



## Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Volume 1 Issue 4

April 2017

### Plant Sale Committee Hard at Work!



Members of the plant sale committee went to Mary-Jose Smith's home and potted up 75 plants for our Annual Plant Sale. Lots of goodies, including hardy mums, mealy sage, copper canyon daisy and monarda.



#### April 22 is the Sale!

- 6STONES/BEDFORD COMMUNITY GARDEN IS THE LOCATION!
- 209 N. INDUSTRIAL BLVD., BEDFORD, IS THE ADDRESS
- 9:30 AM THRU 4:00 PM IS THE TIME
- EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE WATER CONSERVATION, COMPOSTING, GROWING VEGETABLE AND POLLINATOR PLANTS

Be sure and check the e-blast for instructions on how you can sign up to volunteer for this wonderful plant sale!

And did we mention that there will be FOOD TRUCKS? Yum! Thanks to Teresa Day-Fickel for lining them up!

## Women Who Weld - Part 1 Wanda Stutsman

### By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz



A close up of the entrance gate to our Demonstration Garden, created by Wanda Stutsman.

TWO OF OUR  
FEMALE MASTER  
GARDENER  
MEMBERS,  
WANDA  
STUTSMAN &  
DEBBIE KEY, ARE  
WELDERS...LET'S  
FIND OUT WHAT  
MADE THEM FIRE  
UP THE TORCH.

Chatting with Wanda Stutsman:

What made you want to learn to weld?

My husband made me, when he realized that I wanted to make more than one piece of metal art. He said, and I quote, "I don't want to make metal art so you sit down here and I am going to teach you how to weld." That is how it began.

What did you think that you would do with the skill?

Well, make more metal art, but I didn't realize I would be making a lot more!

How does it relate to your life as a gardener?

I feel that I am creating focal points for gardens. Large and small. I also try to emulate the flower as nature created it. That is difficult at times with metal.

How did you begin your training?

I have always been blended left and right brain. A blend of engineering/math and design/creating. I worked in manufacturing with steel molds and mold shops, so I am not intimidated by working with metal. It was easy for me to pick up tools and a torch.

Is this a difficult skill to learn? Would an average gardener be able to handle it?

There is an art to welding. I by no

means consider myself to be a good welder. I hopefully will become one with more time and training from Karl. I would say that if one can get past the fear of the welder then they should try it.

What is the hardest thing about learning how to weld?

Everything. The machine has many settings for thick and thin metals. Getting the right setup, distance and speed is critical. I am welding thin steel and blowing through the steel is the biggest worry.

Next month we'll feature Debbie Key's work and hear what she has to say!



#### April Message from the Presidents Corner

Happy Spring or should I say Summer. I've been busy planting vegetables, fruit trees and flowers while waiting for the last spell of cold weather and wishing for snow. I hope you are enjoying the nice weather as the trees begin to blossom and the spring plants are beginning to bloom.

I think this is the most amazing organization. So many places to get involved and there is a niche for everyone, just ask. If you have an interest in serving or helping and you don't know who to ask, call me, I will be happy to point you in the right direction and help you find that place.

The Master Gardeners are a group of friends who share some of the same interests. It's fun to work beside a classmate and friend. Sometimes we are doing hard and heavy jobs, but working beside each other, we are having fun at the same time. I have learned how much friends care. Folks who will be there when called upon and will listen when you need to talk. As volunteers, the Tarrant County Master Gardeners are the best. Many of you are so dedicated to the projects and events you love. I want each of you to know I am very proud of the job you are doing. I want to recognize your group and thank you in the e-blast. Everyone likes kudos, so please let me know what's going on so I can include you in the e-blast and let others know what you are doing in the community. Drop me an email and allow me to thank you for all you do for our association.

#### Activities and Reminders:

Pick up your caladium bulbs , fertilizer, and spring annuals at the April meeting.

April 22 is the MG plant sale at 6 Stones. This will be a fun day with a wonderful selection of plants. Please print the flyer about the sale and give it to your friends and neighbors. Wanda and Debra will be putting reminders in the e-blast.

Wife to husband who is putting bird food in the bird feeder during the commercials of the March Madness Games: "Let me see, squirrels "10", squirrel proof bird feeder "0"

Two more weeks, basketball is over and baseball begins!

Hugs,

Judy



Madame President...

Judy Ratzlaff



A lot is happening on April 6!

If you ordered Spring annuals, pick them up at the Demonstration Garden either before the meeting, (8:30—9:30) or after the meeting.

While you're there, be sure and purchase some vegetable plants from the Greenhouse crew.

If you ordered caladium bulbs, pick them up either before the meeting, (8:30—9:30) or after the meeting at Waterworks Learning Center. (1801)



## Look What We Dug Up!

Digging done by Lena Goff

Who are these Master Gardeners planting annuals in the Botanic Trial Garden a mere 26 years ago?



## From a Master Gardener's Kitchen



For those Spring Picnics!

Dill Pickle Salad

1/2# pasta cooked and rinsed until cold.

Toss cooked pasta with 1/2 cup dill pickle juice, set aside.

3/4 cup baby dills, chopped in small pieces

2/3 cup cheddar cheese, cubed or shredded

3 Tbls minced onion

2 Tbls dried dill

1 small can sliced black olives

Dressing:

2/3 cup mayo

1/3 cup sour cream

1/8 tsp cayenne

4 Tbls dill pickle juice

Mix well.

Combine all ingredients well. Refrigerate several hours.

If too stiff at serving, add a little more pickle juice.

Enjoy! Lena Goff

#### 2017 Executive Board

President	Judy Ratzlaff
1st V.P.-Programs	Debbie Morrison
2nd V.P.-Ways&Means	Sue Kelley
Secretary	Donna Bufton
Treasurer	Mary Reagor

For a list of the Master Gardener Advisory Committee Chairs, go to [tarrantmg.org](http://tarrantmg.org), click on Master Gardeners Only, then select Leadership.



These smiling faces will be a part of our next batch of Blue Badges! (except for Sue, Rocky, Debbie and Steve!) These Mod Squad interns are working hard to complete their hours and finish up their project. You'll see their hard work around 1801 Water Works Learning Center. Welcome to the team!



On March 4 the Mod Squad Interns visited and worked at Heritage Elementary and Durham Intermediate School. Special thanks to Dick Pafford, Pam Braak, Harold Annis and Henry Cole for showing them around.

# Ways and Means

By Sue Kelley



## IT'S TIME TO PICK UP YOUR CALADIUMS!

Caladium bulb pick up will be at the **Water Works Learning Center (1801 Circle Drive)** by the **Resource Connection Demonstration Garden** on the day of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting, **Thursday April 6**.

Times for pick up are **before the MG meeting from 8:30-9:30 am and after the meeting**. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO PICK UP YOUR CALADIUMS ON THIS DAY OR AT THIS TIME, PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FRIEND TO GET THEM!

We are working to make this process as efficient as possible. Please be patient as we check your order with you before leaving to be sure your order is correct.

Remember:

- Pick up your bulbs at the **Water Works Learning Center (1801)** by the Demonstration Garden
- Store your bulbs above 55 degrees
- Hold off planting them until Mother's Day. They do not like Soggy Spring Soil!

Your **FERTILIZER** order will also be available for pick up before or after the April 6<sup>th</sup> Master Gardener meeting. The fertilizer will be distributed at the 2300 building - just outside our meeting location.

If you are unable to pick up your order on April 6<sup>th</sup>, **please make arrangements with a friend to get your order**.

There will also be a limited supply of **WORM CASTINGS** available - 20 pound bags for \$25 and 4 pound jugs for \$8. Since these were not prepaid, please let Marilyn Satterfield, or Sue Kelley, know if you are interested. These may also be ordered for availability at the May MG meeting.

## TCMGA VENDOR DAY - May 4<sup>th</sup>

The TCMGA is sponsoring our annual Vendor Day on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Resource Connection located at 2300 Circle Drive in Fort Worth. The doors open at 8 a.m. and the meeting ends at approximately 1 p.m.

The association membership is 400+ with an average meeting attendance of 200 - 250. We invite you to be a part of this special day! Table rentals are \$15 for master gardeners and \$30 for non-members. You will be provided an 8' table to showcase your sales items. You can certainly bring other tables or display items (however, we need to know if you would need additional space).

See the application form as an attachment in the e-blast. Please return to me at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your consideration of our event - we look forward to seeing you on May 4<sup>th</sup>!

Sue Kelley

# Field Trips are Fun!

By Gay Larson

Our first field trip of 2017 was to Womack's Nursery in DeLeon, Texas. We had 28 people take the trip west to buy berry vines, pomegranate, fig, pecan-peach-plum & apple trees. Some of the gardeners bought roses and unusual flowering vines. We had a tour of the nursery, with information about history and inter-working on farm from Larry Don Womack, the owner of the mail order nursery.

After the nursery, we caravanned to Hard 8 BBQ in Stephenville and had a nice lunch together; getting to know others in our association better.

A successful first field trip.

Next field trip is to Waco on May 12th. We will visit the Carlene Bright Arboretum with a private tour, then to lunch at the very tasty Homestead Café, and finally a stop at Bonnie's very clean, nice nursery that features vegetable and other unique items for gardens.

If you want to sign up to go, email Gay Larson

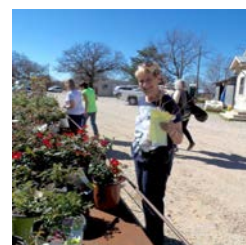
Mother Nature aka Gay Larson 1997

Coordinator for Union Gospel Mission

Facebook page for TCMGA



Debbie and Margaret



Mary Jane



Harold is studying...



Lovely ladies enjoying the day!



Lunching at Hard 8 BBQ

# IMPORTANT DATES

## Membership, Volunteer Opportunities, Educational Opportunities

### Volunteer Opportunities! By Patsy Miller

More opportunities to volunteer and earn those hours. There are a variety of community activities this spring in Tarrant County and people want to learn how to garden better and save water. That's what Master Gardeners do!

Look over the opportunities coming up soon and contact Patsy Miller for the times you would like to volunteer.

**April 7 -- Fort Worth Botanic Garden Plant Sale, Friday, 2-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Master Gardener booth** (This is separate from other MG volunteering) Provide information on drought tolerant plants and water conservation tips. Volunteer for Friday, April 7, from 2- 6 p.m. or Saturday, April 8, from 9-11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**April 22 -- 9 a.m.—1 p.m. —Smartscape/Southlake Home Depot Plant Sale** - Provide information about drought tolerant, water conserving plants at Southlake Home Depot, 300 Village Center Dr.

**April 22 --11 a.m. 2 p.m. — Bryson Elementary School Earth Day —** Provide information on gardening, insects, water conservation, etc. for children and adults, 8601 Old Decatur Road, Fort Worth.

**April 29 —10 a.m.-4 p.m. (shifts) Mansfield Earth Day --** Chris W. Burkett Service Ctr., 620 S. Wisteria St., Mansfield. Provide general information on gardening and water conservation; Can choose shift from 9:30 a.m. (setup) to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 — 4 p.m. (cleanup)

**April 29 — 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (shifts) -- Arlington Garden Club Plant Sale** at Fielder Museum. Provide information on drought tolerant, water conserving gardening and water conservation tips. Can choose shift from 9:30 a.m. (setup) to 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 -3 p.m.

### General Membership Dates

TCMGA Monthly meeting is April 6

Mod Squad Intern classes begin April 8

TCMGA office will be closed on April 14 in observance of Good Friday

TCMCA Board meeting will be Thursday, April 20, at 9:30

TCMGA Plant Sale is Saturday, April 22 (also a volunteer opportunity!)

State Conference Cruise is April 27-May 1

Statewide Awards Luncheon is May 1 at Moody Gardens



Look at the Educational Opportunities that we are Providing to the Public! \*Indicates a class that MG may count as CEU time

**April 1 Earth Party 2017, FW Water Gardens**

**\*April 1 All About Herbs, 1801 WW Learning Center**

**\*April 4 Drip Irrigation & Drought Tolerant Plants, Lake Arlington Library**

**\*April 6 Rainwater Harvesting & How to build a Rain Barrel, SW Library, Arlington**

**April 19 Native and Adapted Plants, Southlake Public Water Works**

**April 22 Earth Day Plant selection, RWH, Water Conservations Bryson ES**

**April 22 Drought Tolerant Plants, Home Depot, Southlake**

**April 22 TCMG Plant sale**

**\*April 29 The Pollinators, Bob Jones Nature Center**

**\*April 29 Photography in the Garden, Colleyville Public Library**

**April 29 Reducing Turf, Soil & Mulch**

**April 29 Drought Tolerant Plants, Home Depot, Keller**

**\*April 29 Vegetable Gardening, 1801 WW Learning Center**