



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 is that time of year again. **Dues are due now!** Do your colleagues a favor and not put it off until the last minute. There is a lot of work that goes into this effort and we make it harder on our colleagues when we are not timely.

Remember that this year your **MG hours are due by the end of the October**. If you need help getting your requirements, **speak now!**

Now back to the fun stuff. I hope all of you were able attended the Garden Conservancy tour and the TCMGA garden tour. Two great and very different experiences were available in the space of four days. Even when plant materials are very similar, the interpretation into a garden is quite individual. Please accept my personal thanks to all of you who have shared your gardens in the past and who have worked to bring these events to us. I am sure that many of our members do not know how much work takes place behind the scene to make these events successful. Our spring and fall intern classes have been very visible and are a great addition to the important work we do. Your organization is active and productive. Keep up the good work and have fun.

Good gardening, Warren

*** NOTICE ***

Beginning 2006, there will be a \$5 subscription fee to receive the newsletter via US Mail. Payment can be made at monthly meetings.

November Monthly TCMGA Program

The program at the November 3 TCMGA meeting will help us prepare for the coming holidays with lots of good ideas we can do at home. A 'Tapas Menu' will be taught by **Mary Doebbeling** and **Kimberly Nicholson**, owners of Our Thyme Garden. Tapas is Spanish for little dishes and these are delicious! Our Thyme Garden is located near Cleburne. They do amazing things with the herbs that they grow and we will get a sample at the meeting. For a preview, their Fall Open House will be Oct. 28, 29, and 30, call 817-558-3570 for more information.

Meeting location is not known at this time, so WATCH FOR AN E-MAIL and PLEASE tell others who may not have e-mail or don't check theirs regularly.

Tickets for the Christmas Awards Brunch will be available at the November meeting, \$15.00 per person.

The OPEN DAYS TOUR was an amazing success. The hostesses were so well organized and did a perfect job, so special THANKS to **Judy Butler, Joann Hahn, Carla Pickens, Wendi Carlucci, Nancy Dozier, and Mary Margaret Halleck**. Laura Palmer, the Garden Conservancy Director was here from New York, and she said that we are SUPER STARS. The count is still out on how many 100's of people went through the gardens but we talked gardening to a lot of people and volunteer educators is what we are all about. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

Ginger Bason

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - October 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President **Warrant Tingley** at 11:05 a.m. at the Worth Baptist Church. 122 members were in attendance.

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

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer **Rita Hottel**. Copies of the report were available for members.

Election of Officers for 2006: The following members were elected by acclamation as officers of the organization: **Ginger Bason**, President; **Joy Lease**, First Vice President; **Jim Nelson**, Second Vice President; **Rita Hottel**, Treasurer; and **Judy Butler**, Secretary.

President Tingley provided an update on the status of the monies to be provided for Katrina victims. It was announced that rather than donate the money to a large organization, it would be utilized by Katrina evacuees as they are placed in their own living quarters. This will be coordinated with Resource Connection personnel.

The Advisory Committee was tasked with investigating the implementation of a call system for members without e-mail.

The following announcements were made:

1. October 31st is the deadline for hours for 2005. These hours must be turned in no later than Sunday, November 6th.
2. Membership dues are also due by October 31st.
3. **Mary Margaret Halleck** provided Victory Boxes for shipment of items to Iraq.
4. **Emily Ward's** daughter and son-in-law donated the water for the Garden Conservancy Tour volunteers.

County Agent **Steve Chaney** announced the following:

1. Background check forms are due by October 31st. All TCMGA members must fill out the form.
2. Three openings are still available for the Jan.-March 2006 intern class.
3. The Spirit Committee will meet again on Nov. 2nd from 10 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by **Judy Butler**, Secretary

Ways and Means Update

Logo Items ordered in September will be available for pickup at the November 3rd meeting,

**Vendor tables are available for the November meeting.
Contact Ann Couch to reserve.**

*** REMINDER ***

2006 TCMGA DUES (\$20) ARE DUE DECEMBER 31ST. Pay at monthly meeting or mail to **Pat Lovejoy**.

*** LAST CHANCE ***

Please submit your nominations for awards and recognition at the meeting November 3.



Hospitality Notes

Hot Dog Day: November 3!

Thank you to all the generous MGs who brought food for our lunch table at the October meeting!

Our November lunch will welcome the Fall Intern Class by serving hot dogs grilled by our famous Hot Dog Chef, **Ben Oefinger!** We certifies pay \$1. Interns are our guests! Most of the items on the sign-up sheet have been claimed. I hope you remember what you said you would bring. I will e-mail a general reminder to you a week prior to our meeting. Happy Fall gardening!

Joyce Quam

817-571-8520 dqum5@juno.com

Volunteer Brigade Growing

Reprinted from July 18, 2005 Fort Worth Star Telegram, **Mary Rogers** 'Out and About'

While arts and human service organizations all across the nation face a shrinking volunteer base, the number of volunteers of one Tarrant County institution is mushrooming.

Tarrant County alone has more than 300 master gardeners giving their time and talent to 14 projects all across the county.

This is volunteer work with a capital W. They plant and maintain a number of demonstration gardens; work at Fort Worth's Botanic Garden; keep the gardens at Fort Worth's landmark Thistle Hill, the Union Gospel Mission and places such as Mansfield Main Street Project, Southlake's Liberty Garden; and help at Grapevine's Botanical Garden.

The master gardeners run a speakers bureau, serve as docents, operate home and garden shows, screen calls for a few radio shows, and work with kids at several gardens. At Fort Worth's Nature Center, they help maintain the bison area, work to restore a nursery and help with landscape maintenance. Volunteers offer "office support" at the Tarrant County Extension Office. They write a newsletter and keep a Web site.

Some volunteers answer the phone in the master gardeners' office, answering a variety of questions.

Tarrant County master gardeners donated almost 38,000 hours last year.

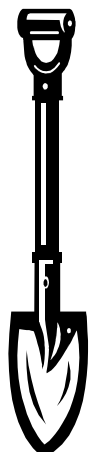
In fact, Tarrant County ranks third in the state, right behind Harris and Bexar counties, in volunteer hours given by master gardeners.

It's even more remarkable when you consider that only 10 years ago, when county agent **Dotty Woodson** took over the program, there were only about 32 master gardeners in the county.

Intern Scoop

Submitted by **Kay Gunn**

The Fall Interns will be attending their first Master Gardener meeting on November 3rd. For most of you, it will be the first opportunity to meet them. Please welcome them, visit with them, and get to know them. They are a pretty special group!



Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<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 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, 10 am	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub Courthouse	2nd Sat, last 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 9-11:00	Devanie Fergus	817-861-1932
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	2nd & 4th Thurs, 9:00 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
611 Children's Garden		Judy Sargent	817-589-0221

We're Building a Wattle!

submitted by **Sharon Chastain** and **Barbara Durnan**

Last spring, a fourth grade class at Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center, installed phase one of a large herb garden.

Working with **Barbara Durnan** and **Sharon Chastain**, they studied the herbs throughout the year, chose herbs they wanted to plant, prepared the soil with organic additives and installed the tiny plants. It was a great success! When students returned this fall, teacher **Michele Palmer** assigned her class the task of designing the second phase of the garden. Barbara suggested building a short **wattle** to define the boundaries of the herb garden, and the students found the idea intriguing.

Recently we sent out a call to Master Gardeners requesting donations of crepe myrtle branches, which we plan to use in building our wattle. We can use supple branches ranging in size from the diameter of a pencil to that of a nickle. Whenever you get around to pruning your crepe myrtles, just bundle up the branches and bring them to the following Master Gardener meeting. Constructing the wattle will probably be an ongoing project. And we'll be glad to have your clippings.

A **wattle** fence is made of upright stakes around which slender sticks are woven in the fashion of a wicker basket. Wattle and daub construction dates back to Neolithic times when houses were constructed from woven branches and then daubed with clay and straw. Farmers in both Europe and Colonial American constructed wattle fences to surround their gardens. Wattles can range in height from a mere 6 inches to several feet. The basket weave can be loose or tight to appear more or less formal. It is possible to achieve a decorative effect by bending a supple branch in an inverted U before staking it in the ground,

creating a scalloped top. While willow and hazel sticks were the most common materials used for wattles, Barbara discovered that crepe myrtle works very well..

You may want to add a traditional wattle fence to your own garden or come and join us while we build ours. The Alice Carlson Outdoor Learning Environment is located at the corner of Stadium and McPherson, just north of the TCU campus. Master Gardeners are in the garden on Monday and Thursday mornings, starting at 8:30 in the winter. You are welcome to visit the garden at any time; it's open to the neighborhood. We'll let you know when our wattle is completed! Thanks in advance for your help.

Happy Birthday,
Master Gardeners!

11-4 **Tammye Kuntz**
 11-5 **Sharon Clarke**
 11-6 **Dick Oliver**
 11-7 **Ben Oefinger, Bobbie Wilson, and Jane Dunkelberg**
 11-8 **Katie Kowierschke**
 11-9 **Penny Yost**
 11-11 **Vicki Morton**
 11-12 **Marianne Wilkinson**
 11-15 **Hester Schwarzer**
 11-16 **Carol Norflee**
 11-21 **Kathryn Beeler, Barbara Lind, and Lou De Santis**
 11-22 **LaVonne Nowlin, Warren Tingley**
 11-24 **Lydia Murray**
 11-29 **Jim Nelson**
 11-30 **Janet Riley**

This is a monthly feature. If your birthday is in this month and you don't see your name and date of birth, it is probably because **LaVonne Nowlin** does not have it. Please email your birthday - month and day only - to lavonne@ev1.net.

Bulbs Provide Perennial Color or Do They?

submitted by **Dotty Woodson**

"I planted many tulips last year and enjoyed a wonderful display of color but no tulips came up this year." "I planted about 50 tulip bulbs but never saw a flower." "I planted many daffodils. They flowered the first spring but the second spring all I saw was foliage." Bulbs will provide years of seasonal beauty to your landscape. But just like other landscape plants, selecting the varieties that will thrive in this area is the key to success. Many of you are tempted to purchase the bulbs in the bags at Costco and Central Market, etc. The cost is good and a daffodil is a daffodil, correct? NO.

Now is the time to purchase bulbs for the best selection, but like all landscape plants you must select the correct varieties that will thrive in this area's mild winter and hot summer. Many standard tulips and hyacinths will not re-flower the next spring or not survive the hot summer. The few standard tulips that do survive the hot summer may not receive the cold temperature required to set the flower in the bulb. In some cases, tulip flowers will emerge from the bulbs during a warm winter week. Then the flower will freeze in the ground before emerging if the temperature drops below 32 degrees for a day or night. This is rare, but does happen so I want you to be aware of this. Daffodils flower buds do not freeze in the ground. Daffodils require cold winter temperatures to re-flower each spring. Do not let all this discourage you from purchasing tulip and daffodil bulbs; just find the ones that will be perennial in this area. Most bulbs sold are pre-chilled so the bulbs will always flower the first year.

Some daffodils and a few species tulips are perennial in this area. A list of the daffodils and tulips planted and evaluated as perennials at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden follow. The bulbs that have proven to be perennial, growing at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden, are for sale at the FWBG fall plant

sale each year. A list of the bulbs is below.

Select healthy, firm bulbs that have not been exposed to high, dry environment. The flowers are already formed in the bulbs when you purchase them. Shop or order early while the selection is good. A flower bulb is an underground storage organ full of carbohydrates, leaves, roots and a flower. Split a bulb in half and you will see the leaves cradling a baby bud. The white substance surrounding the bud is scales which contains all the food (carbohydrates) the bulb requires to flower and grow foliage. The basal plate at the bottom of the bulb holds the roots and anchors the flower bud and scales. The entire package is protected by a thin outer skin called the tunic. Keep the bulbs in the vegetable bin of your refrigerator until time to plant.

Plant spring flowering bulbs between Thanksgiving and New Years. Plant bulbs 3 times deeper than the bulb diameter, so if the bulb is one inch in diameter, plant the bulb 3 inches deep. Do not use the chart on the bulb package. The heavy clay soil will not allow deep planting. Plant 3 to 5 bulbs together. Plant bulbs under deciduous trees, in ground cover beds, in front of shrubs or in perennial flower beds. Allow the foliage to grow after the flowers fade. Cut back the foliage when the it starts to yellow or allow the foliage to die naturally.

Other bulbs that have naturalized well include Dutch iris (a bulb-type iris), grape hyacinth (*Muscari armeniacum*), hardy gladiolus (*Gladiolus byzantinus*), lady tulip (*Tulipa clusiana*), hardy amaryllis (*Hippeastrum x Johnsonii*), oxblood lily (*Rhodophiala bifida*), pink magic lily (*Lycoris squamigera*), red spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*), and summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*).

Bulbs Recommended by the Fort Worth Botanic Garden:

Botanical name

Common name

Allium sphaerocephalon Flowering onion

<i>Gladiolus byzantinus</i>	Byzantine glad
<i>Hippeastrum x johnsonii</i>	Hardy Amaryllis
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebells
<i>Ipheion uniflorum</i>	Spring starflower
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer snowflake
<i>Lycoris radiata</i>	Red spider lily
<i>Lycoris squamigera</i>	Pink magic lily, naked ladies
<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	Starch hyacinth
<i>Narcissus</i> , Large-cupped (Division II)	Daffodil
Carlton	
Fortissimo	
Fortune	
Gigantic Star	
Ice Follies	
St. Keverne	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Double (Division IV)	
Cheerfulness	
Erlicheer	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Triandrus (Division V)	
Thalia	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Cyclamineus (Division VI)	
February Gold	
Tête-à-Tête	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Jonquilla (Division VII) - any of these!	
Bell Song	
Dickcissel	
Fruit Cup	
Intrigue	
Pipit	
Quail	
Stratosphere	
Suzy	
Waterperry	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Tazetta (Division VIII) - any of these, too!	
Avalanche	
Cragford	
Falconet	
Geranium	
Grand Primo	
Italicus	
Scarlet Gem	
Silver Chimes	
<i>Narcissus</i> , Species and wild forms (Division X)	
<i>Narcissus jonquilla</i>	
<i>Narcissus x odorus</i> (syn. <i>campernellii</i>)	
<i>Narcissus x odorus</i> var. <i>plenus</i>	
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus obvallaris</i> (aka "Tenby")	

<i>Rhodophiala bifida</i>	Oxblood lily
<i>Sternbergia lutea</i>	Lilies-of-the-field, yellow fall crocus
<i>Tulipa bakeri</i> 'Lilac Wonder'	Species tulip
<i>Tulipa batalinii</i> 'Red Gem'	Species tulip
<i>Tulipa clusiana</i> var. <i>chrysantha</i>	Species tulip
<i>Zephyranthes candida</i>	Rain lily

Bouncing Bet (*Saponaria officinalis*)

Early settlers used the crushed Bouncing Bet to make sudsy water. It was much better on the hair than Grandma's lye soap! A native of Europe and Asia, it got its name from English bar maids called "Bets" who would vigorously shake up sprigs of Bouncing Bet in used ale bottles to cleanse them. In the 1800's Bouncing Bet was used commercially by New England textile mills for washing new cloth, and can still be found growing along streams new old mill sites. In North Texas, this low-spreading plant produces clusters of pink flowers in the spring and perhaps again in the fall.

MG DIRECTORY OCTOBER UPDATES

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Tammy Edwards	tammy.edwards@gmail.com
Joyce Miller	cyrilmiller@sbcglobal.net
Mary Helen Young	mhbyoung@sbcglobal.net

Note: Send updates to Pat Lovejoy
at patlovejoy@att.net.

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
401 East Eighth Street



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| Nov 3 | TCMGA Monthly Meeting |
| Dec 8 | TCMGA Christmas Awards/Social |

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