



### 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

This month I am making a departure in my letter. Based on conversations with Master gardeners and others, it is apparent that there is not universal understanding of safety in home food canning. Space does not permit a complete discussion here but the following points need to be emphasized:

- Do not rely on old recipes or family traditions for safe food canning but current research-based recommendations.
- Virginia Cooperative Extension has an excellent guide published this March for your current review entitled "Can it Safely". This can also be accessed from The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) Web Site ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). Use their search engine for home canning.
- Water bath canning is usually safe for high acid foods but pressure canning is required for low acid canning.
- Jellies and preserves need water bath preservation, not just paraffin, etc.
- The fact that you have done it differently with success may testify to your good luck, not your technique.
- 260 cases of botulism were reported by the CDC from 1990 to 2000 with a 4% mortality. This is one of the most serious problems from home canning that is preventable.

There is great pleasure in preserving home grown fruits and vegetables that were produced under safe growing conditions and preserved at the peak of ripeness and freshness. Be knowledgeable and be safe.

Good gardening, Warren

#### September Monthly TCMGA Program

Many of you have called to tell me you enjoyed the programs in August and to ask about Jack (my husband). THANK YOU for both; I hated to miss the meeting and know there was a lot to learn from both speakers. Jack is doing great and says to tell everyone to use some kind of mosquito repellent!!!!

**Steve Chamblee**, Education Director at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, will be our speaker at the Sept 1 meeting. At 10 AM he will "show and tell" about Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania where he worked for several years. It is a beautiful place; I was lucky to visit there a couple of years ago.

At 12 noon, Steve will share with us little known information and unseen photos of the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. He has recently been going through the archives and we will be the first to see what he has discovered.

- 9:30 Sign-in and coffee.
- 10:00 Longwood Gardens - **Steve Chamblee**
- 11:00 Business meeting and social.
- 12:00 FW Botanic Garden - **Steve Chamblee**

Hope to see ALL of you in Sept.

Hope everyone is telling their friends about the upcoming Garden Conservancy Open Days Tour, October 9. See [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org)

Ginger Bason

## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Meeting Minutes - August 4, 2005

President **Warren Tingley** called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

143 TCMGA members were in attendance.

The minutes of the July 7, 2005 were approved as published in *The Sharecropper*.

Treasurer **Rita Hottel** gave the Treasurer's Report for July and it is on file.

The following announcements were made:

- Henrietta Creek Orchard needs volunteers for tours.
- The Chandor Garden tour is scheduled for September 9, 2005. Box lunches may be ordered for \$8.00 and entrance fee is \$6.00.
- All volunteer hours are to be reported by October 31, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Submitted by **Shari Stanfield**, Acting Secretary

### Hospitality Notes

Thank you to all the generous Master Gardener's who brought the yummy food to the August TCMGA meeting! Attendance at our meetings is about 130 people. That means a lot of food gets gobbled up! I will call/email the 15 folks who signed up to remind you.

Unexpected food donations are always welcome! See you September 1.

**Joyce Quam**  
817-571-8520  
dquam5@juno.com



### *Intern Scoop*

The fall Intern classes are about to begin! They start on September 20th, with classes scheduled through November 15th. In response to the suggestions of the spring 2005 Interns, **Steve Chaney** has planned more time away from the classroom and out in the field (great idea!).

The complete schedule of the fall classes will be available to pick up at the Master Gardener meeting on September 1, or you can get it on the Website starting September 1st. As always, Certifieds are invited and encouraged to join the Interns for any of the sessions. Hope to see you there!



**Intern Advisors**



## Southwest Tarrant County Member Garden Tour October 12

Please join us on the Southwest Tarrant County MG Garden Tour October 12th. Four beautiful gardens will be featured.

The first garden is set on a number of acres and includes a two acre pond with landscaping on the grassy area leading to the deck. A large glassed in porch on the east side of the home leads out to a patio area that faces the pond. A charming water feature filled with many plants tumbles from the top of the patio all the way down to within several yards of the pond. This feature is outlined with Oklahoma red stone. Planted along side the water feature are many xeriscape type plants including sumac that turns a brilliant red in the fall. Near the front entry to the home is a large possumhaw holly and beds of lantana for summer color. This is truly a country home that is hard to leave.

The second garden, set on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre corner lot, has large sweeping beds of mostly pass along or personally grown native plants. The sunny front yard has minimal grass and beds of Salvia greggii, Zexmenia, Blackfoot Daisy, Turks Cap, Fall Aster, Lindheimer's Muhly, Little Blue Stem and more. The shady Post Oak filled backyard has Columbine, Lyre Leaf Sage, Beautyberry, Inland Sea Oats, and more. Mulched paths are used where grass won't grow. Native prairie and swamp roses accompany a hillside rose garden with rosemary, irises and daylilies. A herb/perennial garden with water feature is under construction by the screened gazebo. Dry streams run throughout the property for drainage. The utility area has compost bins, and a hoop house with a mist bench for plant propagation.

The third garden belongs to a Master Gardener who moved to her log cabin on five acres

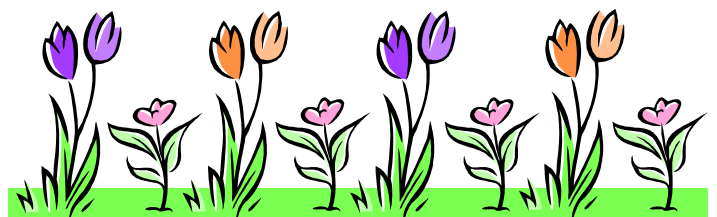
twenty years ago. There were only weeds, tree stumps, and pieces of concrete on the property when she moved in. Her property now includes a gazebo and a pond which has undergone three transformations. Flowerbeds billowing with perennials, stone patios, and walkways fill all of the areas that were once grass. Entering the property down a long tree enclosed drive, one suddenly arrives at the front of the property and a split rail fence slip covered with lantana, Rose of Sharon, hibiscus, roses, cannas, trumpet vine, zinnias, and Mexican Bush Sage. Most of the property is shady and filled with Persian Shield, potato vine, English Ivy, coleus, variegated hibiscus, hydrangeas, caladiums, and Purple Heart. A dry creek bed using rocks found on the property was recently constructed. It is surrounded by Confederate Rose, Vitex, Rock Rose, cat mint, Salvia greggii and many other plants.

The final garden began the summer after they moved in. They referred to their first efforts as trial and error and have recently redone two beds to remove invasive plants. Heritage Rose, New Dawn Roses, and Japanese Maples surround two sides of the patio. A pond in the center of the yard is surrounded a wonderful crabapple tree and an Italian Cardoon (grown by **Mary Margaret Halleck**).

The tour will end in Cleburne. For those interested we will have lunch at a Bar-B-Q restaurant that has come highly recommended. Nearby is an interesting shop that sells cement garden ornaments and containers.

Please come and join us!

**Activities Committee**



## Perennial Trial Garden Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Submitted by Carol O'Connell, MG '98



Master Gardeners can help maintain the Perennial Trial Garden (first, third and fifth Tuesdays, all year, weather permitting) for weeks before they recognize the faces of their co-workers. The optimal position is head down, haunches up, forearm flexed and eyes on the prize. It could be spurge or oxalis. Everyone has a favorite weed to search out and destroy. Some choose *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion) and *Cyperus esculentus* (yellow nutsedge) to get the business end of a spade. These folks weed, deadhead, prune and monitor for pest infestations. Only after the diligent dig and pull and prostrate themselves in the perennial beds for a couple of hours, do they finally look up to see the other sweaty faces. The goal is 251 pristine beds, but the reality is often plenty of the same work for the next crew arriving in a week or two.

Master Gardeners who take data in the Perennial Trial Garden (second and fourth Tuesdays, March through November, weather permitting) can enjoy the garden from a more genteel and vertical stance. They wield a yardstick, pencil and tablet and take copious notes on the perennials including growth habits, performance and overall landscape appeal. These lucky few maintain a certain degree of cleanliness and cool professionalism, but it seems to be the diggers and grubbers who have the most fun.

The perennial Trial Garden opened in the fall of 1993. It is located to the south of the parking lot for the Japanese Garden. Five octagonal beds surround a gazebo that gives shade and seating for weary workers or a gaggle of school kids on an excursion through the garden. The children are usually amazed to see so many adults playing in the dirt.

Each bed is marked off and has a plastic tag

with the scientific name of the plant it features. The plants are grown in full sun and in raised beds which vary in height from 6 to 24 inches. The soil is primarily clay mixed with organic matter, and a slow-release fertilizer is applied in spring and fall. The plants have an automatic irrigations system and a 3inch layer of mulch for moisture retention and weed control.

Each year the Fort Worth Botanic Garden uses the information gathered by the Master Gardeners to prepare of list of the "Best Perennial Performers" of that year. This one page handout lists each plant's bed #, the plant's scientific and common name, the average height, bloom season and flower color. The goal is to get this information to the home gardener to preview plants they can use in their personal landscape. This page is available to the public at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center, and it is also included in an issue of the *Redbud*, the newsletter of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

It's fun to sit in the shade after a few hours of volunteering, and swap stories of the worst plants, as well as the best. Some of the more offensive past plantings have included the evening primrose and cedar sage. Both of these long ago divested plants can still be found today in the cracks of the sidewalk or sides of the railroad ties. Very persistent perennials, indeed.

Even some of the best perennials are very aggressive, and homely to boot. *Stemodia tomentosa* (Wooley stemodia) comes to mind, as well as *Ruellia brittoniana* (Mexican petunia), although the *Ruellia brittoniana* "Katie" (Katie's dwarf Mexican petunia) is well behaved. The verbenas are tricky, sometimes they are truly amazing, sometimes just truly dead! Also, some perennials get huge. For a small garden, the hibiscus is just too tall and leggy, plus you have to be a gorilla to cut it to the ground in the fall. But the *Pavonia lasio-petala*, (rockrose) has flowers in such a beautiful shade of pink they puts Renior to shame. And the salvias, so many colors, so little space!

Sometimes it's relaxing to just walk by and bruise the rosemary or anise-scented sage. It's always a treat to see flowers waiting for the last gasp of summer. The Mexican mint marigold and Mexican bush sage both show off their stuff in late summer. Butterflies, skippers and moths arrive in droves then.

At each month's end, the worker's names and total hours worked are recorded and passed on to the MG horticulture agent at the extension office. The Fort Worth Botanic Gardens has a lovely Christmas lunch for all the garden volunteers.

There is no need to make a reservation, volunteers are always welcome to just show up on the maintenance days, and the more Master Gardeners taking data, the sooner the work is done. Come join in, and show us your best side. But don't forget your garden tools, water and sunscreen.

For more information about the Perennial Trial Garden, please contact **Carol O'Connell**,  
817-921-0713



## Extension Update

Hi Everyone, just a note to give you an update on the balance of 2005.

I just got back from a wonderful trip to Canada for the International Master Gardener Conference. **Mary Margaret Halleck** and **Judy Childers** attended also and represented Tarrant County Master Gardeners very well. In 2007 the next International Conference will be in Little Rock, Arkansas and looks to be fascinating. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we chartered a bus and took 50 of us to that conference? Please put May 2-5, 2007 down on your calendar and let's get planning.

A reminder of the Henrietta Creek Orchard Tours starting 9/12 - 10/21/05. These tours for the school kids are put on by our very own **Sue Short** and she could sure use your help on any of the above days. Please give her a call and see what days are open, go out and tour the orchard and have fun with the kids. Remember when you were a kid and being in the country

was natural, these days some kids don't even know the meaning of being in the country.

Little Hands on the Farm starts soon, for those of you are not familiar with it shame on you. It is an award winning project that the Tarrant County Master Gardeners have been an integral part of since the onset. Give **Eleanor Tuck** a call and see how you can be part of this wonderfully fun event. Planting day is 9/23/05 and we need 15 -20 people, Opening day is 9/30/05 with 24 people per shift needed and Clean-up Day is 10/24/05 with 15-20 people needed for it as well. Events like this are such great opportunities to share time with each other and most important share time, knowledge and love with lots and lots of children.

The next H&G Show is right around the corner at the Ft. Worth Convention Center starting on 9/30 thru 10/2/05. This is such a great opportunity to showcase just a few of the Master Gardeners many talents and hard work. Please give **Shari Stanfield** a call and sign up and let's all have fun!!

Wichita Falls is hosting a Regional Master Gardener Conference on 10/15/05 and the new Horticultural Agent has assured me that it is going to be great. **Tara McKnight** is the new agent there and would sure love to have a bunch of Tarrant County Master Gardeners come and share the fun!

Our annual Landscape School dates are 10/11, 10/18, 10/20, 10/27 and consultations on 11/5. Please let anyone that you know that might benefit from this training that these dates are right around the corner. There is limited seating and the cost is only \$100.00 if registered in advance by October 6, 2005.

Last but not least, the Fall-2005 Master Gardener Class starts on September 20, 2005 and goes through November 15, 2005 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class is full, but ALL current Master Gardeners and Interns are welcome to attend any of these classes. Seating is limited due to space so come early or call **Crystal** and let her know what days you will be there. The Spring - 2006 Master Gardener Class starts in January -March 2006 and is open to All Master Gardeners as well. The orientation for the September '06 class is on 9/13/05 and the interviews are scheduled

for 10/05/05, please shares these facts with any of your friends, colleagues and neighbors. The above activities are just a few of the many fun things that are happening in the next few

months, please mark your calendar and I hope to see you at most if not all of these events.

Sincerely, **Steve Chaney**

## Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

<u>Project Code &amp; 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	7:30 a.m., Weds.	Patsy Johnson	817-292-5358
312 Trial Garden Maintenance	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Tues.	Carol O'Connell	817-921-0713
312 Trial Garden Data	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues.	Carol 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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, 8:30 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 9-12:00	Gailon Hardin	817-457-4703
407 Willow Park DemoGarden	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	Judy Ratzlaff	817-441-6726
408 TX Smartscape Demo	call chairman	Michael Warren	817-531-6765
612 Henrietta Creek Orchard	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon. or 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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



### Get Those Hours In!

By now you should have received an e-mail or letter showing your volunteer hours recorded through June 2005. If you need to make

corrections, please contact **Dolores Geisel** at 817-446-4536 or [dolores.geisel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dolores.geisel@sbcglobal.net) If you haven't turned in your time sheets yet, please do so. Our timekeepers have a big job and we can help by submitting our timesheets on time.

Also, remember to sign in at the Master Gardener meetings so we can credit you with attending the meeting.

**Membership Committee**

## Happy Birthday, Master Gardeners!

- 9-1 **Claire Alford, Donna Haggerty**
- 9-2 **Von Craig**
- 9-3 **Jim Potter**
- 9-5 **Jannis Ghaddar**
- 9-6 **Bettie Cline, Neil Collins,  
and Theresa Moreland**
- 9-9 **Shari Stanfield**
- 9-10 **Maurine Wood**
- 9-12 **Judy Sargent**
- 9-15 **Rachel Clark**
- 9-17 **Mary Nell Hubbard**
- 9-20 **Cyndi Cason**
- 9-21 **Sara Lenzion**
- 9-22 **L. J. Williams**
- 9-24 **Mercy Guerrero**
- 9-30 **Sally Porter and Marjie Nelson**

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](mailto:lavonne@ev1.net).

### Logo Items



Master Gardener logo items will be for sale at our September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Items for sale include logo shirts, hats, and sweatshirts. Items purchased are planned to be available for pick up at the October meeting.



**Ways and Means  
Committee**

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](mailto:hardyjandl@netzero.net).

The newsletter editorial staff reserves the right to edit articles submitted for content, brevity, and correctness.

### MG DIRECTORY SEPTEMBER UPDATES

**Jan Hicks** 102 O'Brien Ct.  
Weatherford, TX 76086  
817-675-2747  
[jansplans@hotmail.com](mailto:jansplans@hotmail.com)

**Gay Larson** 817-441-6560

**Mary McCoy** [mary-m-mccoy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mary-m-mccoy@sbcglobal.net)

Note: Send updates to Pat Lovejoy  
at [patlovejoy@att.net](mailto:patlovejoy@att.net).

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Association**  
401 East Eighth Street



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sept 1	TCMGA Monthly Meeting - Resource Connection
Sept 9	Chandor Gardens tour (see page 7)
Sept 20 thru Nov 15	Fall 2005 MG Intern Class
Sept 23	Little Hands on the Farm - planting day
Sept 30	Little Hands on the Farm - TCMGA volunteer day
Oct	Annual Landscape Design School (10/11, 13, 18, 20, 29)
Oct 9	TCMGA Garden Conservancy Tour (more soon)
Oct 12	Southwest Tarrant County Garden tour (more soon)
Oct 24	Little Hands on the Farm - clean up day
Dec 8	TCMGA Christmas Awards/Social

For up-to-the-minute TCMGA news visit: [www.tcmga.org](http://www.tcmga.org)  
More state news: [www.texasmastergardeners.com](http://www.texasmastergardeners.com)