



# Sharecropper



## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

January / February 2016

### January/February 2016

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## Looking to the Future

### Youth education programs promote Texas water conservation

By Steve Chaney, AgriLife Extension Agent

Texans in drought-susceptible areas face an arid future without knowledge of water management and planning. According to environmental experts, the best place to begin teaching these strategies is schools. Introducing water education to children is critical to ensuring adequate clean water for future generations.

#### JMG Curriculum

Engaging children in educational, hands-on water conservation activities is a mission shared by Junior Master Gardener (JMG) as well.



“Water conservation in Texas is vitally important,” said Lisa Whittlesey, national coordinator of the kids’ gardening program. “It is so important that our children understand water conservation because they are our future consumers of water and will be the decision-makers on how water resources will be allocated.”

JMG is composed of seven different curricula that focus on teaching children to give back to their communities. The Operation Water curriculum is designed exclusively for water education, and each of the other programs also emphasizes the importance of water as a natural resource that must be preserved, said Whittlesey, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialist.



She said the curriculum encourages students to be active learners by participating in experiments and community conservation projects. “Kids really learn by doing,” she said. “Our program is taught in a very hands-on, engaging way so the kids actually experience it and are not just reading about it.”

### TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Jackie Heidinger [jackieheidinger@verizon.net](mailto:jackieheidinger@verizon.net)

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Some of the skills the students learn include the appropriate selection and use of landscape plants and mulch and irrigation techniques that minimize water loss in gardens.

“They do experiments to show, for instance, that watering deeply really encourages the root system to grow deeply,” Whittlesey said. “During a drought it’s better to water deeply and infrequently versus small, frequent amounts of water.”

The JMG curriculum is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which are the state’s academic standards, and the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test. It also strongly supports project-based learning — a teaching method that encourages hands-on involvement to help master concepts, she said.

We are looking to form a team of volunteers here in Tarrant County in 2016 to teach our children.

If you would be interested please Contact Billie at [blhammack@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:blhammack@ag.tamu.edu) so that we can all meet and brainstorm. Between us all I know we can make a difference with our kids! They are the future, you know!!!

## What is JMG?

Growing good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education.

**The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the university cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, “hands-on” group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind.**

JMG also inspires youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects, and rewards them with certification and recognition.

Children can get involved in exploring their world through meaningful activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride and responsibility, and community involvement. Youth involved in the program develop critical thinking skills, and the ability to identify community concerns and take action to address them through individual group projects.



**Marilyn Satterfield,  
TCMGA President**

# President's Message

## Happy New Year!

It is a new year that offers an opportunity to set new goals and dust off unmet goals from this past year.

No matter how big or how insignificant the goal, working towards it gives a person purpose and a feeling of accomplishment once completed.

We have a lot of exciting opportunities within our association to volunteer on projects or committees you have not yet tried.

We have new state-of-the art greenhouses being built and we will be hosting the Tarrant County Southern Regional Conference in November. You will also see a couple of new projects starting up. So, try something new and get involved in something you haven't done before. Try it; you may like it!

I have really enjoyed volunteering alongside many of you this past year.

I appreciate the uniqueness of each of our members and thank you for the time and dedication you put into our association.

Because of each of you, Tarrant County Master Gardener Association is the Biggest and Bestest!

It is an honor to be your President!

**Marilyn Satterfield  
TCMGA President**



# Congratulations!

The following lists those TCMGA members who have earned their 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 year pins as volunteers. Please see Steve Purdy at the Feb Monthly Meeting to receive your pins. Congratulations to all!

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 2012 have earned their 3 Year Pins for 2015:**

Russell Bailey	Connie Montoya
Thomas Blanton	Judie Porter
Carolyn "Jo Jo" Burnett	Mary Ann Rojas
Henry Cole	Bill Sargeant
Suzanne "Suzi" Cook	Meina Sargeant
Andy Crapper	Chris Senerote
Angeline Depauw	Margaret Shuping
Pat Engel	Barry Smith
Edward Forrester	Bernadette Story
Mary Ann Gallon	Valerie Stowe
Diane Geiser	Melanie Sullivan
Lorie Grandclair-Diaz	Julie Taber
James "Gus" Guthrie	Diana Vincenti
Memie Hardie	Cindy Wakeley
Carolyn Lombard	Kathryn Whitaker
Charlene "Char" McMorrow	Bea Wilson
Anne McVey	Otto Witt

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 2010 have earned their 5 Year Pins for 2015:**

Paula Billman	Joe McCreary
Danielle Carr	Patsy Miller
Linda Carver	Doug Montgomery
Marilyn Cox	Mary Morgan
Rebecca Danvers	Rosalinda Osburn
Sue Fair	Nancy Price
Mary Lynn Haines	Sharon Schide
Starr Krottinger	Sally Simpson
Laura Lowe	Dianne Sterling
Robert Lundin	Pamela Taeckens
Patti Maness	Lee Unger
Jessica McCraw	Catherine Vollmer

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 2005 have earned their 10 Year Pins for 2015:**

Claire Alford  
Margaret Anderson  
Kim Freeman  
Pat Higgins  
Betsy Kalina  
Judith Kelly  
Rutha "Ruthie" Leffel  
Joanne McClendon  
Toni Moorehead  
Donna Morris  
Jo Poppelreiter

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 2000 have earned their 15 Year Pins for 2015:**

Nona Batiste  
Gailon Hardin  
Rita Hottel  
Kay Lewis  
Joyce Quam  
Beatrice Stevenson  
Linda Stuard  
Wilda Turner  
Dave Wilson  
Kay Yount

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 1995 have earned their 20 Year Pins for 2015:**

Sharon Nice

**The following members of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Class of 1990 have earned their 25 Year Pins for 2015:**

Ed Vaughn (Emeritus)

# MEET OUR ENTOMOLOGY SPECIALISTS

By Nora Coalson, 2014 MG



From left, Lance Jepson, Linda Hawkins, Eleanor Tuck, Melanie Sullivan. Missing are Theresa Thomas and Nona Bap-

What kind of person signs on to get up close and personal with crawling and flying critters that most of us reflexively swat or stomp? That would be our Entomology Specialists, and Tarrant County is blessed with five of these unique individuals. Before introducing them, it is interesting to take a look at the training course they went through.

To be eligible for the Master Gardener Specialist Entomology training, one must have an up-to-date Master Gardener certification and be approved by their local County Extension Agent. Dr. Mike Merchant, a Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist at the Dallas Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, is one of the class instructors. This very approachable man sent me a copy of the course outline for the most recent training class. The intensive program is taught by an impressively qualified group of instructors, which includes no less than five PhD's, in addition to an assortment of Master Naturalists and Texas A&M Forestry Service staff.

Where our Master Gardner class on insects lasts one day, the specialist training is much more in-depth. Conroe hosted the most recent class in September 2015 at the Montgomery County Extension office. It lasted four and one-half days and involved a combination of classroom lectures, specimen collection field trips, and hands-on specimen preparation. The second day of training began at 8:00 in the morning and ran until 9:00 PM. With a

dense curriculum including pesticide toxicology, pantry pests/management, vegetable garden pests, beneficial insects, landscape and ornamental pests, that one day ended with night collecting in W.G. Jones State Forest. Though this wimp might want to avoid any handling of the arachnid species, I would be all-in for the last day's activities which focused on bees and included honey tasting.



I think it appropriate to start the introduction of Tarrant County's Entomology Specialists with **Eleanor Tuck**, who might arguably be called their queen bee. In 2003, she traveled to College Station to participate in what was one of the very first Entomology Specialist training classes and became the first specialist in Tarrant County in this field. Having started work on a horticulture diploma for which entomology is a requirement, this specialty was a logical progression for a lady who had already amassed a sizable personal collection of bugs. That had drawn the attention of Dotty Woodson, the Tarrant County Extension Agent at the time. Dotty was so impressed with Eleanor's personal bug collection that she bought a raft of bug cases, handed them to Eleanor, and instructed her to "Fill 'em up."

Eleanor loves bugs. She loves teaching kids about them, and not just the technical stuff. Her focus is on what she calls fun facts, like how many proteins are in a termite burger compared with a hamburger (almost as many grams, if you're interested in trying them). Nowadays, she shares

her entomology knowledge primarily with church schools, two of which call on her each year. Wouldn't you love to see the looks on those parents' faces when their kids come home requesting a termite burger for dinner?



**Nona Batiste** joined Master Gardeners in 2000 and became an Entomology Specialist in 2011.

Since she had a bug collection from her graduate school years, entomology was a natural fit for this retired environmental science teacher. She loves all manner of bugs, especially dragon flies, which figure prominently in her home décor. And she loves teaching children. Young fourth-grade and fifth-grade girls apparently have a propensity to freak out about touching bugs. Nona's persistence and infectious laugh cajoles them into loving the crawling creatures as much as she does.



**Lance Jepson**, a 2008 Master Gardener, moved eighteen times before landing in Texas in 2006. A nineteen-year career in the State Department took him to Barbados, Mali, Senegal, and Niger. Lance tells fascinating stories about a type of grasshopper that invades Africa at times, darkening the skies and defoliating trees. In the early 80s he participated in research which led to the development of neem oil. His storied career, both with the State Department and as an educator in high schools and colleges, makes him a natural for our Speakers Bureau, for helping out with the MG intern classes, and for teaching at TCC Southwest and TCU.

Lance has a long-standing interest in agriculture, having one time worked with a county extension agency in Michigan. When the opportunity presented itself to become an Entomology Specialist four or five years ago, he packed his bags, headed to Montgomery County, and added this specialty to his already impressive list of credentials.



**Melanie Sullivan** became a Master Gardener in 2012. As soon as she discovered there was a specialty in Entomology, she knew that's what she wanted. Since her training in Austin in 2014, she has been instrumental in helping Eleanor Tuck expand, edit and organize the office insect collection and the traveling collection. Melanie has also shared her knowledge by speaking at a neighborhood association meeting, at the modular Master Gardener training, and at the MG Regional Conference. When asked if she has a favorite insect book, she unhesitatingly answered the [National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders and Related Species of North America](#). It gets high marks for excellent organization,

photos, and ease of use. Word of warning should you happen to sit next to Melanie at a nicely catered meal like our recent Christmas Awards Banquet: She and a fellow critter lover might engage in a lively discussion of the best way to preserve a stinging scorpion (in alcohol) and of storing them in their refrigerators. Potential dinner guests might wisely be wary of this group.



**Theresa Thomas'** interest in bugs led her to take the specialist training in 2011 in Bexar County. A Master Gardener since 2009, her science background in medical microbiology made this specialty a natural fit, one which she has used to teach classes in schools as a part of the Speakers Bureau and as a Home and Garden Show participant using her insect information tables. One of her favorite bug stories is about the time she took a tarantula to a classroom only to have the teacher run screaming out of the classroom. It's a mortification that teacher can never live down, since the tale is retold at every holiday gathering. That teacher is also Theresa's daughter-in-law.



**Linda Hawkins**, a Master Gardener since 2009, is the only specialist who admitted to taking entomology training as a way to overcome her childhood fear of insects. She hated them and would scream in terror until her father came to rescue her from the offensive critter. No doubt her father would be shocked and delighted by her decision to face her fears by taking Entomology Specialist training in Dallas in 2011. For the most part, the newly acquired knowledge overcame the fear, though she still does not like "things landing on me."

Linda loves to participate in the Speakers Bureau and educate the public on how to peacefully coexist with insects and on the beneficial nature of some. In her personal landscaping business she considers it a part of her job to pass on that same knowledge to her clients. Since she views parents as the primary culprits in creating childhood insect fears, Linda feels that educating them will benefit future generations.

After sharing my own fear of spiders and dislike of wasps, Linda told me about the dirt dauber, sometimes called the mud dauber. This type of wasp preys on spiders by paralyzing them and laying its eggs inside the body, which then becomes food for the young spiders. There is even a species, the blue mud dauber, which preys on the black widow spider. Now that is a beneficial insect! See what fascinating tidbits of information you can pick up from this amazing (and brave) group of Entomology Specialists.



## January/February 2016

### January

1/1 Concha Jones, Phyllis Livings  
1/2 Linda Winn  
1/3 Judy Jackson  
1/5 Betty Story  
1/7 Kathleen Glen, Joe McCreary,  
Barbara Weidler  
1/9 Jody Puente, Jerry Tuttle  
1/10 Debra Rosenthal  
1/11 Barbara Durnan  
1/12 Sandra Flory, Bill Keller  
1/15 Sally Harris  
1/17 Lora Hill  
1/18 Carolyn Gordon, Dave Wilson  
1/20 Marilyn Cox, Starr Krottinger,  
Carolyn Lombard, Lori Maxwell  
1/22 **Eleanor Tuck (Over 80)**  
1/23 Sharon Schide  
1/24 Linda Kitson  
1/25 Delight Ahlenius  
1/26 Lauren Florea, Diane Jones, Janine Mann,  
Lee Unger  
1/27 Glenda Page  
1/31 Melanie Stephens

### February

2/1 **Charlie Shiner (Over 80)**  
2/3 Andy Crapper, Donna Detzler  
2/4 Tamra Novak, Amy Harsha  
2/6 Sher Dunaway  
2/7 Pat Lovejoy  
2/8 Kate Robertson  
2/9 Carolyn Burnett  
2/10 Teresa Moss  
2/11 Joyce Wuetig  
2/12 **Greta Beckler (over 80), Thomas Blanton**  
2/13 Betsy Marsh  
2/15 **Beatrice Stevenson (Over 80)**  
2/17 Laura Lowe  
2/18 Renie Stricklen, Anna Wilkerson  
2/20 Terri Mann  
2/21 Claudia Blalock  
2/22 Mary Lee Hodge, Mary Morgan  
2/25 Diane Spradling, Evaline Woodrey  
2/26 Donna Bufton, **Molly Hollar (Over 80)**  
2/27 Debbie Morrison  
2/28 Lorraine Castorina  
2/29 Toni Hernandez

If you don't see your name, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

**LaVonne Nowlin (817) 581-1850** or email  
[lavonnen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lavonnen@sbcglobal.net).

## TCMGA CEU Classes

There will be a 1 hour CEU offered after the January and February Master Gardener meetings speaker.

The class begins in the gym at 11:45a, following the meeting.

In January, our vegetable specialists will give information about what you should be doing now for your spring garden.

In February, propagation specialists will demonstrate seeds, bumping up and stem cut propagation.

**Claire Alford**  
Propagation Specialist

## EDUCATION CLASS IDEAS!

Is there a gardening topic you always wanted to learn more about?

Contact **Claire Alford** ([clairealford@gmail.com](mailto:clairealford@gmail.com)) or **Nancy Curl** ([nl\\_curl@yahoo.com](mailto:nl_curl@yahoo.com)) to see if a class can be scheduled!

**ATTENTION!**  
THE NEXT SHARECROPPER NEWSLETTER  
PUBLISHED WILL COVER  
MARCH/APRIL 2016

## RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 4!

Tarrant County Master Gardener  
Community Demonstration Garden presents



2 hours CEU credit for  
Master Gardeners

## Papercrete



Thursday, November 5  
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

TCMGA Garden  
Resource Connection  
of Tarrant County  
Circle Drive, Fort Worth 76119

Instructors: TCMGA Papercrete Girls!

Learn how to make a container using Papercrete!  
Assorted container molds will be offered.

Cost: \$15

Class limit: 20

Pre-registration required online

[https://TCMGA.formstack.com/forms/2015\\_papercrete\\_class](https://TCMGA.formstack.com/forms/2015_papercrete_class)

Or contact **Billie Hammack** [blhammack@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:blhammack@ag.tamu.edu) 817-884-1296

Office Hours Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

## Attention Experienced Master Gardeners and Interns

The spring Fort Worth Home & Garden Show will be held February 12-14 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Master Gardeners play an important part in the event speaking on the main stage, presenting workshops and providing valuable horticultural information at our booth. We educate visitors eager to learn more about gardening and conservation and you learn as well from listening to information being given by fellow MGs. It is a fun way to earn those hours.

Be looking for the eblast in January calling for volunteers. If you have ideas for activities in our booth or you have a presentation or topic that you think would be an asset to the Home and Garden Show event, contact Patsy Miller at 817-275-5306 or [pjmiller24@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjmiller24@sbcglobal.net)



# Upcoming Events

## January

<b>7</b> (Thursday)	<b>9 am social</b> <b>10 am- meeting</b> <b>11:45 am</b>	<b>TCMGA Meeting</b>  <b>Propagation Class after speaker</b>
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## February

<b>4</b> (Thursday)	<b>9 am social</b> <b>10 am- meeting</b> <b>11:45 am 12:45 pm</b> <b>1 pm—3 pm</b>	<b>TCMGA Meeting</b>  <b>Propagation Class after speaker</b> <b>TCMGA Papercrete Class</b> To register go to <a href="https://tcmga.formstack.com/forms/2015_papercrete_class">https://tcmga.formstack.com/forms/2015_papercrete_class</a>
<b>12-14</b> (Friday—Sunday)		<b>Spring Ft. Worth Home and Garden Show</b>