fort Worth
 June 19 Allain Vervil, Executive Sous Chef Kalamata's
 at the Worthington Hotel
 June 26 Pam Ride, Rock House Cuisine & Gallery
 July 17 Todd Phillips, Reata
 July 24 Dana Tarter, "Wellness in the City" Texas
 Cooperative Extension Service
 July 31 Louise Lamensdorf, Bistro Louise

Bees in the Wall (New Procedure)

Here I am again writing about bees. We receive more bee

calls than any other. In the past, I have asked you to refer callers to the Trinity Bee Keepers Association for a recommendation of a Beekeeper. Unfortunately, this is no longer an option for us or people with bee problems. The Structural Pest Control Board, the regulatory agency that licenses and regulates pest control around structures, has had complaints filed about beekeeper practicing pest control without a license. The politics and money making behind these complaints are very damaging to some of the beekeepers. Extension's new procedure will be to ONLY recommend beekeepers and pest control companies with a license with the Texas Pest Control Board or to explain how the homeowner can control the bees themselves. There is a list of licensed beekeepers and pest control companies who will take bee control jobs in the red 3 ring binder on each Master Gardener desk. The instructions for controlling bees are in the publication binder, on the shelf, and in the publication file on the computer. You can read, e-mail, fax or mail the instructions to a caller.

Instructions for Controlling Bees in a Wall

Established colonies of honeybees, especially Africanized honey bees, can react very vigorously to any disturbance and will attack any person or animal in their territory once they are disturbed. Any time you are working with an established colony you should wear protective clothing and ensure that no unprotected people or animals are nearby. Africanized bees will defend a fairly large area, so it is best to keep unprotected people or animals at least 400 yards away.

Before you start any control measures, you should know the location of the colony in the wall in relation to the flight entrance. The nest may be far enough away from the entrance that insecticides applied at the entrance will not reach the bees. The number of entrances should also be determined. The nest can be located by tapping on the wall at night and listening for the area where the buzzing sounds are loudest. Bees keep the nest center at about 92 degrees F, a temperature high enough to warm the wall beside it so that you may be able to feel, as well as hear, the nest location.

Insecticides are the safest, quickest and most effective materials for killing bees in buildings. Do not use fumigants or flammable compounds in structures. Carbaryl (Sevin®), pyrethrins, propoxur (Baygon®), malathion, resmethrin or sumithrin are insecticides suggested for this use. The pyrethroid insecticides are often used for their rapid knockdown of bees.

Either dust or spray formulations can be used within a wall or other cavity, but dusts generally disperse better. Apply the insecticide at night through the entrance hole if the colony is fairly close to the entrance or if the hive cannot be located. Or, drill a hole in the wall above the colony and apply the dust or spray through this opening (the hole should be small enough that bees cannot exit, and can be drilled from the inside wall to avoid bees around the hive entrance). An extremely large colony may have to be treated again about 10 days later to kill emerging young bees. As with swarms, if colonies are treated during the day bees that return from the field in the evening will gather near the entrance and will need to be sprayed.

After all sound and flight activity have ceased, or at least within 2 weeks, open the wall and remove all dead bees, combs

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

401 East Eighth Street



Summer 2004 Calendar of Events

June 3	TCMGA Monthly Meeting / Social at Lancaster Theater in Grapevine
June 5	North Richland Hills Pond/Garden Tour (contact Debbie York at 817-427-6651)
June 7 - 11 9am - 2 pm	JMG Day Camp for Teachers, Parents and Volunteers at Diamond Hill Elementary. Cost is \$50.00 which will include a JMG manual.
June 10	TCMGA Garden Tour
June 15 9am - 2 pm	JMG Training at Burton Hill Elementary
June 19	Vegetable and Fruit Show at the Fort Worth Rail Market.
June 24	Rain date for TCMGA Garden Tour
July	NO MONTHLY TCMGA MEETING
July 12-16	Texas A&M Entomology Class

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