

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

October 2007

Mission Statement

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

MOON GARDEN

A moon (or evening) garden is a wonderful way to extend the amount of time you can enjoy your landscape. Planning and plotting your moon garden is essential, but also a lot of fun. Moon gardens, if planned correctly can provide night-time beauty throughout the spring and fall while sitting around the old fire pit. Although it sounds almost mystical a moon garden simply consists of mostly white flowering plants and night blooming beauties.

First, choose your moon garden location. It should be near your porch, patio, or wherever you enjoy sitting or strolling in your yard. You can work with a small or large area or use containers if you have limited ground space. Fences, walls and trellises are assets for night-blooming vines.

Choose white blooming annual and perennial flowers and showy trees and shrubs. Good plants for moon gardens include fragrant night-bloomers and any white or silver plants.

Two favorites are Four O'clock and Moonflower Vines. Four O'clocks are perfect because they awaken in late afternoon with a profusion of red, yellow, pink, white or variegated flowers that perfume the air with a sweet fragrance - and they grow well in Texas.



Moon Flower



Angels Trumpet



Four O'clock

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Do toads ribbbit, chirp, or croak?
Do frogs or toads give you warts?
Turn to page 6 and find the answers to these and other questions.

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FROM AROUND THE CORNER



President's Notepad

Until a couple of weeks ago I had no idea there was something called a Carbon Footprint nor did I realize how gardening is involved. So what is a Carbon Footprint????

A Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

This has a lot to do with use of sustainable and/or renewable things in our daily lives. If you grow natives, use rain barrels, put kitchen waste in the compost pile you have at your home, use pervious materials for paths etc., grow vegetation for erosion control in place of concrete. Avoid use of chemicals and synthetics inside & out that are petroleum base products, use a push mower (which is easy to do if you reduce the amount of lawn area), grow fruit and vegetables and/or buy from local growers (most foods travel 1500 miles on an average to get to our homes), walk, ride a bike, use mass transit, etc., etc., etc. Do this and YOU are already lowering your Carbon Footprint.

I never realized how many areas of life that gardening can effect, did you????

For more information on Carbon Footprint and to measure the size of your Carbon Footprint go to www.carbonfootprint.com

—Ginger Bason



October 4, 2007 Monthly Program

The "Bulb Hunter" is coming!!! You asked for him, and we got him. **Chris Wiesinger**, whom you have probably read about in local news articles, has developed a huge business in searching for tough heirloom bulbs that "flourish in Texas heat". In 2004, he started the Southern Bulb Co. with the "aim of reintroducing flowers long out of vogue, committing himself exclusively to those bulbs that have ably asserted themselves against the particular cruelties of exceedingly hot weather for decades, even centuries." * Chris and his 3 partners travel throughout the countryside of the south in search of hardy, unusual, tried and true perennials – oxblood lily, spider lily, Byzantine gladiolus, grand primos narcissus, and Texas star narcissus are among his favorite Texas finds. When not on an expedition, he and his partners, all former Texas A&M cadets, manage their bulb farm, fill orders, and attend fairs and conventions on weekends to promote their products. Chris has many stories to tell of his "finds" and the people he meets along the way. He credits these folks with great generosity and always tries to give something back. "If it isn't money, then I'll plant something new in the place where I took something."

- 9:30 Sign-in, coffee
- 10:00 **Chris Wiesinger**, "The Bulb Hunter"
- 11:00 Business meeting, meet & greet
- 12:00 More about bulbs, **Chris Wiesinger**

See you in October!

*Ginia Bellafante, New York Times News Service, special to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 24, 2006.

—Joy Lease

Tarrant County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes September 6 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Ginger Bason at 10:55 a.m. at the Resource Connection. 162 members were in attendance.

- **Minutes** of the previous meeting (August 2, 2007) were approved as published in the Sharecropper.
- **Treasurer**, Tammy Edwards, reported the following for Aug. 3 to Sept. 6, 2007:
 Checking balance \$ 2,515.39
 3 CDs totaling \$15,000.00
- **Nominating Committee** is very happy to present the following nominees:

President:	Tammy Edwards
1 st VP Programs:	Susan Stanek
2 nd VP Ways & Means:	Bill Hall
Secretary:	Joyce Quam
Treasurer:	Carl Trehus

Respectfully submitted, Edith Pewitt, Chair,
 Mary Benavides, Rita Hottel, Bob Ross,
 Marilyn Sallee.

- **2008 Membership dues** may be paid today and are due by October 31, 2007. Dues for members 80 years of age or better are \$10.00, others \$20.00.
- **TCMGA Board** has recommended the purchase of 1 or more tape label makers for use by the TCMGA Projects. Members approved. Tammy Edward had an example of the label maker.
- **Plants at the give-away** table are from Seville Farms in Mansfield.
- **Little Hands on the Farm** at the Texas State Fair - You may sign up today.
- **Victory Boxes** available today. Mary McCoy is asking for help making kid's gardening aprons to go in the boxes. Donations may be made to help pay postage and purchase of tools, etc.

- **Garden Conservancy** tour (Oct. 14, 2007) Members encouraged to take the posters and available postcards to shops, churches, etc.
- **Resource Connection Demonstration Garden** – Rita Hottel is in charge of the Herb Garden. JoAnn Hahn and Ginger Bason are in charge of the Perennial Garden.
- **CLICK Pictures** – The *Star Telegram* is training persons in the community to take pictures of events in their neighborhoods and clubs. Warren Tingley is the chair for the TCMGA CLICK Committee.
- **Steve Chaney** is away on business this week.
- **Native Plant Sale** – Sat., Sept. 29, 10 AM to 1 PM @ **Randoll Mill Greenhouse**.
- **TCMGA Field Trip** – Tue., Oct. 23 – Visit gardens of 2 members. Box lunches may be ordered at the October membership meeting.
- **Docent Training** for the Japanese Garden at the FWBG – Tue-Wed., Oct. 2, 1 to 4 PM and Oct. 3, 10 to 12 PM @ FWBG. Contact Peggy Falconer.
- **Food for October** – If you did not bring food today, sign up to bring food for October's lunch.
- Following a moment of silence, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20.

—Submitted by Joyce Quam, Secretary

LEADERSHIP

President—Ginger Bason
gbason@hotmail.com

1st VPresident—Joy Lease
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2nd VPresident—Jim Nelson
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Secretary—Joyce Quam
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Treasurer—Tammy Edwards
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Sharecropper—Derald Freeman
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Submissions to Sharecropper—
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Activities—Susan Stanek
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Birthdays/Sunshine—LaVonne
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Directory changes and
Membership—Carl Trehus
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Steve Chaney
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TCMGA Web site
<http://www.tcmga.org>

TCMGA office 817-884-1944

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Moonflower Vine is a lovely night-bloomer with attractive, heart-shaped leaves and beautiful, large, pure-white blooms that have a delicate, heavenly scent that's at its best at night. If you wait until morning to sniff, most of the fragrance will be gone.

Low voltage lighting, such as solar powered lamps, or garden orbs, can add to the luminous look, and will help to illuminate your private space. A water fountain works well here also because the sound of running water adds a peaceful quality to the night air. Add some white or light colored garden statuary to the landscape. These figurines really come alive in the moonlight. Be sure to include a comfortable seating area.

Try planting white varieties of iris, lilies, zinnias, or Shasta daisies along with silver-leaved plants like Artemisia, Dusty Miller, Lamb's Ear, or Japanese Silver Grass for a pleasing effect. Impatiens, petunias and begonias can be used also.



Sweet Mock Orange



Silver Artemisia



Lambs Ear

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Night bloomers should be used as well, such as Four O'clock and Evening Primrose. White or silver plants catch the glow from the moon or outside lighting and lend a mellow, peaceful mood to the moon garden.

Spend a few minutes relaxing in your moon garden before bedtime and have pleasant dreams.

—Derald Freeman

Plants with gray or silvery foliage

Silver King Artemisia (*Artemisia ludoviciana albula*)
 Dusty miller (*Centaurea cineraria* or *Senecio cineraria*)
 Lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*)
 Lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
 Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)
 Snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*)

Plants that open late in the day (all are fragrant)

Angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia candida*)
 Evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*, *O. caespitosa*, *O. hookeri*, *O. missouriensis*)
 Flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca* or *N. sylvestris*)
 Four O'clocks (*Mirabilis jalapa*), 'Alba' has white flowers
 Moonflower (*Ipoemoea alba*)

A sampling of perennials with white flowers

Azalea
 Calla lily
 Delphinium
 Dianthus
 Foxglove
 Iris
 Peony
 Shasta daisy

Additional plants that are fragrant at night

Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
 Clematis
 Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)
 Night jessamine (*Cestrum nocturnum*)
 Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)
 Sweet mock orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)
 Wisteria

What's Bugging You?



TCMGA now has a new Entomologist Specialist to answer all your bug questions. Marilyn Sallee completed Entomologist Specialist Training last month, joining Eleanor Tuck as our local insect resource.



An Entomologist Specialist receives 40 hours of extra training in insect identification; IPM and pesticide use; insect problems in the garden, home, and orchard; gardening for butterflies; and insect collection and preserving techniques.

Special sections cover specific pests such as fire ants and pecan and peach crop damage, as well as the



many beneficial insects and how to draw them and keep them in your garden.

The Entomologist Specialist is our local chapter's first line of information on insects. Whether you want an insect identified or need to control an infestation, or have damage you just think is being caused by insects, Eleanor Tuck and Marilyn Sallee are here to answer your questions.

—by Marilyn Sallee

The Plague of the TOADS

At the end of summer when the deluge of rain ended and the 100° temperatures descended upon us I was surprised to find a fat, squatty, beady-eyed toad hopping into our garage. I had been taking advantage of early mornings to enjoy doing some wood working in my garage and the toads would boldly come into the garage through the open door. Our greatest amusement was to find one in the house; rather our cats found it and pointed out the intruder. This is the first time in the six years we have lived in Bursleson that I have seen toads in our yard. I have counted at least eight young and adult ones, but never all of them at the same time. There could be more.

When they first appeared I went promptly to my computer and looked up the information about them. I found that their breeding time is April to September, after heavy rains. They like temporary pools or man-made waterholes and ditches. That is the reason I have not seen them until this year. We do not have ground level water supplies but have had so much rain.

Texas state law protects several amphibian species; endangered species denoted as (E).
 Family Bufonidae (True Toads)
 Genus Bufo (Toads)

Bufo americanus (American Toad)
 Bufo cognatus (Great Plains Toad)
 Bufo debilis (Green Toad)
 Bufo houstonensis (Houston Toad) (E)
 Bufo marinus (Giant or Cane Toad)
 Bufo punctatus (Red-spotted Toad)
 Bufo speciosus (Texas Toad)
 Bufo valliceps (Gulf Coast Toad)
 Bufo woodhousii (Woodhouse's Toad)

People may not know much about the difference between frogs and toads. They ARE quite different animals, although they belong to the same animal group.

TOADS: Bufo speciosus (The Texas Toad)

- Do not need to live near water to survive.
- Have rough, dry, bumpy skin.
- Have a wider body.



- Have lower, football shaped eyes.
- Have shorter, less powerful hind legs.
- Will run or take small hops rather than jump.
- Do not have many predators. Toad's skin lets out a bitter taste and smell that burns the eyes and nostrils of its predators.
- Toads are extremely smart.

FROGS:

- Need to live near water.
- Have smooth, moist skin that makes them look "slimy".
- Have a narrow body.



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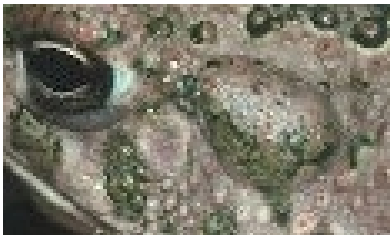
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- Have higher, rounder, bulgier eyes
- Have longer hind legs
- Take long high jumps
- Have many predators

And, neither frogs nor toads, will give you warts! That is just a myth.

The Texas Toad is a medium size reaching lengths in excess of 3 inches. They have a gray to brown coloration with a scattering of dark blotches on their back. Their habitat is in Kansas through Oklahoma, Texas, and Southern New Mexico into Northern Mexico.

I am glad I checked out the details on the Web. I discovered that toads have two enlarged glands (called the paratoid glands) on the side of the neck, one behind each eye. These glands are very prominent and are a key distinguishing feature of the species.



When a toad is attacked, these glands secrete a viscous milky poisonous fluid, ("bufotoxin"), which acts as an irritant to the mucous membranes of the attacker. This gets smeared in the mouth of any would-be predator, inflaming the mouth and throat and causing nausea, irregular heart beat, and, in extreme cases, death. Toads pose a danger to pets, which may pounce on and bite them.

The poison does not protect the toad against all predators, for most snakes and birds seem to be unaffected and humans tend to only get skin irritation, but it is fatal to small animals as well as many domestic cats and dogs. Humans should take care to wash their hands after handling a toad, and to avoid touching the mouth or eyes until having done so. Unlike many other species, the Texas Toad has no mid-dorsal stripe.

The only really distinct characteristic of the Texas Toad is the two black tubercles on each of the hind feet. They are an effective burrower. When threatened, it often flattens itself on the ground and disappears rapidly in loose soil. I saw one deftly bury itself under the mulch around some liriopie and became virtually invisible.

To continue my story I was surprised to find them in the house more than once. This piqued my interest. The other morning our Maine Coon cat was standing and keeping vigilance at the cat-door that connects our laundry area to the garage. I opened the big door to step into the garage and saw a toad leap the four inches up to the cat-door and pass through the flap. That is no easy task. Apparently the toad had seen the cats use this passage to enter the house.

Having remembered the information from above, "Toads are extremely smart," I decided to further explore the theory. About two hours later the same toad (I assume) hopped across the driveway and started into the garage. I picked up a sheet of paper and blocked the intended path. This creature decided to solve the problem by going around the obstacle. I blocked the path five times and each time the toad invented a new approach to by-pass me. I have a new appreciation of these warty visitors now. They know how to solve problems.

They are cute, lovable looking creatures, but they do not make good pets. I am sure they were seeking food and an escape from the heat by moving into our house, but I really prefer they stay in their natural habitat.

You can listen to the sound on the Texas Toad at this web site.

<http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/frogs/calls.html>

—Derald Freeman



October Garden Tips

By the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association, Texas Cooperative Extension Office. Phone 817-884-1944 for answers to any gardening question.



Fall is the best time for putting in new perennials. The weather is pleasant and the soil is warm in October. New roots begin to grow quickly and continue to grow all winter. Moreover, we usually get more rain in winter to keep the soil moist. Then, in early spring, top growth takes off on the well-rooted plant and produces a larger, well-leaved-out plant, prepared to withstand next summer's drought and heat. It is like getting a full year's jump with a larger, healthier plant to plant in fall instead of next spring. So check out those fall plant sales – now is the best time to put in new perennials, shrubs and trees.

October Garden Checklist:



October is a good time to reduce the insect and disease potential in next year's garden.

Clean up the garden, removing all annuals that have completed their life cycle. Remove the tops of all herbaceous perennials that have finished flowering or as soon as frost has killed the leaves. Prune damaged or diseased branches from shrubs and trees in late fall or early winter. Dispose of debris to minimize disease carryover to spring. Clean up around perennials. Dispose of leaves and stems on the ground, which can harbor disease or provide hiding places for pests.

Plant a cover crop of legumes in used sections of the flower and vegetable garden. In early spring, till under to provide extra nitrogen to new crops.

If you have saved seeds of your favorite plants, allow them to become air dry, then place them in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator. Be sure to label each packet carefully. Remember, seed from hybrid plants will seldom resemble the parent plant.

Fall is a good time to test your soil, especially to determine the pH, which tells you the acidity of the soil. Learn the correct fertilizer blend to apply for the best growth in your garden.

Make Compost: Start collecting leaves for the compost pile.
Mulch plants to protect roots and conserve moisture.

Vegetable seeds:

Plant seeds of Swiss chard, beets, collards, garlic, leaf lettuce, parsley now.



Winter Color:



Prepare beds for planting pansies and other winter color when the soil has cooled.

They need a well-drained soil and exposure to at least a half-day of sun. In addition, look for started plants of alyssum, aster, calendula, dianthus, pinks, sweet william, flowering cabbage, kale, pansy, petunia, phlox, poppy, snapdragon, stock, viola. Planted now, they will usually provide a riot of spring color.

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Perennials:

Cut back perennial herbs to encourage well-branched growth next year. A plant or two of parsley taken from the garden will do well in a sunny window. Chives, sage and thyme will also do well. There is still time to divide and reset such perennials as phlox, violets, hollyhocks, irises, day lilies, and Shasta daisies.

Roses:

Lightly prune hybrid teas, floribundas and modern garden roses and fertilize them in early fall for an abundant display until hard frost.

Bulbs:

October through November is an excellent time to purchase bulbs while you still have a good selection in the garden center. They may be planted at any time with the exception of tulips and hyacinths. Chill tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator until mid or late December before planting. Put them in mesh, paper or ventilated bags in the lower part of the refrigerator during storage. Plant bulbs in well prepared beds so the base of the bulb is at a depth that is three times the diameter of the bulb. In sandy soil, set slightly deeper and in clay soils less deeply.

If you are planning to save caladium tubers for another year, dig them in late October, and allow to dry in a well ventilated but shady area. After 7 to 10 days remove leaves and dirt, then pack in dry peat moss, vermiculite or similar material for storage. Pack tubers so they do not touch each other. Dust with all-purpose fungicide as you pack. Place container in an area where temperature won't drop below 50 degrees F.

Christmas Houseplants:

Keep Christmas cactus in a sunny spot where night temperatures can be kept below 65 degrees F. Buds will drop if you allow night temperatures to go above 70 degrees F or if you allow the plant to become excessively dry. They should also be kept in total darkness from 5:00 pm until 8:00 am for about 30 days in October to initiate flower buds.



Re-flowering Poinsettia. The poinsettia is a photoperiodic plant, meaning that it sets bud and produces flowers as the autumn nights lengthen. The plants may naturally come into full bloom during November or December, depending upon the flowering response-time of the individual cultivars. To time the bloom to coincide closely with the Christmas holiday: Start October 1 - keep the plants in complete darkness for 14 continuous hours each night. Move the plants to a totally dark room, or cover them with a large box overnight. During October, November, and early December, the plants require 6 to 8 hours of bright sunlight daily, with nighttime temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees F. Temperatures outside this range may delay flowering. Continue the normal watering and fertilizer program.

—by Marilyn Sallee

FALL WEBWORMS by Steve Chaney

The fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea*, is a common pest of trees. It attacks more than 88 different kinds of plants, including many fruit, nut and ornamental trees and shrubs. It does not attack conifers (pines and other needle-bearing trees). Fall webworms are known for the large, unsightly webs they produce. Heavy infestations are rarely fatal, but if they occur repeatedly over several years they can stress trees and make them more susceptible to drought, disease and other pests.

The fall webworm moth is white and has a wingspan of 1 to 1-1/2 inches. Sometimes there are small, dark spots on the forewings. Full-grown larvae are approximately 1-inch long, pale green or yellow, and covered with tufts of long, white, and black hairs. There are two distinct races of the fall webworm, which can only be identified during the larval stage. Larvae in the orange race have orange heads and orange tubercles, while members of the black race have black heads and tubercles. Fall webworm webs often cover entire branches, while in extreme infestations the entire tree may be covered.

There are two to four generations of fall webworms each year in Texas. Four generations occur in the southern portions of the state, while two to three generations occur in the northern areas. The first generation occurs as early as April in south Texas and as late as June in Lubbock and Amarillo. The last generation of the year, which occurs in the fall, is usually the most damaging and gives the insect its name. Fall webworms overwinter as pupae on the ground or on rough tree bark. The moths emerge from silken cocoons in the spring to disperse and mate. Female moths deposit hair-covered egg masses on the undersides of the leaves of their food plants. An egg mass may be deposited in either a single or double layer and can contain up to 600 eggs. Each female moth will deposit only one egg mass. Soon after webworm egg hatch, the larvae begin to

build a silk web. As larvae consume leaves within the web, they expand the web to take in more foliage. All larvae within a web are the offspring of a single egg mass. Larvae will molt six or seven times before leaving the webbing to pupate. The life cycle from egg to adult requires approximately 50 days.

Fall webworms can often be controlled without insecticides by removing and destroying any leaves that contain egg masses. Larvae may be knocked out of low-hanging webs, with a stick or broom, and into a box or garbage bag for disposal. Or, webs can be pruned from smaller branches and disposed of in the same way. Many beneficial insects attack the egg and larval stages of fall webworms. You can help these predators and parasites get to their fall webworm prey by tearing open the webs. If webs are too numerous or too high in a tree, insecticides can be used. Hose-end sprayers or commercial high-pressure sprayers are best for reaching upper portions of tall trees. Because webworm larvae remain inside their webbing, insecticide sprays must penetrate the web to be effective. For best control, apply insecticides after eggs hatch and before larvae develop dense webs. Insecticides containing acephate (Orthene), *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.), Carbaryl (Sevin), malathion, and tebufenozide (Confirm 2F) are effective. Insecticides containing B.T. and tebufenozide are selective for caterpillars and do not harm beneficial insects; however, they must be applied when caterpillars are small for effective control.

The pesticide user is always responsible for the effects of pesticides on his or her own property, as well as problems caused by drift to other properties. Not all insecticides are registered for fall webworms on all sites. Read the label and to make sure the insecticide is cleared for the site. **FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS WHEN USING ANY PESTICIDE OR FERTILIZER.**

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

October 8, 2007 - Columbus Day (Observed) is the second Monday in October (federal holiday since 1971). The traditional Columbus Day is October 12. The fact that North America was already discovered before 1492 by the Indians, and the regions he did explore were already inhabited did not hinder the affixing of the special date. He only discovered them from the viewpoint of the Europeans.

Columbus lived from 1451 to 1505 and was the son of a wool merchant and weaver. He was born in Genoa, Italy and went to sea at the age of 14. He received support for his voyages after he moved to Spain, where King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella became interested in his adventuresome ideas. The first celebration commemorating Christopher Columbus's landing in the New World took place in New York City on the 300th anniversary of his arrival. President Benjamin Harrison issued a presidential proclamation urging Americans to commemorate the day as a holiday. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited publicly for the first time during the celebration. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Columbus Day a federal holiday, to be celebrated on the second Monday in October, rather than on Oct. 12.



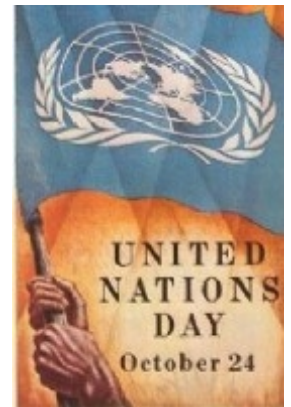
United Nations Day is Wednesday, October 24, 2007 the name "United Nations" was devised by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was first used in the "Declaration by United Nations" of January 1, 1942, during the Second World War. The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, The Soviet Union, the United Kingdom,

United States and by a majority of other signatories. United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 each year with flags of fifty nations flying together for the original United Nations.

Halloween is Wednesday, October 31, 2007 and is the third largest party day in the U.S. behind New Year's Eve and Super Bowl Sunday. Halloween is one of the fastest growing holidays for home décor – both inside and out.

Halloween is known and loved today as a time to wear costumes, go door to door asking for candy, and watch monster movies. But the holiday's origins go back centuries to the enactment of All Saints' Day, a Christian holiday. The name "Halloween" began as "All Hallows Eve." This became "All Hallow E'en," leading to "Hallowe'en," or Halloween.

The holiday had a rebirth in North America between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, probably through an influx of Irish immigrants. They brought with them traditions that combined features of the Celtic and Christian holidays, and celebrated with feasting, divinations, and mischief making. Some don't think it's safe for children to go out after dark taking candy from strangers. Still, as long as there are cold autumn nights, a steady supply of candy corn, and radio stations to play "The Monster Mash," there seems no danger of Halloween going away.



SOURCE: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

—by Derald Freeman



VICTORY BOXES

Major Suttee to receive the first 30 Children's Victory Boxes for Gardening.

At the October meeting, Tarrant County Master Gardener's will finish packing 30 Victory Boxes containing children's items for gardening to send to Major Suttee in Ramadi, Iraq. An additional larger Victory Box for the teacher of the 30 children will be sent along too.

Major Leland Suttee, USMC Commander of Civil Affairs, in Ramadi, Iraq would like to have as many as 200 Victory Boxes for a rural school. We hope these first Victory Boxes will help encourage all the teachers in the school to build a school garden.

There are 6 other military contacts who want Gardening Victory Boxes so we can use a lot of help.

Please bring something (new or used) to put in a Gardening Victory Box:

Some examples are, gardening tools, fork, spade, shovel, seeds, bar of soap, nail brush, towel, easy to read gardening books, coloring books, markers, string, notebooks, pencils, pens, T-shirt, apron, sandals (flip-flops), socks, plastic sun glasses, hair bands, barrette, band-aid, Kleenex (individual), sun visor, baseball cap, gloves, apron and anything else you can think of...

I can't thank you all enough!

Please contact Mary Margaret Halleck www.victoryboxes.com or Mary McCoy at (817) 561-0598



AUTUMN

In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November.

—Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden*, 1905

GUEST SPEAKERS

Would your group, club or association like a guest speaker? The Master Gardener Association provides free speakers on a number of home-related topics, such as gardening, water conservation, insects, houseplants, and many more topics.

Call the Tarrant County Extension Office, 817-884-1944, and ask for the Speaker's Bureau.

Earl Alexander, Fall 2006 Master Gardener Intern

Letter to Family, Friends, Master Gardeners, etc.:

Many of you have requested an update from me concerning my accident. A few of you, however, haven't even heard that I had one, so here goes:

On Wednesday morning, August 15th, at the Perennial Garden, a part of Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, I was doing some Master Gardening volunteer work. About 9:30 AM I was watering some plants, while pulling on a hose, the hose broke at a coupling (not unscrewed from another section, but detached from the hose), and I went sprawling backwards. My backwards trajectory was seriously interrupted by a large jagged boulder, which I managed to hit with the left side of my face, both above and beneath by left eye. Various folks (volunteer colleagues) came to my aid and summoned 911, since I was reported to be not making much sense and bleeding profusely. MedStar took me to Harris Methodist (Downtown) Emergency. The driver was a friend from our church. Attending physician at Emergency was husband of a Scholar Cantorum of Texas soprano friend.

Ten stitches above the eye were required. I suffered three fractures below the left eye. For the first two weeks, various scenery played out on my face. It looked like a Halloween mask, or that I was the Phantom of the Opera. One cousin observed that I must have gone to an axe fight and forgot my axe! The hemotoma grew larger and was traveling "south" a bit each day, to uninjured areas. It was of the color of my wife's blackberry cobbler and I figured it might reach my belly button by Halloween! Ha! (Got to be some humor here somewhere.)

On the eighth day, I visited a Plastic Surgeon to have the stitches removed and determine what was next. She gave me a good report, saying that no surgery would be required, that my purple would turn to a lime green (she

pointed to Olive's blouse) in a couple of days, and that I would be back to normal coloration in about two weeks.

Well, she was right. Now, twenty days after the accident, I'm returned to a rather normal appearance, such as it is. Adults no longer first avert their eyes, and then stare. Small children no longer run for the mothers. I'm very grateful. I have now returned to my volunteer activities with gusto.

That's more than enough information. Thanks for your calls, cards, prayers, and kind assistance.

—Earl Alexander



DON'T LET YOUR FRIENDS MISS THIS

**Fort Worth Garden
Conservancy Tour on
Sunday, Oct. 14**



Curious about what it looks like on the other side of the hedge? Would you like to see the best garden ideas in action? Want some knock-out gardening ideas? Tarrant County Master Gardeners invite the public to visit five large estate gardens and the garden of a former Miss Texas. The Garden Conservancy Tour of Fort Worth runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 14.

For tickets and information just go to [Http://www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org), click on "2007 Open Days" and follow the links to Fort Worth for information and tickets.

You can also enter <http://tinyurl.com/2z7ezb> to link directly to this site or call 1-888-842-2442.

InfoFest

Hosted by Denton County Master Gardener Association.

- **Location:** The Upper Trinity Regional Water District, 900 N. Kealy Ave, Lewisville, TX
- **Date:** Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Free.** Gardening seminars, educational demonstrations, plant sale, garden shopping, tour of gardens, children's activities.

For more info, call 940-349-2883, or go to <http://www.dcmga.com>

Seminar Agenda

9:30-10:15 Dr. Bill Adams: A Kitchen Garden (vegetables and herbs)
 10:30-11:15 Dr. Kevin Ong, Texas A&M Plant Pathologist: Plant Doctor- Diagnosis Free - Prescription Extra
 11:30-12:15 John Cooper, Denton County Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent: Tree Talk-- proper care and feeding of favorite North Texas trees.
 12:30-1:15 Rodney Sowalskie, Denton County Master Gardener: ABC's of Landscaping
 1:30-2:15 Dr. Dotty Woodson: Water-Wise Gardening

**Mark you Calendar – Oct 6, 2007
 Don't miss this FREE event.**

Master Gardener Items Sale

Clothing with MG logo and other Master Gardener items will be available for purchase at the October 4 Master Gardener meeting. Orders will be taken at that time for delivery at the November meeting. All purchases must be paid in advance.

—by Jim Nelson



Birthdays for this month

- 10-1 Dotty Woodson and Nancy Searl
- 10-3 Janet Southerland and Mary Margaret Halleck
- 10-4 Karl Keffer
- 10-7 Steve Chaney
- 10-8 Valerie Freund
- 10-9 Jim Woodlief
- 10-11 Diane Clark, and Gayle vanLeeuwen
- 10-13 Gailon Hardin and Catherine Sabin
- 10-16 Susan Houston
- 10-17 Susan Kingeter, Rick Neal, and Dottie Bucy
- 10-18 Frank Durda and Donna Jobe
- 10-19 Cathy Hiles and Bill Hall
- 10-20 Betsy Kalina
- 10-22 Judy Butler
- 10-24 Pam Turner
- 10-27 Hope Porter
- 10-29 Dee Grant and Kay Yount
- 10-31 Rilla Ransier-Snedeller

—by LaVonne Nowlin

DON'T FORGET—2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES are due by October 31st.

MG Meeting Vendor Tables

Vendor Tables will be available at the October 4 and November Master Gardener Meetings for any Master Gardeners wishing to offer their products for sale. Table cost is \$15 each. Contact Jim Nelson at nelsonj2@swbell.net if you are interested.

—by Jim Nelson

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code & Name</u>	<u>Work Days/Times</u>	<u>Project Manager</u>	<u>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	Tues. 8:30-11:30 a.m.	Susan Miller	817-261-1420
313 BG Cottage Garden	Call chairman	Diane Clark	817-249-2760
321 Thistle Hill	1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 a.m.	Emily Ward	817-281-5925
322 Union Gospel Mission	First Mon.-Warm Place 9 a.m., 2nd-4th Mon. - Reg. Schedule	Gay Larson	817-441-6560
323 Grapevine Botanic Garden	Call coordinator	Shari Stanfield	817-685-9990
324 Mansfield Main St. Project	3 rd Wed. 9 a.m.	Gayle van Leeuwen	817-472-7264
		Barbara Gates	817-465-6656
326 Teen Challenge	Every Wed. 9 a.m.	Debbie Bollinger	817-498-1508
328 Community Garden	Contact project leaders below		
Mowing/Edging:	Larry Matl, larrymarymatl@charter.net		817-293-2114
Barn beds:	Charlotte Berck, wrberck@peoplepc.com		817-426-6417
TCU students:	Pat Higgins, Ragdollpatb@sbcglobal.net		817- 294-2414
WIC herb program:	Jim Nelson, nelsonj2@swbell.net		817-467-2304
Compost:	Charles Shiner, mcshiner@sbcglobal.net		817-548-7117
Roses:	Karen Kologe, KPK@charter.net		817-924-6449
Perennial beds: (developing)	Joann Hahn, johahn@charter.net		817-923-9250
	Ginger Bason, gbason@hotmail.com		817-838-7321
Herb Garden:	Rita Hottel, aescom@charter.net		817-295-2883
401 Composting Demo	1 st Sat.	Don Graves	817-465-1667
	2 nd Sat.	Charlie Shiner	817-548-7117
402 FW Nature Center	Thurs. & Sat 9-12 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
403 FW Library at Hulen St.	4 th Thurs, 8:30 a.m.	Evaline Woodrey	817-295-4683
404 SW Sub-Courthouse	2 nd Sat, last Wed.	Gailon Hardin	817-475-0923
405 Liberty Garden	Call chairman	Wendi Carlucci	817-488-5640
	2nd Tues, 8-11 a.m.		
406 Veterans Park-Wildscape	1st Sat, 9-12	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598
	Tues 9-12 p.m.		
408 TX Smartscape Demo	Call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
<u>School Gardens</u>			
601 Alice Carlson	Mon/Thurs 8:30 a.m.	Sharon Chastain	817-926-2575
602 Branson	Call chairman	Glenda Page	817-447-8348
604 Fitzgerald	Wed. 3:15 p.m.	Leeann Rosenthal	817-237-7180
605 Oakhurst	Call chairman	Carl Trehus	817-481-3435
611 Children's Garden	Wed. 9-11:30 a.m.	Mary McCoy	817-561-0598

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association
200 Taylor St., Suite 500
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-7308



Calendar of Upcoming Events

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|---------------|--|
| 10/02 - 11/27 | MG Level II Classes |
| 10/10 | MG Intern Class Interviews |
| 10/14 | Garden Conservancy Tour |
| 10/18 | Earth-Kind Rose Symposium @ FWBG |
| 10-23 | MG Member Garden Tour Field Trip—NW Fort Worth |
| 10/24 - 10/25 | MG Greenhouse Specialist Training |



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