



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

Oops! I forgot to put in nomination the candidates for the Nominating Committee at the last meeting. Since June is the next possible opportunity, I am requesting that you consider the issues and send me any floor nominations that you have. **Dave Wilson** was elected by the Executive Board to chair the committee. The Executive Board decided to nominate a slate that consisted of active members with varying tenures in the organization. Those nominees are:

1. **Debbie Bollinger**
2. **Mary McCoy**
3. **Wilda Turner**
4. **Evaline Woodrey**

Members may also nominate from the floor. If you wish to nominate someone, be sure that they are willing to serve and forward their name to me. I will then circulate the name among the membership. We will convene for a brief business meeting at the June meeting and elect the committee. If there are additional nominees, the committee will consist of the four nominees with the largest number of votes.

Thank you for your patience. See you in Denton and at the June meeting.

Good gardening,
Warren

Hospitality Notes by Joyce Quam

...and the food poured in! Everyone enjoyed the tasty treats! Thank you to all who supplied the great food at the April TGMGA meeting! And thank you to all who signed up to bring goodies for the **next meeting in July!** I will e-mail/call to remind you, of course. Happy Gardening!

May Monthly TCMGA Program

A recent news bulletin warned that there is a shortage of palms for sale in the plant nurseries in the Tarrant County area. Could this be due to the programs we had at the April meeting???? That was a real learning experience for many of us!

The income at the April meeting from the garage sale was \$178.75 and the silent auction was \$426.00. THANK YOU to everyone from bringing and buying. THANK YOU to **Mimi Lyles** and **Suzanne Mills** for coordinating the Silent Auction and to **Hope Porter** for being our cashier. Thank you to **Dotty Woodson** and **Steve Chaney** for entering their 'services' in the Silent Auction.

Our May meeting is the State Meeting in Denton County and TCMGA should have a good group there as close as it is. There are always so many things to choose from and a lot to learn at the state level meetings. Hope you are going!

The **June meeting/social** will be at the Delaney Vineyard off 121 on the way to Grapevine. More info in the next newsletter.

The **Christmas Awards Celebration/Meeting for 2005** will be on December 8th, the **SECOND THURSDAY** in December, one week later than our usual meeting day. Please mark your calendars now.

SEE YOU AT THE STATE MEETING !!!!!!!

Ginger Bason

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
Meeting Minutes - April 7, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by President **Warren Tingley** at 11:00 a.m. There were 158 members and interns in attendance.

President Tingley welcomed the Hood County Master Gardeners, **Doug Richards** and **Jane McConal** who were providing information on their upcoming garden tour on May 14 and 15th. He also recognized our newest member, **Deborah Garrison**, who has transferred from the Gainesville Master Gardener Association.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer **Rita Hottel**. The report was also available as a handout to members.

The minutes of the March 2005 meeting were approved as published in the Sharecropper.

New Business:

It was approved by the membership that the organization would pay the \$100 tuition to the State Conference for **Steve Chaney**.

The membership also approved the use of the funds derived from the April garage sale being applied to the Project Fund.

The following announcements were made by President Tingley:

Volunteers are needed for the following:

1. The Rose Sale at the Botanic Garden on April 16. Members were directed to **Ben Oefinger** and/or **Ann Couch** to volunteer.
2. The Pizza Ranch.
3. Garden tours at **Mary Margaret Halleck** home and Henrietta Creek Orchard during the State Convention.
4. The Community Vegetable Garden in the Stockyards. Contact **Mike Warren**.

Orders were being taken by **Dave Wilson** for Felco pruners at a cost of \$39.00.

Members were reminded of the following:

1. Coppell Community Garden Tour on April 23rd.
2. TCMGA Clark Garden Tour on April 28th. Car pool from the Botanic Gardens.
3. Intern Field trip on April 14th to Cross Timbers Demo. Gardens and Esther Proctor's Gardens. Meet at the Japanese Gardens.
4. TCMGA Members Garden Tour in East Ft. Worth on May 20th. Meet at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Ft. Worth, at 9:00 a.m. to tour five gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

A New Face in the Extension Office

Welcome to Crystal Jones

My name is Crystal Jones. I started in April as the Administrative Assistant for the Horticulture Department at the Tarrant County Extension office. I grew up in Azle, Texas with one brother. I also have a half brother and three half sisters. Both of my parents are still alive and live in Azle. After graduating, I married and had two boys named Josh, 13, and Zach, 6. Both of my kids are very involved in extracurricular activities. Josh plays football, baseball, basketball & track. He also wrestled for a couple of years. Zach plays football, baseball and wrestles. Much of my "extra" time is spent at practices or games, which I enjoy doing. Before coming to the Extension Office, I worked at a restaurant supply company in Fort Worth for two years. But most of my work experience came from a non-profit agency in Fort Worth. I was there for approximately seven years. Being an executive secretary for almost five years and an administrative assistant for two years, I developed many skills that will be beneficial in my new position.

The Extension Office is definitely a "good fit" for me. I love working with volunteers and am looking forward to a long tenure with the county.

Crystal Jones
 Administrative Assistant
 817-884-1296
 cljones@ag.tamu.edu

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!

- 5-2 Jackie Peel, Blas Villarreal;
- 5-5 Amanda Kowalski;
- 5-6 Taylor Stephens-Parker;
- 5-8 Joe Sanders; 5-10 Gwen Lipscomb;
- 5-12 Judy Ratzlaff; 5-13 Kathy Cermak, Debra Sanders, Pat Higgins;
- 5-15 Janice Beavers;
- 5-26 Gay Larson;
- 5-27 Judith Kelly;
- 5-29 Linda Witherspoon;
- 5-30 Margo Young;
- 5-31 Joyce Colegrove.

MG DIRECTORY MAY UPDATES

New email addresses:

Intern Kathy Howard
kjw0214@sbcglobal.net

Marjie Nelson mark-nelson@sbcglobal.net

Sandy Williams
chasandsandy@sbcglobal.net

Evaline Woodrey e-woodrey@earthlink.net

New address & phone:

Sandy Williams 105 Aledo Grove Ct.
Ft. Worth, TX 76126
817-443-0583

Janet Riley correct certification year to 2000.

TCMGA Members Garden Tour in East Ft, Worth Friday May 20TH, 2005

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at First Jefferson Church, 1959 Sandy Lane between Meadowbrook Dr. and Brentwood-Stair Road. Maps to home will be provided at the church.

GROUNDS OF FIRST JEFFERSON UNITARIAN CHURCH

This seven acre site has been landscaped and maintained by a TCMGA member for the past 9 years. Three years ago much of the landscape was bulldozed to make way for a new building. Therefore, most of the landscaping has been done since then. The site consists of a wildflower meadow, a creek and surrounding area (some of which is in its natural state), shade gardens, rose garden, sitting areas and an inner courtyard area. This was all done on an extremely limited budget and with many kind donations from fellow TCMGA members.

GARDEN OF TCMGA MEMBER IN OLD HANDLEY

This beautiful yard in the older area of Handley has been tended since 1959 by a long time TCMGA member and his wife. This lovely cottage home with its carefully landscaped beds exudes a love and passion for gardening. You are greeted by a ruffle of annuals ringing the front of the home. Upon entering the back yard, you come upon a triple arbor with climbing roses including the rose Seven Sisters. Behind the arbors stretch multiple, carefully fenced and manicured beds which include many antique roses (Knockout, Red Cascade, Caldwell Pink, Valentine and Don Juan and more), plus other perennials. At every turn in this exceptional yard you will find something to admire, including Texas mountain laurel and a huge Chinese fringe flower shrub.

GARDEN OF TCMGA MEMBER IN LAKEWOOD ESTATES

Set on the curve of a cul-de-sac that backs up to a Ft. Worth City Park, this impressive two story home has a traditional front yard with a unique garden sculpture presented as an

honorarium to the owner. Down the driveway you will pass a butterfly garden, and a grouping of roses including David Austin roses. Then it is thru the gate into a back yard set into a deep grove of trees. At the top of the yard is a wonderful wooden gazebo overlooking the pool area. Among the plants in the sunny areas of the yard are mock orange, and sweet broom while in the shady areas you will find sweet potato vines, hibiscus, American beautyberry, herbs and native grasses. This is a gardening oasis.

GARDEN OF TCMGA MEMBER IN WOODHAVEN

High on a hill with a commanding view of Ft. Worth is a terraced yard being reworked by its TCMGA owner. As you enter the yard, you are greeted by a large expanse of Chinese fringe flower in a bed high in the air across the top of the driveway. Once in the yard, the hillside has been terraced to contain many areas of interest including a rose garden at the top. Garden benches are situated on the terraces to allow the view to be enjoyed any time of the day. At the bottom of the terraced area, a stand of aspidistra on one side of the walkway is countered by a bed of day lilies. A small water feature at the base of the terraced area is easily seen and enjoyed from both inside and outside the house. This Master Gardener is full of ideas for more changes to this lovely yard.

GARDEN OF TCMGA INTERN IN WOODHAVEN

This eastside home in Woodhaven is surrounded by 50+ year old elm and oak trees, and has a modern look with a shaded porte-cochere at the front entrance to the home. Embracing the front door entrance are holly ferns and coleus that have found a happy place to call home. As you enter this shaded backyard through the wooden gate, you get a relaxing Asian feel with beautiful Crimson Queen, Bloodgood and Coral Bark Japanese Maples along with statuary that adds to the theme. An ingenious, well thought out bamboo guttering system, consisting of various levels of bamboo, moves water from the roof into a large vessel then drains underground through a French drain. Beds of caladiums

and impatiens flourish in this shaded backyard and provide coolness for enjoyment in the hot Texas summers.

After the garden tours, visit historic Old Handley and other gardening places of interest in east Ft. Worth. Information and directions will be provided the day of the tour.

New Items

May 10-11 Pizza Ranch. Contact MG Desk or **Crystal Jones**.

Community Vegetable Garden in the Stockyards. Contact **Mike Warren**.

<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	8:30 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. 9 a.m.	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	call chairman	Rachel Clark	817-488-0035
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
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, 10 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	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
407 Willow Park Demo Garden	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

The Mutabilis Rose Earth-Kind Rose of the Year

Submitted by Steve Chaney

The Mutabilis Rose, first introduced in 1894, has been named "Earth-Kind Rose of the Year" by Texas Cooperative Extension's Earth-Kind team. Dr. Steve George, Extension horticulturist at Dallas, said this new honor was created by Extension horticulturists to highlight the best performers in their Earth-Kind Rose program. "This is a really tough honor to obtain". The title comes only after years of field research during which roses are grown and evaluated under very trying conditions. They're not fertilized or pruned. They're grown with greatly reduced irrigation and are never treated with pesticides. The winning roses are so easy to grow that everyone, even novice gardeners, can enjoy great success with these outstanding cultivars.

"Mutabilis has risen to the top to become one of the very best to date. It's a wonderful old China rose. China's comprise a class of roses best known for their repeat blooming habit. This rose has long been one of the most popular of the old garden roses." Mutabilis has blooms that are flat with a single circular row of petals. Each blossom "mutates" or goes through three distinct color changes. They open peach gold, then change to a beautiful pink and finally turn a stunning crimson. The pink and crimson phases each last 24 hours.

Mutabilis is also called the "Butterfly Rose." Its profusion of silky blossoms in a simultaneous display of all three color phases is reminiscent of a group of brightly colored butterflies resting on the shrub. Mutabilis produces flushes of blooms from spring through fall, right through summer's heat. "The blossoms have little or no fragrance, but they provide tremendous landscape color".

Like all Earth-Kind roses, Mutabilis needs at least eight hours of direct sun daily and good air flow over its foliage. It will grow in almost

any soil from well-drained acid sands to highly alkaline clays. It's also very drought and heat-tolerant once established.

The rose is not immune to pest problems, but its tolerance to pests is so great that pesticides are almost never needed. This cultivar is winter hardy in USDA hardiness zones 6 through 9. "We at Texas A&M University heartily recommend widespread planting of this wonderful old rose throughout Texas and trial plantings across much of the southern half of the United States".

"Mutabilis makes a large, very handsome landscape shrub that reaches a symmetrical 7 feet tall and 7 feet wide at maturity. Its growth habit and shape are very attractive even without pruning. For a striking accent, it can be pruned into the shape of a miniature tree with an under story planting of shade-tolerant annuals. It can also be used in groups of three or five at the back of a border to create a strong design element."

Mutabilis can be used to nurture a youngster's love of nature and gardening, by tagging individual blooms with string or yarn. Children and their parents can watch the blossoms change colors. Caution is recommended though because while beautiful, Mutabilis (like most roses) has its share of sharp thorns.

"Earth-Kind roses excite me more than any other group of plants I have ever tested, because they return so much enjoyment for so little care." Since Mutabilis is one of the very best to date, it's a great one with which to begin your Earth-Kind collection. It grows like gang-busters while providing vivid color and great interest in your landscape. And, your children and grandchildren will love it. "That's quite a resume for the first ever 'Earth-Kind Rose of the Year.' "

**The world's favorite season
is the spring.
All things seem possible in May.
- Edwin Way Teale**

Weston Gardens In Bloom Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Submitted by **Rose Marie Mercado**, TCMG '99

Nine years ago on a sunny Sunday afternoon in April, newly arrived in Fort Worth from the desert mountain terrain of El Paso and thus delightfully basking in the greening springtime treasures of trees and blooming colors abounding about seemingly spacious city environs, a friend invited me to accompany her to Weston Gardens in Bloom. She knew I loved flowers and gardens and artful arrays, but she did not know where my passion for flora, woody vines, shrubs and trees would eventually take me.

We departed from the TCU area of Fort Worth, and I recall that the drive east on I-20 to Anglin Road seemed so long that I thought I would arrive in Dallas County. Now, nodding toward my tenth year in Fort Worth, I trek out to Weston Gardens with the same abandon as running errands to the local shopping malls. No matter the season, as soon I begin heading south on Anglin Drive, I take a deep breath and count my blessings for this remaining almost unadulterated countryside. There are always colorful, artful landscapes awaiting my observation, easily achieved considering the frequently monitored speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

Hazy and vague is the memory of my first visit to the multiple areas bursting forth with their springtime show-and-tell confessions at Weston Gardens. Vivid and happily, however, do I remember gaily walking across the rickety wooden plank bridge strung high over a dry creek bed and a weedy creek bank to arrive aboard the stone ship anchored there since its construction was completed in 1942. Standing on board the abandoned structure which stretches 125 feet long, with masts, cable rigging, two crow's nests, and a Captain's cabin, someone mentioned that the stone ship had been a party boat. I remember looking up at the Captain's two-story pine-paneled cabin, only to see that charred timbers and blackened stone confirmed some sort of event that may have fired out of hand. But lo, the burned evidence was not of a kitchen or party fire but of a lightning strike in 1972.

Standing there at the ship's bow, surrounded by woods, I imagined multiple music strains serenading a starry night: Big Band-era strings and saxophone mingling with the stirring of ice cubes in tall glasses, crickets welcoming crepuscular flirting,

and laughter cascading down upon fish splashing in the water below. Oh, how many romantic nights there must have been!

What my friend did not know was that my passion would wind me to TCMGA and subsequently to become an ardent gardener, a garden artisan and public speaker, and a garden docent. Since 2000, I have been one of the TCMGA docents at Weston Gardens.

The highlight of my docent tour is to arrive at the stone ship and then to watch the expressions of the visitors as I relate the ship's rich history. Visitors these days can only view because the thrill of walking across the rickety bridge to the ship and being able to be on board are currently off limits. During the next 2-3 years, the ship will be rebuilt and rehabilitated, one of several working projects currently underway at Weston Gardens.

"Italian grottos, English-style perennial borders, rippling waterfalls, tons and tons of mortar and stonewalls will tend to confuse the mind," writes Randy Weston in his introduction to www.westongardens.com. Undoubtedly the confusion was both serious and beckoning in 1988 when Sue and Randy Weston purchased the historic Leon Bandy Estate. Since that determined purchase 16 years ago, the Westons have worked steadily to showcase Weston Gardens as a project of restoration and renewal. "When we started Weston Gardens, we wanted to do something that would make a difference in the world," say the Westons. For four years prior to purchasing the Bandy Estate, the Westons owned and operated a nursery across the street never knowing that 100 yards away they would have an opportunity to combine their dream for a difference with a revival of pertinent social and ecological history.

In 1929, Leon Bandy and his wife bought 10 acres, built a house, and named their property "Dripping Springs" because of a seep of water that flowed over eroded limestone into the Chambers Creek that was a part of their acreage. With no defined outline, though nonetheless clearly relishing any and all outcome, the Bandys created and built projects on their land. Most of the stone and masonry work was accomplished by hired hands during the post-war depression days. Although it has been said that Bandy advertised at the local mason hall - "work for 50 cents a day" - outstanding craftsmanship still endures in many of the structures. Native sandstone was hauled in from nearby quarries and fields.

The Bandys sold the property in the 1960s. The pools and fountains that had been dug, the hundreds of yards of flagstone paths that been laid, the walls of stone that had been craftily erected, the expansive lawns that had been so carefully manicured and the shrubs that had been meticulously clipped, all gradually fell to deterioration. Even the stone ship, crumbling, hid beneath the vociferous vines. Even the conifers, each of which had been sheared into a tall, thin teardrop shape, succumbed to the wildscape.

There are stories and newspaper clippings that tell the story of the Bandys' social heydays at Chambers Creek. Yes, the 80-foot deck of the stone ship was plenty of room for dancing at parties. The Bandys often invited business clients, including Moslah Shrine Temple and Consolidated Vultee (later General Dynamics, now Lockheed) for entertaining events of swimming, dining, and dancing.

Even now as we lead docent tours, we point out that some of the dilapidated structures attest to the recreational activities hosted by the Bandys. The Arbor and Refreshment Area was completed in 1933 and personally built by Leon Bandy. The sundial and vases are original accessories. A magnificent display of wisteria, showing its age in the knarled and wide diameters of the vines, overhangs this historic walkway. The Westons plan to rebuild the weakened wood superstructure.

Most evident of the recreation and social aspects of the Bandys gardens is the remaining Swimming Hole and Changing House. Constructed rock dams in the creek allowed the crystal clear water from the property's active springs to remain constant. There is a stone fireplace built into the creek bank and paved steps on each side of the Changing House.

The Wedding Court area, featuring a stone wedding altar, is part of the original 1930's landscape. The Westons added a water feature in 1992. After removing the overgrown trees and vegetation, the Westons discovered metal edging showing outlines of the original planting beds. This area was re-landscaped in 1993 and could be used again for intimate outdoor weddings.

The Waterfall-Perennial Garden-Lily Pond, a popular garden site because of the colorful koi which have been introduced to swim amongst the dark waters, features an irregular pond built in the early 1930s. The Westons have found it amazing that this concrete pond does not leak. A connecting stream

bed and an upper retention pond, using a flexible, vinyl liner were constructed in 1991 along with finishing edges of native rock to match the property's existing stone which was secured from a quarry two miles east.

Completed in the early 1940s, the Perennial & Antique Rose Garden & Lily Pond was the original rose garden. Original water lilies have flourished in the pond for approximately 40 years. This site is a favorite garden site for younger children who like to see the delicate water lilies and the lively tadpoles.

Not to be overlooked, especially since the renovation was completed in early 2005, the New England Barn, built in the 1920s to stable Leon Bandy's horses, is a special site because the "bricks" in the floor are from Bois d'arc wood. These wooden bricks were once used in Fort Worth streets. Near collapse in 1988, the Westons stabilized the foundation in 1989. The two-story interior, renovated with exquisite knotted pine paneling, opened in February 2005 for use as a design studio/gift shop and offices.

Aside from the historical aspects of Weston Gardens In Bloom, Inc., the Westons have managed to engage their business philosophy with their daily operations and global trade.

"We are not just any old business where you can buy the same old homogenized widgets," explain the Westons via their Weston Gardens website. "Ours is a business that is part science, part art and part inspiration (the inspiration comes from nature itself). Just take a walk through our demonstration gardens on a beautiful spring or fall day, and you will understand what we are saying."

Indeed, both the on-site Demonstration Gardens, covering approximately 5 acres, and the retail nursery sport authentic displays of their philosophy. Actually, their philosophy is more readily espoused in plural terms. Two of my favorite Weston philosophies are obvious but often ignored: (1) "Plant native and acclimated plants that will be here generation after generation. *Don't try to force-fit plants that don't belong.* (2) Create beautiful, inspiring personal gardens. *Stop planting gardens out of peer pressure.*"

The remaining Weston guidelines/philosophies are equally encouraging. "Design and create gardens that use water responsibly, including incorporation of Xeriscape methods. Use less toxic and more

natural, organic products to maintain the garden. Increase tree planting—slow down global warming and condition our air for years to come.”

The Westons point out that they “specialize” in landscape design, retail nursery, contracting, and education. The goal at Weston Gardens is to preserve the historical, yet add new gardens and architectural elements that are relevant to today’s gardener. Their projects reflect their intentions to redesign and replant using native Texas flora and highly-acclimated plants. More to the point, they have been able and continue to demonstrate low-maintenance, yet beautiful, settings that can be achieved by each and every one of us gardeners.

From February through November, education lectures and events are conducted on most Saturdays and Sundays. The Shade Garden & Patio, designed and installed in 1992, is often used as the outdoor setting for these events. Certainly, this area illustrates Xeriscape landscaping, foliage, textural and color usage. Mixed plantings show shade and sun tolerant plants in addition to providing a show-and-tell into how to use native stone and boulders effectively in the landscape.

Perhaps the best of the education features offered by Weston Gardens is their own website. A viewer can navigate among the usual headings: Home which features the historical perspective; Gift Shop where one can purchase ornaments and architectural elements; Demonstration Gardens where the pictures and descriptions are generous; Customer Support; What We Do; Weston Gardens “In the News” which reprints magazine articles published about Weston Gardens; Mail Us; Maps/hours/and directions; Future Events; and Garden Calendar.

Three of the website listings, however, are of special interest to TCMGA members. “From Our Garden” is the free, monthly newsletter with special discounts and offers for subscribers. “Plant Listings” is a feature series of “valuable resources based on our hands-on research and experience”. Topics range from Outstanding Old Garden Roses, Rose Color Chart, to Antique Roses (“one of the largest collections in the South”) to various categories of perennials—shade, sun, tough, top 20, butterfly, bird—to herbs, groundcovers, vines, shrubs, trees.

The website gem is the Plant Search. Using specific plant names or combinations of plant names, the

text search engine will display a weighted list of matching documents, with better matches shown first. Each list item is a link to a matching page. And a weighted list it is. For example, begin a search for “sedum,” and then with very easy navigation and as much time as you desire, you will learn *one of everything* about sedum.

As Project Chair for Weston Gardens, I facilitate coordination of docents between TCMGA and Weston Gardens. Apart from their small staff, TCMGA is the only source for docents at Weston Gardens.

A spring introduction and docent training is being planned for early May. Please refer to the TCMGA website and to your email messages for announcement of the date.

Randy Weston often comments, “On many days when it is hopelessly hot and dry (recall this past summer of 80+ days of no rainfall and scorching 100 degree days), this thought of making a difference in the world is the only thing that keeps us going.”

Sometimes, he adds, “And not to mention a gently swinging cable bridge spanning a meandering creek leading over to a land-locked ship built out of stone.”

Westongardens.com

Weston@westongardens.com

817-572-0549

8101 Anglin Drive, Fort Worth 76140

Anglin Drive exit (#441) south from
Interstate 20 for 2.3 miles

**If it's drama that you sigh for,
plant a garden and you'll get it
You will know the thrill of battle
fighting foes that will beset it
If you long for entertainment and
for pageantry most glowing,
Plant a garden and this summer spend
your time with green things growing.**

- Edward A. Guest, *Plant a Garden*

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 5 | State Convention - Denton |
| May 20 | Tour of Member Gardens: East Ft. Worth |
| May 28 | Texas Smartscape |
| June 2 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting - Resource Connection |

Intern Field Trips:

- May 12 – Thistle Hill, Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment,
Hulen Library, Granbury Road Sub-Courthouse
- June 9 – Teen Challenge, Union Gospel Mission, Veterans Park Wildscape

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