



# Sharecropper



## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

July 2015

### July 2015

Inside this issue:

New Texas Superstar!	1
President's Message	3
Nora's Notions	4
Project Profile	6
Interesting People	7
Beekeeping 101 Class	8
Announcements	9
Upcoming Events	11
Education	12

## Arctic Frost satsuma mandarin hybrid named new Texas Superstar

Writer: Robert Burns

COLLEGE STATION – Satsuma Arctic Frost has been named a Texas Superstar plant by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturists.

Arctic Frost is the most cold-hardy satsuma hybrid tested so far, having survived temperatures as low as 9 degrees at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center test site near Overton, said Dr. Brent Pemberton, AgriLife Research horticulturist and chair of the Texas Superstar executive board, Overton.

The board has named other cold-hardy satsuma mandarins as Superstars: Satsuma Miho and Seto in 2010, and Orange Frost in 2014.

Most citrus are easily damaged by the cold, and can only be grown in tropical and subtropical areas, said David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for horticulture in Bexar County and member of the Texas Superstar selection board.

"Moreover, many of the cold-hardy varieties also have a poorer quality fruit," Rodriguez said. "However, mandarins and Changsha mandarin crosses have more cold hardiness but better quality fruit."

Because many satsuma mandarin varieties do well under Texas conditions, they were promoted as a group in 1993, but Miho was the first individual plant selected, Rodriguez said.

"Personally, I promote satsumas around Father's Day as they make great gifts – you know: a sweet, not sour, citrus for a sweet dad," Rodriguez said.

They also make great Christmas gifts, he said.

All the satsuma crosses are the work of Dr. Ying Doon Moy, who was born in a small village in south China but immigrated to the U.S. in 1978, said Rodriguez.



The newest Texas Superstar, Arctic Frost, is the most cold-hardy satsuma hybrid tested so far, having survived temperatures as low as 9 degrees, according to Dr. Brent Pemberton, Texas A&M AgriLife Research horticulturist. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Larry Stein)

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)

Moy found a position as a plant breeder with the San Antonio Botanical Garden in 1980, where he retired in 1999, and developed more than 150 new varieties of papaya, ginger, es- peranza, rose, hibiscus and citrus, Rodriguez said.

In 1997, Moy and Dr. Jerry Parsons, a now-retired AgriLife Extension horticulture specialist, began collaborating to hybridize various satsuma mandarins with winter hardy Changsha tangerines, a citrus variety long cultivated in China. Changsha is one of the most cold-hardy citrus grown there. It produces edible but extremely seedy fruit.

“The goal was to produce a satsuma hybrid with enhanced cold hardiness, as well as a high-quality fruit with a low seed count, and they succeeded,” Rodriguez said.

To make the hybrids, Moy removed the Changsha plants’ flower anthers, applied satsuma pollen, then extracted and nurtured the sexually produced embryo from the Changsha seed.

Seedlings that were viable were planted in containers and allowed to develop and mature for five to seven years, he said.

From the most successful cold-hardy crosses, Orange Frost and Arctic Frost were selected and propagated, Rodriguez said.

In 2005, Parsons and Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist at Uvalde, asexually propagated all of the crosses by rooting cuttings from the original seedlings, Rodriguez said. By 2007, they had plants growing in 10-gallon containers, and proceeded to make trial plantings at Uvalde and Overton to test for cold hardiness in unprotected field settings. Both varieties were made available to commercial growers about two years ago.

“Arctic Frost grows to become a relatively tall tree with white flowers that give off a heady orange fragrance,” Rodriguez said. Come late fall or early winter, Arctic frost produces fruit that is juicy, nearly seedless and easy to peel. It will grow 8 to 12 feet tall in the ground or 6 feet tall as a patio container plant in about five to six years.

“When planting in the ground, protection from cold by wrapping with frost cloth for the first year or two is recommended,” Pemberton said. “A site protected from the north wind will also help with winter survival.”

“The fruit peel and flesh is brightly orange colored, retaining that characteristic from its Changsha tangerine parentage,” Stein said. “The taste is sweet and tart, presenting a true citrus flavor that is missing in varieties that are sweet but bland.”

Rodriguez noted that as opposed to other satsumas, which are grafted to another variety rootstock, Arctic Frost is grown from its own rootstock.

“So if they get nipped back from a hard winter, they do not produce shoots from below the graft,” Rodriguez said. “Folks that have concerns about the cold might do well to size up the tree with a well-defined root system and strong top canopy for three years as a patio plant before transplanting to the ground.”

The link for this new superstar is

[http://texassuperstar.com/plants/satsuma\\_arctic\\_frost/index.html](http://texassuperstar.com/plants/satsuma_arctic_frost/index.html)

Texas Superstar is a registered trademark owned by AgriLife Research, a state agency that is part of the Texas A&M University System. More information about the Texas Superstar program, including retail outlets where Superstar varieties may be purchased, can be found at <http://texassuperstar.com/>.





**Marilyn Satterfield,  
TCMGA President**

## President's Message

What an amazing spring! The rain and extended cooler temperatures were enjoyable but not for some of our plants.

My yard had standing water for days because the ground was so saturated.

My seedlings that had come up prepared to grow just kinda sat there not knowing what to do. I am sure this same situation was experienced in many of your own gardens and yards.

The good news is the drought should be over, most of the lakes are full again.

Looking outside at the sunshine and 95 degrees on my outdoor thermometer reminds me that our Texas summers always show up sooner or later.

The seedlings are finally growing and beginning to produce as well as the rest of the vegetables and flowers. A joy to any gardener's heart.

The excitement of walking outside and harvesting fresh produce for our tables is well worth all the work, and sometimes, frustration with the weather.

May your days be filled with the abundance of all things good!

Until we meet again,

**Marilyn Satterfield  
TCMGA President**





## Nora's Notions

### Tales from the Chemical Aisle by Nora Coalson, 2014 MG

"You want something to kill all the green lizards in your yard?" My face must have communicated my incredulity because the poor man started to apologize.

I was standing in the chemical aisle at a Home Depot on my first day as a Weekend Warrior for Bayer Advanced. Since it was the last weekend in March, I expected to be answering all sorts of questions about weeds, a subject for which I had diligently prepared. Show me a weed with a little purple flower, and I'll tell you it's henbit, is very aggressive, but, not to worry, I've got the product you need. That weed that looks like grass and your neighbor loves it simply because it's green and that's good enough for him, well that's nutsedge. I prayed that nobody had that particular weed because the unfortunate solution was a competitor's weed control because my store did not carry the complete Bayer product line.

But no, my first customer is the man whose wife is afraid of those cute green anoles found in all of our backyards. When I tried to explain the beneficial nature of the insect-eating lizard, he gave me the universal stop sign and explained, "I know, I know. You're not supposed to want to kill them, but my wife screams every time she sees one." The outdoor cat recommendation didn't fly because "She's afraid of cats, too." Figuring he had married a three-year-old with more problems than I was trained to solve, I gave him my most sympathetic head shake and managed to bite my tongue before suggesting therapy for the wife. Somehow I think the anoles will be the least of his future problems.



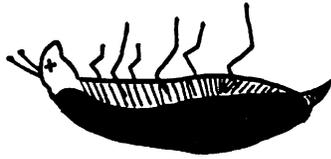
Through most of April I did deal with all manner of weed-killing questions, which you would think is a rather straight-forward process. But you've got to remember to ask the right questions. One poor fellow had bought a weed and grass killer (intended for use where you don't want anything to grow) to kill the weeds in his lawn, leaving it with brown polka dot patches. Luckily he had bought the product with no pre-emergent ingredient. He could actually replace the brown patches with new grass sod or seed.

I learned that people are label-reading adverse, which is understandable since the font is microscopic and the instructions difficult to navigate. But labels are required reading for Weekend Warriors. Having done my due diligence, I knew how to explain to one customer why I would not sell him Durazone (Bayer's product that competes with Monsanto's Round-up Extended Control) to kill the weeds in his proposed garden area. "Are you planning to replant the area in the next six months?" I asked, thinking to jog a little logic into his thinking. "Sure. I'm putting the seeds in soon as I get those weeds gone." He could not wrap his head around my explanation that the same pre-emergent in Durazone that would keep the weeds gone for six months would also keep his squash from coming up. With a small prayer that my area manager would not appear at that moment, I grabbed the competition's glyphosate-only product off the shelf and handed it to him. "Trust me. This is what you need to use."

I began to notice a pattern. The young couples with their first new home just wanted their yard to look great. Grassy weed versus broad-leafed weed was not a differentiation they cared to know about. They were glad the sod was there, had no idea what kind it was, and had never heard the word horticulture. Give me something to fix my problem was the typical mindset.

Late in April one such desperate young man showed me photos of his yellowing lawn. "I've done everything my neighbor told me to," he wailed. Twenty questions later, I discovered that

he had put down a weed-and-feed product a month earlier and, because more is better and he hates weeds, had about a week afterward followed up with a spray-on weed control product. Oh, \$#!\*, I thought. Gently I explained the nature of the chemical tsunami he had inflicted on his lawn. His shoulders sagged, and his chin met his chest. "What can I do now?" I placed one hand on his shoulder and said, "Pray for rain."



Clearly that advice worked, because May ushered in torrential downpours. Following each one, out came hordes of insects. Ants mounded up in our yards. They invaded sheds, outdoor electrical outlets, dry hot-tubs, and homes. Homeowner horror was my business boom. Insect control products flew off the shelf.

One memorable customer came in wanting to kill everything. This was after the first two weeks of seemingly solid rain, and the bugs had invaded her home. Did she care what innocents might be affected by her treatment? No. Did she care that she might be affected? No. She just wanted everything that moved DEAD. "Scorched earth" was the term she used. You had to feel for the woman. Not only was her home overrun with creepy-crawlies, she'd also just had some kind of dental procedure and sported a blood-tinged cotton roll between clenched teeth. This very unhappy camper yanked the insecticide out of my hand, grabbed two more bottles off the shelf and quick-stepped it toward check out. I abandoned a futile chase trying to educate her with safe use warnings. Anger, frustration and pain appeared to have rendered her deaf. If she used all of the product she bought at one time I hope she is still alive. I know her critters are DEAD.

Some of you will think I have gone over to the dark side in taking the Weekend Warrior job. Those with an organic-only mindset will certainly condemn me. Even though I learned of the job opportunity from our organization's Monday morning e-blast, initially I was reluctant to talk

about it. Then I spoke with Steve Chaney at the March Master Gardener meeting. I explained the position and asked for an opinion. "Sounds like a win-win to me," piped up Dotty Woodson, who happened to be sitting next to Steve. He nodded his agreement with the added caution not to use my Master Gardener title in the job.

With blessings from two of our area's most respected horticulture experts, pride in my position blossomed. So I took what was a marvelous learning experience and ran with it. Ask me how to get rid of those pesky snails & slugs with their voracious appetites for your beautiful plantings. I can tell you why your usual insecticide won't work on those slimy critters. I know that just because a product says it covers 10,000 square feet, doesn't mean it always does so. For some uses, it covers only 5000.

I also know the great pains Bayer takes to educate the public about how to use its products correctly and safely, how to protect the bee population by not spraying any insecticide on open flowers, and how to protect your property and yourself from certain chemicals. It's all there on those pesky labels.

FYI, the [bayeradvanced.com](http://bayeradvanced.com) web site also has excellent educational videos about vegetable and fruit gardening practices, insect control, and weed control. There you will also find product explanations as well as the option to expand the font size so you can easily read those all-important labels.

*This article is intended solely for information purposes and is not to be construed by implication or otherwise, as an endorsement by TCMGA of any product or products.*

# Project Profile — Resource Connection

## Community Garden—by Richard Kurth

A lot of activity is going on at the TCMGA Community Demonstration Garden. Richard Kurth has assumed the role of garden co-chair in preparation for Bill Vandever's "retirement" in November.

Some current needs:

- Volunteers to do spraying and edging and general maintenance
- Help Richard build bridges in the garden
- General maintenance. While none of us like pulling weeds, there are a few of those that need to be pulled.

Remember that all TCMGA members are required to volunteer **four hours** at the demonstration garden each year for recertification.

If you can help on a regular or part-time basis, please email Richard at [signs.distinction@gmail.com](mailto:signs.distinction@gmail.com). He will organize a schedule for the MUST DO items.

### Design Contest

We are looking for designs to be painted on the two large water storage tanks and the three concrete pipe planters in the TCMGA Demo Garden. A team of judges will select the winning designs, and the designs will then be executed under the supervision of the artist who created the design. The Demo Garden will cover the cost of the paint.

The design should begin on the left side of the paper and end on the right side of the paper. If the left side of the design and the right side of the design were joined, it would become a circular design.

- The two rain barrels are 23" in circumference and 52" high. The judges will select the top two designs.

- The three concrete pipe planters are 142" in circumference and 30" high. The judges will select the top three designs.



Concrete pipe planters

Deadline for design submissions is **September 15, 2015**. Judging will occur after that, and hopefully the designs can be placed on the rain barrels and the pipe planters in the fall or early winter.

We know we have some wonderful artists in TCMGA. Think of a rain barrel on a grand scale!

# TCMGA Interesting People - Earl Alexander

**F**ormer Tarrant County Master Gardener Earl Alexander is a living example of the old saying “Grow where you are planted.”



Now living in the Ware Living Center in Amarillo, Earl did some quick transplanting early this year after being diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia, which is related to Alzheimer’s disease. It’s a shrinkage of the frontal and temporal lobes that control judgment, emotions, speaking and understanding speech.

With his wife, Olive (who attended many TCMGA meetings with Earl) in a Fort Worth nursing home with bi-polar and vascular dementia, it was decided that Earl would live in Amarillo near his son, Eric. Daughter Paula in Fort Worth would be Olive’s caretaker.

Earl, 78, misses his wife of 57 years dearly, but he isn’t going to let grass grow under his feet. In fact, he has developed a presentation aimed at the elderly, but also to those who work with them.

“Growing Old, Staying Green” is a PowerPoint presentation to encourage seniors. He has already presented it to a retirement center, but also twice to occupational therapy students at Amarillo College, with plans to present it to all AC nursing students in the fall.

This is in addition to teaching Spanish twice a week. There are about 10 in his class because, says Earl, that’s all the wheelchairs that can fit in the room.

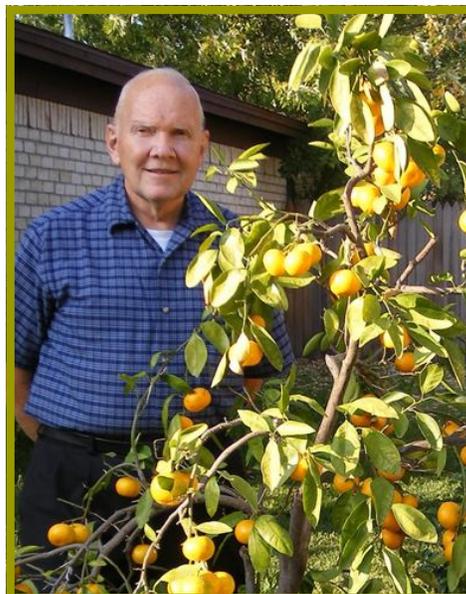
All of this has not gone unnoticed in Earl’s new hometown. He was featured recently in an article in the Amarillo Globe News newspaper.

As TCMGA members know, Earl is a man of many interests. He earned a degree from Baylor and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Brown University. He worked for Texas Instruments, Arrowhead Mills Inc., General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin and was an unpaid Christian missionary in Hawaii and Guatemala. He has eclectic interests in many things, including music and the arts – and of course, gardening. He now is a member of Randall County Master Gardeners.

Earl’s presentation emphasizes staying green — or young — physically, spiritually, intellectually and socially. “I guess it’s almost like Winston Churchill,” Earl said. “It’s to never, never, never give up. Don’t chuck it in before your appointed time.

“God determines the appointed time and that we can’t defeat. And yet we can resist some of the earlier ends toward aging. Youth is indeed an attitude, not an age.”

To read the Amarillo Globe News article on Earl, go to <http://amarillo.com/news/latest-news/2015-06-16/beilue-earl-alexander-has-much-give-and-time-do-so>





# Beekeeping 101 Beekeeping for Beginners

Instructor: Trip Smith  
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden  
Horticulturist and Beekeeper



## Nancy Curl's True Bee Story!

Recently, while pulling into a space in the parking lot of a local Walmart, I noticed a man in a beekeepers hat, wearing a white jacket and white gloves, while several store staffers were nervously guarding an area blocked in by shopping carts.

Thinking about the information Trip taught about bees I spotted a swarm of bees clinging to the wheel of a shopping cart and spread over the ground, with several flying close by!

I spoke briefly with one of the staff, who was very nervous about the whole ordeal. She said they had been frantically calling beekeepers to see if someone would come get them, when a man drove up, who happened to be one, had his equipment with him, and was willing to take the bees!

Having learned the bees were busy protecting their queen and not interested in attacking, I was calm enough to let the lady know it would be ok and if they had any more swarms, they could give Trip a call and he would rescue them!

I watched as the man poured through the bees to find the queen, put her in a box, scooped the others up, then took them to their new home.



## 2015 July Program

Dr. Brooke Best will be the July speaker. Dr. Brooke received her Ph.D. in Botany from Colorado State University, where she studied floral morphology and evolution and the impacts of native and invasive ant-plant interactions. She joined BRIT in 2007 and is currently working with BRIT press to help edit and publish the Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and Ethnobotany Research and Applications, as well as various book projects. She enjoys collecting plants for the Rolling Plains region near Scurry County, Texas, and birding. She will be speaking about the living roof at BRIT- "What we have learned about the living roof". As Master Gardeners were involved in that project, it will be interesting to hear about its progress.

**Marianne Levine**  
Program Chair 2015

### Upcoming 2015 Programs

August 6, 2015  
Melinda Adams of the Forestry Service  
**Topic- Care of Trees during Drought Conditions**

October 1, 2015  
Marilyn Simmons of the Cowgirl Gardeners  
**Topic-Perennial Gardening**

September 3, 2015  
Dell Perry of Dallas Iris Society  
**Topic-Iris Types and their Cultivation**

November 5, 2015  
Dr. Barney Lipscomb of BRIT  
**Topic-Poisonous Plants**



## July 2015

- 7/1 Nora Coalson, Debbie Rasmussen
- 7/2 Jimi Holt
- 7/4 Sara Stover
- 7/5 Barbara Finholt, Linda Stuard
- 7/6 Nancy West, Char McMorrow
- 7/8 Peggy Crist
- 7/9 Glenda Juran
- 7/10 Rebecca Danvers, Pat Engel
- 7/11 Joel Loveland
- 7/13 Virginia Wright
- 7/14 Annette Lee
- 7/15 Flora Dalegowski
- 7/16 Nona Baptiste
- 7/19 Mary Gallon, Joyce Hallbauer
- 7/20 Peggy Falconer
- 7/22 Catherine Vollmer
- 7/23 Tina Armstrong
- 7/24 Ann Leavens
- 7/27 Theresa Thomas
- 7/28 Diane Geiser
- 7/30 Sally Simpson, Mandy Walter, Susan Thornton
- 7/31 Susie Emmons

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

If you know of anyone who is ill in the Master Gardener Association and/or deaths in their immediate family, please contact LaVonne Nowlin.

Also we are in need of cards to send to our membership. If you could bring any extras you can donate, please bring them to the meetings; it would be so appreciated.

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

## GARAGE SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

The June 4<sup>th</sup> GARAGE SALE was a HUGE SUCCESS thanks to all the TCMGA MEMBERS who brought such wonderful and interesting items to sell AND to the members who purchased the items. Starr Krottinger reported that the garage sale raised a total of \$1,576.85 with \$1,030.35 being from the garage sale and \$546.50 from the garage sale auction. The participating projects with individual auctions brought in a total of \$915.00.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes to the hard working garage sale team of volunteers including Pat Debusk, Lorraine Castorina, Lena Goff, Dorothy Hildebrand, Donna Jobe, Sue Kelley, Carole O'Connell, Debra Rosenthal, Carol Vance, and Linda Winn. These ladies did a very efficient job of checking and pricing the items, assisting the cashiers writing tickets and helping with the clearance and clean up. The few items not purchased were donated to Goodwill. The team of cashiers who are pros at cash intake were led by Starr Krottinger and included Pat Higgins, Deborah Stevenson, Mary Reagor, and Kay Yount.

**MANY THANKS TO THIS FANTASTIC TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS.**

**Susan Houston**  
Garage Sale/Raffle Committee Chair

### Creative Critter Solutions



A new site for gardeners and others who want to approach critter situations with insight and understanding.

[www.creativecrittersolutions.org](http://www.creativecrittersolutions.org)

(Nature-friendly tips from a wildlife educator.)

Information on effective, non-toxic, humane control of Gophers, Moles, Voles, Deer, Tree Squirrels, Ground Squirrels, Raccoons, Skunks, Opossums, Mice, Roof Rats, Wild Rabbits, Wild Turkeys, and other common wildlife.

These suggestions seek the best outcome for both you and the animals. Understanding wildlife is basic to solving situations involving wildlife. Most troubling wildlife situations can be prevented or eliminated by removing or modifying attractants, installing physical barriers, and using repellents.

To contact: [wildlifeinfo@sonic.net](mailto:wildlifeinfo@sonic.net)

### Project Update: Durham Intermediate School

Effective July 1, we are changing the work day to Wednesday for Durham Intermediate school garden. We are located at 801 Shady Oaks Lane, Southlake, Texas. Our work time is 9:00a - 11:00a. Summer hours may be earlier, but we will notify everybody via our mailing list as to any changes of hours.

The Project lead is **Henry Cole**:

Mobile 214-532-2630  
Email [Henrycole0908@verion.net](mailto:Henrycole0908@verion.net)

and the co-chair is **Shari Worsham**:

Mobile 817-729-7372  
Email [sworsham@verizon.net](mailto:sworsham@verizon.net)

# Upcoming Events

## JULY

- |          |                               |  |
|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| July 2   | 9 am social<br>10 am- meeting | TCMGA Meeting  |
| July 2—5 | 8:15 pm— 10 pm                | Ft. Worth Botanic Garden—<br>Concerts in the Garden<br><a href="http://fwbg.org/events/352/concerts-in-the-garden/">http://fwbg.org/events/352/concerts-in-the-garden/</a> |
| July 4   |                               | Independence Day   |
| July 8   | 9 am                          | FWBG Perennial Garden Guided Tour  |
| July 9   | 9 am                          | FWBG Trial Garden Guided Tour  |



## Notable Upcoming Events

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| August 29 | TCMGA Regional Conference<br>"Vegetable Gardening in North Texas: Fall is a Great Time to Start"<br>9 a.m.-1 p.m. Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth and<br>1 - 3 p.m. Community Demonstration Garden, 1801 Circle Drive |
|-----------|--|

**Landscape Design School Series XXIV, Course III, September 21-22, 2015**

**LOCATION:** George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX

The George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University will be the site of Landscape Design School III September 21-22, 2015. The Schools are sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. & the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A & M University.

Mrs. Diane Perez of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Dr. William C. Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, announce the latest in the series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed.

Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by September 1 (two lunches are included) – make check payable to Landscape Design School. Registration will be \$165 after September 1, 2015. The optional reference book, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 by September 1, 2015. The book will be reserved for participants to pick up the first morning of the course. The text is a reference for all four courses, although not required for graduation. The lectures will not be taken directly from the text. It is just another viewpoint of the material being presented.

Registration materials and questions:  
**Mail to:** Michele Wehrheim, Registrar  
 1218 Haines Drive  
 College Station, TX 77840  
 (313) 649-1067

Registration form and tentative schedule may be obtained from <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/>

Questions: EMAIL Michele Wehrheim: [texaslandscapedsignschool@gmail.com](mailto:texaslandscapedsignschool@gmail.com)

**TCMGA PROPAGATION CLASS**

**CEU** being offered after the August meeting.

Have some barbeque and stay for a **1 hour CEU**.

The propagation team will have Power-Point and demos of propagation techniques you can apply to your yard and garden during August through the fall.

Learn how to divide, stem cut, simple layer and chip bulbs.

After the barbeque take a seat in the gym for the program!

**TCMGA Propagation Specialist Team**