

Sharecrafter

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association



SEPTEMBER
2011

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If you have an idea or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact

Jackie Heidinger
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How to Choose a Landscape Service Provider

Agents Corner—By Laura Miller, County Extension Agent—Commercial Horticulture

Master gardeners by nature enjoy getting out and working in their gardens. Do-It-Yourself landscapers benefit from fresh air, exercise, and the satisfaction of seeing the results of their own labors. However there are times when even those who love mowing their own lawns may find themselves in need of a little professional help. This could be due to limitations in time or mobility, or because the job is just a bit too complicated (installing a new irrigation system) or even dangerous (removing a storm-damaged tree) for the average D-I-Yer. Hiring someone to Do-It-For-Me can allow even those who love gardening to spend more time relaxing in the landscape on Saturday evenings instead of sweating in the landscape on Saturday mornings.

- Which Services Do You Need?

The first step in finding a landscape service provider is always the same: decide what you want the provider to do. The most basic landscape service is often called “mow and blow.” Almost anyone from the teenager next door to a national landscape company can provide this kind of service, but a good company will be able to do this much more efficiently than you can. Ian MacLean of Highland Landscaping in Southlake says that new customers are always impressed with how quickly his crews can mow and edge. “While it might take them a few hours, we can do it in 20 minutes.”

Sometimes you need more than regular maintenance, and when you do you'll want to find someone who is well qualified to handle the job. That doesn't always mean that they will be licensed. In the State of Texas, a license is required to:

- Apply pesticides. The Texas Department of Agriculture, www.texasagriculture.gov, regulates the commercial application of all pesticides and requires that individuals who apply pesticides for hire be licensed. This license is not required to apply fertilizers.
- Sell plant materials. The Texas Department of Agriculture also inspects plant materials to prevent the movement of plant pests and requires that anyone who sells plants to have a Nursery/Floral license and to provide

(Continued on page 2)

How to Choose a Landscape Service Provider (cont'd)

access to those plants to inspectors. This not required to install plants that you purchase from a licensed retailer.

- Install or modify an irrigation system. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, www.tceq.state.tx.us, regulates landscape irrigation to prevent contamination of public water supplies and to encourage water conservation.
- Landscape Architects, but not Landscape Designers, are also required to have a professional license issued by the state.
- When landscape services can be provided by individuals who are not licensed, consider looking at certifications. Certifications can help you determine which providers have proven that they have met certain professional qualifications, usually by providing proof of education and experience and by passing a standard examination.

Certifications to look for include:

- Certified Arborist. The International Society of Arboriculture, www.isa-arbor.com, offers some of the most widely recognized certifications due to the scope and history of the organization and its programs. There are several levels of ISA certification and all require experience, education, and completion of an examination. To maintain certification, they must earn Continuing Education Units. Trees are the largest, most valuable components of a landscape and their care often requires special skills and equipment. While no one has ever been injured by an improperly pruned Nandina, in 2009 in the United States 44 people were injured and there were 59 tree-related fatalities that were non-work related. These statistics were compiled by a worldwide news-clipping service, so the real numbers are probably higher.
- Texas Certified Nursery and Landscape Professionals. The Texas Nursery and Landscape Association's consumer website, www.landscapetexas.org, can help you find a certified professional in your area. Certifications include Texas Certified Nursery Professional (TCNP), Texas Certified Landscape Professional (TCLP), and Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional (TMCNP). These professionals have to document education and work experience and pass an exam. To maintain certification, they must earn Continuing Education Units.

- Where Do You Find a Good Provider?

In addition to checking the lists of licensed and certified individuals as described above, another great way to start is by asking friends and neighbors whose landscapes you admire for recommendations. Many companies have good websites with photographs of their work and information about the services they provide as well as additional information about the company.

Always ask questions about both the business itself and about the practices and products that will be used. Ask to see any required licenses and require proof of insurance, both liability and workers' compensation. Educate yourself about environmentally appropriate lawn care practices and remember that you **want** to pay for expertise in addition to services provided. A good landscape service provider will allow you to have a more beautiful and valuable landscape without breaking a sweat.

- What Should Be Included in a Contract?

A written agreement sets the stage for good communication and clear expectations between you and your landscape service provider. Don't accept unwritten assurances that things will be done a certain way. Make sure that everything is clearly spelled out in the contract, and that it is signed and dated by both parties.

A contract should include:

- The landscape business name, address, and contact name and phone number
- Your name and address (and the addresses of any job sites that are different from your address)
- A detailed list of all work that is to be done—include environmentally friendly practices such as leaving grass clippings on the grass surface, maintaining mulch in beds at a depth of 2-4 inches, keeping mulch 6 inches away from the trunks of trees, etc.
- The frequency of the work (times per week, month or year that services will be performed)
- A list of any materials that will be used (type of mulch, annual bedding plants, fertilizers)
- Costs of services and materials
- How and when payment is due
- Warranties on materials and workmanship

President's Message– September 2011



Dear Gardener Friends,

Wow! What a great Annual Garage Sale and Silent Auction last month with over 200 in attendance! The TCMGA Projects presented amazing displays and offered wonderful silent auction items. Lavonne Nowlin, Donna Morris, and Tammy Edwards gave great demonstrations and the food was amazing too.

A huge thank you to **Dave Wilson** for his time and talent to create the delicious, mouth-watering BBQ ribs, chicken and pulled-pork offered during lunch. Be on the lookout in the next few months where the results of his expertise may be experienced and tasted again!

You and the **TCMGA** really wowed the visiting MGs from Denton, Ellis, Johnson and Lake Granbury counties, the Botanic Garden and the Resource Connection. They were impressed with the number of members who are actively involved in our association and how many projects, events and activities where you provide your time and passion.

The **Nominating Committee**, lead by Mike Warren, has with your help, selected a slate of officers for 2012. This slate of officers will be announced, in accordance with our by-laws, to the membership at the September meeting. The general membership will vote for the 2012 TCMGA officers during the October meeting. The new board will be installed during the December meeting and luncheon.

Membership dues and **4-H background checks** are due. Payment deadline for 2012 dues is October 31. Payment and paperwork deadline for the 4-H background check is December 1.

AgriLIFE Extension and our agent Steve Chaney now require all Master Gardeners to have a 4-H background check on file to be **re-certified**. **Steve Purdy** will accept your checks and paperwork at the September and October meetings.

A gentle reminder the **end of our TCMGA year**, October 31 will be here before you know it. Schedule your phone duty NOW before the rush in the last month. Volunteer hours for Interns and re-certification hours should be documented and turned in to your timekeeper as soon as possible. The **deadline** for 2011 volunteer hours is **October 31!**

Registration deadline to sign-up for the **2011 International Master Gardener Conference** is October 1. Go online at <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu> for more information. Enjoy the cooler temperatures and fall color in October in West Virginia!

Stay cool and consider participating in a rain dance so our plants can dance in the rain. You never know what might work to change the weather.

See you in the garden!

Nancy Curl, President
Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Minutes of the TCMGA General Meeting-August 4

President Nancy Curl called the business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. with 200 members, interns and guests in attendance.

The program portion of the meeting featured the Projects of the TCMGA. Following a brief meeting, the annual garage sale took place. President Curl welcomed invited guests in attendance from the Fort Worth Garden Executive Reports/Treasurer, Master Gardeners from Ellis, Denton, Johnson Counties and Lake Granbury. The membership extended a warm welcome to all.

Executive Board Reports

Secretary, Sue Ellen Schlitzer submitted minutes of the July, 2011 meeting to The Sharecropper for publication. There were no changes. The minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer, Pat Higgins continues her recovery from knee surgery. Nancy Curl gave the Treasurer's Report for July, 2011.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| June 30, 2011 Money Market Balance: | \$29,357.49 |
| June 30, 2011 Checking Account | <u>2,805.36</u> |
| Total Accounts | \$32,162.85 |
| Deposits during July, 2011 | 812.85 |
| Checks written during July, 2011 | <u>(1,564.43)</u> |
| Money Market and checking balance at July 31, 2011 | <u>\$31,410.42</u> |

1st Vice President, Bill Vandever reports the next general meeting will be the first Thursday of the month, September 2, 2011. Steve Chaney will be our guest speaker. Steve will speak on hardscape. In the afternoon session, Steve will do a demonstration on tool sharpening.

Way & Means, John Stanley has patches for sale at great prices. Linda Hawkins has requested members pick up their ordered items. Members with orders not picked up will be posted on the bulletin board.

Advisory Committee Reports

Activities, Donna Fry, announced the next field trip will be on Tuesday, September 20th to Seville Farms in Mansfield. Seville Farms supplies plants to most of the major nurseries in the area. Following the Seville Farms tour, members will visit The Summit, an adult, over 55 community in Grand Prairie. Pre-ordered box lunches at a cost of \$5.00 will be available at The Summit. A presentation will be featured on the City of Grand Prairie's projects. Sign-up for the field trip at the September meeting.

Garage Sale and Auction, Susan Stanek and her committee were thanked for their work in preparing for the sale. A special thank you went out to Donna Morris and her team of cashiers.

All sale proceeds from the Garage Sale and general silent auction will be divided among eligible projects as part of their 2012 budget. Money from the project silent auction items will go to the project that donated the item.

Dave Wilson smoked chicken and ribs for our membership and guests. A HUGE thank you to Dave for some delicious barbeque!

Hospitality team, especially Lynda Carver gets a thumbs up for their hard work during Natalie's and Theresa's absence. Thanks to all members who brought food for the luncheon today.

Information Technology (IT) Committee met for the first time this week. There are approximately six people on the committee. They were responsible for managing the communication equipment at the Demo area during today's event.

Membership, Steve Purdy is offering membership dues information and 4-H background check information today. Both dues (\$20) and background checks (\$10) can be paid today. Separate checks are a must.

Nominating Committee, Mike Warren is accepting names. Committee members are: Rocky Deutscher, JoAnn Hahn, Sally Harris and Eleanor Tuck. Nominations for the 2012 TCMGA Executive Board will be provided to the general membership at least 7 days prior to the September meeting and at the September meeting. The 2012 Executive Board will be voted on during the October monthly meeting.

Announcements

Steve Chaney will be offering a **Vegetable Specialist Class** in Tarrant County at the end of September. More details will follow.

Steve Chaney reported he purchased some inexpensive promotional items. He displayed a small, insulated bag for beverages/lunch and a collapsible vase. Items feature the TCMGA name and contact information.

Orders for the **Fall Rose Sale** are being taken this month and at the September meeting. Delivery will be at the October meeting, pick-up orders after the meeting at the TCMGA Garden. Profits from the sale will go the Children's Section of the Speaker's Bureau.

Minutes of the TCMGA General Meeting— Cont'd)

Orders for the **Fall Bulb Sale** will be taken at the September and October meetings. Orders will be available for pick up at the November meeting.

Garden Conservancy, Ginger Bason reminded members that the tour will be October 9th in Fort Worth. Seven gardens will be featured for the price of six. As two gardens are in close proximity to one another, patrons can see both gardens for the price of one.

As the heat wave in Texas continues, Steve Chaney was featured on the front page of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in an article about what the lack of water is doing to trees. Channel 11 also interviewed Steve for a news segment that will address cracks in the ground. It is not known when the Channel 11 segment will air.

A special thank you to all projects and their chairs for their presentations, and to LaVonne Nowlin, Donna Morris and Tammy Edwards for their demonstrations at the August meeting.

Home & Garden Show at the Fort Worth Convention Center is Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14. To volunteer contact Judy Sargent at srgntjud@msn.com or 817-589-0221.

A **Rainwater Harvesting & How to Build a Rain Barrel** class will be offered in October at the TCMGA Garden. The date has not been finalized. Sign up with Mary Lynn Haines at merrymarylynn@sbcglobal.net or 817-377-3635, 817-992-7343.

Arlington's EcoFest can use your help to build 250 Rain Barrels with Dottie Woodson. The event is Saturday, September 17. Sign up with Ron Schlitzer.

Eulless KidsFest is Saturday, September 17, 10 am-1:00 pm. An opportunity to teach kids how to make Plant People or Seed Heads. Sign up with Billie Hammock, blhammack@ag.tamu.edu or 817-884-1962

A **Parliamentary Law** course is being offered on September 15-16, 2011. This two-day course is being offered for only \$35.

The **International Master Gardener Conference** will be in West Virginia from October 11-14, 2011. Check the website <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu> for details.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Sue Ellen Schlitzer
Secretary



*A big thanks to
Dave Wilson for
braving the heat to
provide sumptuous BBQ at the
recent TCMGA meeting! It was*

2011 LEADERSHIP

President: Nancy Curl
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Raffle: Susan Stanek & Carol Norfleet
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carol.norfleet@att.net

Website: Jackie Heidinger
webmaster@tarrantmg.org

TCMGA Community/Demonstration Garden

at Resource Connection— by Steve Chaney, CEA

You know it really amazes me in this super hot temperature we are all experiencing, that OUR demo garden is still looking so good. That comes from all the hard work and sweat equity so many of you have put in! We continue to get so many compliments from people and groups on the beauty that has been brought to the community.

Did you know there are some really great classes being led out there several times a month? Learning about gardening and other fun things, I know it's hot but rally around these fun classes and tell your fellow MGs thanks for being part of it!!



Our new interns have just finished installing a really great Cactus/Succulent garden that you need to see if you haven't stopped out there lately. If this weather continues the way

it's going that may be the only thing that will be left! Last years intern class installed a great Ornamental grass garden that is looking great as well, so be sure and tell these two great classes how good it looks!



We are challenged by the weather and the locality of this garden to keep it up to the great standards the Community expects and we, as individuals, expect from TCMGA. We have lots of other ideas to expand this garden and make it even bigger but unfortunately we can't do it with the same few MGs that come out every week. We currently have some 366 MGs in our association and I realize that you are all very busy (55,000 volunteer hours in 2010) but we only have about 20 MGs that come out on a regular basis. We need you, need your expertise,

your smile, your knowledge and all of the other wonderful talents you possess!

This is my challenge to you, each of you that are not currently working out at the Community garden please carve out 8 hours of time before the first of the year and come out and join us! It can be in 2 hr increments or whatever you have, just come and have fun with us. Please remember this Garden is yours (TCMGA), it's our only project that belongs to the whole association. Our other projects are great and do get tons of exposure for the group but they are in conjunction with other entities. This is the only one that is owned by all of us!!

Thank you for all you do for your community and for each other. It's not one person or a small group that excels; it's the overall collective involvement that makes TCMGA the best in all of Texas!!



Special Feature—Bulb Propagation by Scaling and Chipping

Prepared by Betty Cupps, TCMGA Propagation Specialist



Bulb Propagation by Scaling

Since we are soon approaching the end of summer, I thought many of us may be considering

bulb division. Scaling and chipping are methods of propagation that are unique to bulbs. The part of the bulb which stores information regarding regeneration/reproduction is cut or broken into pieces which later become new bulbs.

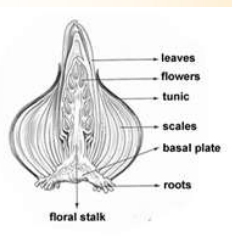
Scaling can be done with any bulb with scales or small leaf-like segments. They may be purchased or from your own garden. In late summer or early fall, before new roots begin to grow, gently lift the bulb from the soil. Clean the bulb and snap off the number of outer layers or scales needed. For many new

plants, use all the scales. Be sure to get as close to the basal plate as possible. If not using all of the outer scales, replant the bulb.

Next, put fungicidal powder in a plastic baggie. Add the scales and shake gently to coat the scales thoroughly. Fungicidal solution may be used instead of the powder. If solution is used be sure to drain the liquid from the bag.

Step three is the preparation of the potting mixture. Use equal parts perlite and moist peat or a peat substitute in a plastic bag. Place the coated scales gently in the bag. Be sure to inflate the bag; seal and label. Keep the bag in a dark place at a temperature of just below 70 degrees.

Step four must wait for a while. Usually by the spring, small bulblets have formed. Take the scales from the bag. If the scales are soft and look rotted, pull them off. If they are still firm and in good shape, or if roots are emerging from the basal plate, leave them alone.



Fifth, pot the bulblets in equal parts potting mix and fine grit. Water, label, then place a top layer of grit over them. Keep in a cool, shady place over summer.

The final step is repotting into larger pots each spring or fall. When they reach flowering size, plant them into the garden or into a large container.

Bulbs may last for generations.

Bulb Propagation by Chipping

Chipping is for bulbs that are built like an onion. Dig up a healthy bulb when dormant and clean thoroughly. Remove any papery skin and trim back the roots. Hold the bulb carefully with the basal plate uppermost. Cut 8 to 16 sections or chips depending on the size of the bulb. Be sure that each chip has a piece of the basal plate.

Soak the chips in a fungicidal solution for about 10 to 15 minutes to kill all bacteria and fungus. Allow the chips to drain for up to 12 hours. Place the chips in a clear plastic bag containing ten parts vermiculite to one part water. Keep in a dark, cool place. I keep mine in my closet. Check the bag occasionally for chips that appear rotted.

Allow about 3 months for the bulblets to form above the basal plate. When ready, plant in small pots, 3 to 4 inches. Be sure to plant the new bulblet with the basal plate down in good potting mix. Leave the scales exposed and they will slowly rot and drop off as the bulb develops.

Enjoy the beauty after the long wait.

2011 Fall Bulb Sale

Cool breezes will be here before we know it!. October is a great time to get bulbs in the ground for spectacular color in the spring.

The 10 bulbs offered in the TCMGA Fall Sale bloom in the spring. They are all especially suited for our zone 7b/8a Texas climate, and enjoy a wet winter and spring and a dry summer. Pre-chilling is not necessary. Most originate from the Mediterranean region which is similar to our climate. They can give many years of color.

The graphic below provides a list of the bulbs offered at this years bulb sale. The bulb order form is online at <http://tarrantmg.org> and can be sent in to the Extension Office. Bulbs can also be ordered at the September and October monthly meetings. The deadline for ordering is Thursday, October 6, 2011. All orders must be pre-paid. Orders can be picked up at the November 10th meeting.

Questions? Call Jeanie Browning 817-478-2006.

— Jeanie Browning

2011 Tarrant County Master Gardener Bulb Sale



**Narcissi Geranium
(Tazetta)**
12"-24" inches tall
Showy southern heirloom perennial with white perianth and bright scarlet-orange cup. Full sun to part shade. 4 to 6 flowers per stem. Sweetly fragrant. Zones 5-9



**Narcissi Erlicheer
(Double)**
12"-14" inches tall
Double white blossoms with light yellow flecks. 15-20 florets per stem. Great naturalizer. Very fragrant. Zones 3-8



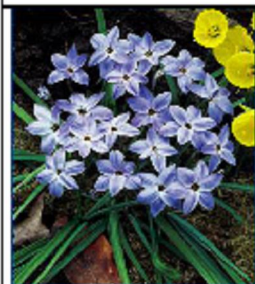
**Narcissi Tahiti
(Double)**
14"-16" inches tall
Very showy award winning with soft yellow perianth and double cup with orange center. 14"-16" Zones 3-8



**Narcissi Falconet
(Tazetta)**
12"-14" inches tall
Bold beauty has yellow perianth with orange cup. 4-8 florets per stem. Fragrant. Ideal for Southern gardens. Zones 5-9



**Muscari armeniacum
Grape Hyacinth**
4"-6" inches tall
Circa 1878 Native to Turkey Naturalizes. This original Blue Grape Hyacinth is bright cobalt blue. Normally deer proof. Zones 5-8



**Ipheion uniflorum
Wisley Blue Star Flower**
3"-6" inches tall
Circa 1836 sweetly scented Naturalizing star-shaped flowers are deep blue. Plant 4" apart 4" deep Blooms early to late Spring Zones 5-9



Dutch Iris Rosario
18"-22" tall
Aster-violet standards with a pink flush and matching falls with bronze-yellow blotches Linear form Blooms late Spring Zones 5-8



Dutch Iris Blue Magic
18"-22" inches tall
Dutch Iris were hybridized in the early 1900's from a 16th century native Spanish variety. Deep heliotrope-blue with yellow blotches. Linear form Blooms late Spring Zones 5-8



**Hyacinthoides hispanica
Excelsior Spanish Bluebells**
12"-15" tall Very adaptable. Circa 1601. Produces 15-20 bell shaped flowers on long stems with strap-like foliage. This 1906 award winner is blue violet with darker marine-blue mid veins. Shade tolerant. Naturalizes. Zones 4-10



**Leucojum aestivum
Summer Snow Flake**
12"-15" inches tall
English native circa 1759 Bell shaped white flower with green tips. Strappy grass-like foliage. Hardy naturalizer. Zones 4-9

Master Gardener Announcements & Information

2011 Rose Sale



Don't forget the rose sale! You received a flyer and pictures via email. Please share this with your friends. The deadline for ordering is September 1, 2011. Please print the flyer, attach a check and mail it to the Extension Office. Pick them up at the October 6, 2011 meeting between 1pm and 4pm.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Amiga Mia | • La Marne |
| • Belinda's Dream | • Lady Banks Alba |
| • Caldwell Pink | • Lady Banks |
| • Carefree Beauty | • Marie Daly |
| • Cecile Brunner | • Mme. Antoine Mari |
| • Cinco De Mayo | • Mutablis |
| • Climbing Pinkie | • Nacadoches |
| • Ducher | • New Dawn |
| • Duchesse de Brabant | • Peggy Martin |
| • Else Poulsen | • Perle D'Or |
| • Easy Does It | • Reve D'Or |
| • Georgetown Tea | • Sea Foam |
| • Julia Child | • Souvenir de St. Anne's |
| • Knock-out Red | • Spice |
| • Knock-out Red Double | • The Fairy |

The order form can be found online at <http://tarrantmg.org>. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Cox at 469-853-0975.

We will ask for volunteers to work the sale at the October meeting. Look at your calendars and plan to sign up! It is lots of fun!

Children's Speakers Bureau



TCMGA September Meeting Speaker

Our very own Steve Chaney will be the featured speaker for the September monthly TCMGA meeting. Steve will speak on hardscaping in the morning session and provide a demo on how to sharpen your garden tools in the afternoon.

We are honored to have Steve present, as we all know, Steve currently serves as County Extension Agent - Home Horticulture for Tarrant County. He advises the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists and the Tarrant County Master Composters and oversees the county's Junior Master Gardener program projects. Steve is the statewide co-coordinator for Earth-Kind, the Extension's Horticulture Banner Program. Prior to serving in Fort Worth, Mr. Chaney worked as an Extension Agent in Wichita County.

Raffle Wiped Out by Garage Sale!

We are starting over from zero with the Raffle.

We have no items to start with at our September meeting.

So – if you are like me and didn't quite have time to cull out more items for the garage sale, you have another chance!

Please bring items for the September Raffle. Our Projects need your support!

All proceeds go to the Projects!

Special thanks to Joyce Colegrove, Barbara Finholt, Kay Gunn, Joy Lease, and Carol Norfleet for putting on a terrific garage sale and silent auction in August!

Susan Stanek
Raffle Committee



Central Texas has been hit by record-breaking heat and drought. Day after day, temperatures soar to 100 degrees and higher under clear blue skies with no rain in sight. Our hardy native wildflowers have taken it in stride, putting on a beautiful display of blooms. But the people who visit the Wildflower Center aren't nearly so hardy and, as the heat and drought drag on, our visitors have faded away.

But we urgently need your help. Your donations, no matter how small, could make all the difference. Your donations could make this challenging year a total success. **We need to raise \$100,000 before August 31. Donations of any kind will help us meet our financial needs. Please act now to help us survive the drought!** Donations may be made online at <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/nlogon/vip/ogp.WBX?menu=JWAG>

Master Gardener Announcements & Information

TCMGA Phone Hot Line

By Steve Chaney, CEA



The Hot Line gives people in the community a place to call to get research based information while talking to a real person! Think about that, where else can you go or call and get that without someone trying to sell you something?

With more and more people becoming computer literate and with the advent of the Smartphone where you can whip it out and Google something immediately, the amount of calls are dropping. I still believe its imperative that we have real people to talk to and not just look things up on a computer.

When I read the evaluations from the intern classes and the feedback from our other MGs a lot of you don't think the phone lines are still viable. I hear people say we didn't get any calls or there was only 2 calls all morning. During the heyday a few years ago we were averaging way over 7000 calls a year; we are down to a little less then 6000 calls now. Yes there may be some days you don't get many but obviously with that many calls being recorded there are lots of days where there are lots of calls!

The suggestion has been brought to me several times that we find a core group of MGs to man the telephones each day and free up some of you to do other things? That is a possibility, yet if we did that the majority of you would never have any interaction with the office or the rest of the staff. I think that might be a downside especially since your representing Extension as a MG volunteer? What are your thoughts on this? The good thing is would free you up to come and work in the community garden though!!!!

My goal is to provide the most education to the largest amount of people we can with the wonderful volunteers we have. Please let me know or any of the other officers if you have any suggestions how we could make that happen better!! We all want your time and experiences volunteering to be meaningful and fruitful to both you and to the community!

Once again I fail to say it enough, THANK YOU for all you do for your community and for yourselves!! You guys all rock and make me proud to be part of the best group of MGs in the State!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GARDENERS!

September Birthdays

1 Claire Alford
3 Lema Worley
6 Kate Kilmurray
8 Dinah Eivens
9 Shari Stanfield
10 Maurine Wood
11 Betty Cupps
12 Judy Sargeant, Allison Sonnenberg,
Linda Hawkins
15 Rachel Clark, Rocky Deutscher
16 Taddie Hamilton, Jessica McCraw
17 Elizabeth Snider
18 Steve Smith
19 Kathi O'Riordan
20 Vicki Moore
22 L.J. Williams, Margaret Duncan
23 Barbara Mann, Patty Brown
26 Lance Jepson, Nan Garvin
28 Danielle Page

If your birthday is this month and you don't see it, please contact **Doris Hill**, (817) 337-8484 or email **artanddorishill@verizon.net**.

Membership & Directory Updates

Please note the following updates in your membership directory:

Danielle Page (2008) and her husband Mark have moved to Buckley Washington.

Her new address is: 23915 158th St E, Buckley, WA 98321.

Her phone and e-mail remain the same

Check out her blog at: <http://mossytrees.blogspot.com/p/gardening.html>

Report any changes or corrections to Steve Purdy at spurdy06@sbcglobal.net or at

September 2011 Calendar

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial TCMGA Monthly Meeting | 2 | 3 8am Compost Demo—Veterans Park 8:30a Common NRH |
| 4 | 5 8a Heritage Elem.. 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel  | 6 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day | 7 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9:30a Thistle Hill 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald | 8 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial | 9 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden | 10 8:30a Common NRH 9am Composting Demo—River Legacy 9am SW Crthse |
| 11 | 12 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel | 13 8a Liberty Garden 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day | 14 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald | 15 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial <i>JMG Specialist Training</i> | 16 <i>JMG Specialist Training</i> | 17 8:30a Common NRH <i>JMG Specialist Training</i> |
| 18 | 19 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel | 20 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day  TCMGA Field Trip | 21 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Pk 8:30a Common NRH 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 9a FW Hulen Lbry 9a Bob Jones Nature 9:30a Thistle Hill 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald | 22 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial | 23 8:30a JPS Meditation Garden | 24 8:30a Common NRH |
| 25 | 26 8a Heritage Elem 8:30a Alice Carlson 9a Union Gospel <i>Vegetable Specialist Training</i> <i>Entomology Specialist Training</i> | 27 8:30a CG Veggie 9a CG Propagation Work Day 9a CG Rose Garden Work Day <i>Vegetable Specialist Training</i> <i>Entomology Specialist Training</i> | 28 8a BG Perennial 8a Veterans Park 8:30a Common NRH 9am SW Crthse 9a Teen Challenge 9a CG Herb Work 1:30p Veterans Park 3:15p Fitzgerald <i>Vegetable Specialist Training</i> <i>Entomology Specialist Training</i> | 29 8:30a Alice Carlson 8:30a BG Trial <i>Entomology Specialist Training</i> | 30 <i>Entomology Specialist Training</i> | |

2011 Up-Coming Events

Community Garden Classes

Upcoming Classes:

Rainwater Harvesting—date TBD

How to Build a Rain Barrel—date TBD

Contact Nancy Curl at
nl_curl@yahoo.com to register.

International Master Gardener Conference 2011



October 11-14, 2011
in Charleston, West Virginia

West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association have been granted the honor of hosting the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. Over 1,200 gardening enthusiasts, horticulturists and industry leaders will gather for this four day event. Our guests are invited to participate in pre-conference and post-conference tours of area gardens and some of West Virginia's cultural treasures. Key-note and other speakers include leading horticulture professionals from throughout the country. Lectures, workshops, and educational sessions will be offered daily during the conference.

For More Information, visit the IMGC website at
<http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>

MG Specialist Training

2011 National JMG® Specialist Training



Location: Cross Roads, Texas (near Denton)

Date: September 15-17, 2011

Full Registration: \$250.00 (thru 8/31)

Late Registration: \$290.00 (thru 9/1– 9/9)

To learn more [click here](#) for more information.

2011 MG Vegetable Specialist Training

September 26—28

Resource Connection, 2300 Circle Drive, Ft. Worth, TX

Registration Fee: \$235.00

Payment is due **NO LATER** than **September 22, 2011**.

Registration form can be found at http://tarrantmg.org/linked/volunteere_background_check.pdf

Texas Master Volunteer Entomology Specialists



Location: Dallas County

Date: September 26-30, 2011

Full Registration: \$350.00

Daily Registration: \$25.00

Do your friends think you a little eccentric because of your interest in creeping/crawling things? The Texas [Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Program](#) may be just the thing for you. Offered annually, this year's program will be held at the Research and Extension Center in Dallas. It's a great opportunity for any Master Naturalists or Master Gardeners with a special interest in *insects* to get a week of in-depth entomology training. The training will earn you certification as a specialist through your statewide Master Volunteer program.

[Registration](#) must be completed and submitted online, but the form must also be printed and mailed in with registration, per instructions on the website.

Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Specialist Training

October 26 – 28, 2011

Johnson County – Cleburne, Texas

Registration Fee: \$175.00

[Registration Form](#) with payment is due **NO LATER** than **October 1, 2011**.

The National Earth-Kind® Specialist [Training Course](#) is designed to provide advance training and resources to Master Gardeners to certify them to be part of a state and national corps of Earth-Kind® experts and educators. To become a certified National Earth-Kind® Specialist, participants are required to attend the National Earth-Kind® Specialist training course [\[Agenda\]](#) to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet the service requirements described below. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/his local county programs.

Know about an event? Let us know so we can share with the MGs and community! Contact Jackie Heidinger at
rheidinger@tx.rr.com.

Upcoming Events— Cont'd

Wildscape Fall Native Plant Sale

A large variety of native plants grown organically at the greenhouse by Wildscape volunteers including ground covers, perennials, shrubs, vines and trees

When: Saturday, September 24, 2011
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Randol Mill Park Greenhouse
1901 W Randol Mill Rd.
Arlington, TX
(The greenhouse is in the rear of the park behind the swimming pool.)



Aesculus pavia
Red Buckeye

For more details, map and pictures: www.thewildscape.org

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden Events

October 8, 2011, 9:00am—2:00pm Fall Plant Sale at Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Wide assortment of trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, ground covers, perennials, vines, and spring-flowering bulbs. African violet, begonia, iris, daylily, cactus & succulent, and daffodil societies will also be selling their plants. (Maybe I should say, “Recover from the drought by buying new trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, ground covers, perennials, vines, and spring-flowering bulbs”!)

March 3—April 8, 2012: 10:00am—4:00pm Butterflies in the Garden

Thousands of live, tropical butterflies in the conservatory of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Order tickets online at www.fwb.org.

April 21, 2012, 9:00am—2:00pm Spring Plant Sale at Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Wide assortment of annuals, perennials, citrus trees, ornamental grasses, shade plants, shrubs, trees, tropical plants, and vegetables.

Ft. Worth Garden Conservancy Tour

Tuesday, October 9—Garden Conservancy Tour of six gardens.

The Garden Conservancy recognizes that exceptional gardens most often begin as private affairs, the life work of passionate, dedicated and remarkably talented gardeners and that a select number of these are capable of flourishing for generations as public gardens.

Its mission is to raise awareness of gardens as a significant piece of our cultural and environmental heritage. It provides horticultural, technical, management, and financial expertise, helping to raise awareness that often turns endangered private gardens into public treasures.

Invite family and friends to take a peek into some local, exceptional private gardens during the Garden Conservancy Fort Worth Open Days Program Garden Tour, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., October 9.

The Fort Worth Open Days Program Garden Tour, which benefits The Garden Conservancy, is held every two years and this year features seven private gardens instead of the usual six.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners will be hosts at the gardens and some locations will offer information on composting, insects, propagation and tool sharpening. There will be a signup table at the September MG meeting. Shifts are 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cost of the event is \$25 for all seven gardens or \$5 per garden; children 12 and under are free. Tickets will be on sale at Calloway's Nursery locations closer to the event. The public can call The Garden Conservancy toll-free at 888-842-2442 or visit www.opendaysprogram.org for more information.

For detailed information on each garden to you can tour, please go to go to <http://tarrantmg.org/>

Last Field Trip in 2011



Fall Field Trip



Tuesday, September 20
Mansfield, Tx

The last field trip of the year will be September 20, Tuesday. We will go to Seville Farms, one of the largest wholesales nurseries in Texas.

We will see how plants are grown, propagated, packaged and shipped to Callaway's, Plant Shed, Home Depot, Lowes and many other nurseries, They plant up to 4,000 flats each day and send out 25-30 trucks each day. This will be about one hour and will be a walking tour.

After Seville, we'll stop for lunch at The Summit, a \$23 million dollar 60,000 square foot adult activity center with indoor pools, exercise facilities, 100 seat theater, sauna, teaching kitchen, café, wine bar and greenhouse. During lunch Tammy Chan, with the City of Grand Prairie manager's office and a Dallas Master Gardener, will give us a presentation of the city's accomplishments of keeping Grand Prairie green. This facility is LEEDS certified and not to be missed.

A carpool will meet at 9 am at the FTBG. You can sign up at the September meeting and pay for your lunch which is \$5.00.

Activities Committee

Volunteer Opportunities for TCMGA

| Project Code & Name | Work Days/Times | Project Manager | Phone |
|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| 301 BRIT Activities | Call Chairman | Kay Yount | 817-292-7690 |
| 302 BG Perennial Garden | Wed. 8:00 am | Cindy Woelke | 817-366-4436 |
| 302 BG Trial Garden | Thurs. 8:30-11:30am | Susan Miller semiller@sbcglobal.net | 817-261-1420 |
| 303 Community and Demo Garden Chair | Steve Chaney, s-chaney@tamu.edu | | 817-884-1945 |
| Project Leads | | | |
| Community Garden, Tuesdays | | | |
| Barn Beds | Charlotte Berck, caberck@dot11net. | | 817-426-6417 |
| Compost & Rainwater Harvesting | Ron & Sue Ellen Schlitzer, s.schlitzer@sbcglobal.net | | 817-294-1329 |
| Community Vegetable Beds | Bill Vandever, bvandever@sbcglobal.net | | 817-244-1580 |
| Demonstration and Enabling Beds | Kim Freeman bamagirlntx@sbcglobal.net | | 817-292-3775 |
| Education | Nancy Curl, nl_curl@yahoo.com | | 817-319-1795 |
| Education – TCU | Lance Jepson ljepson@aol.com | | 817-557-6122 |
| Enabling Garden | Frank Durda | | 817-292-2270 |
| Greenhouse/Propagation | Claire Alford, caagardner@aol.com | | 817-481-8861 |
| Herb Garden , Tuesdays | Rita Hottel, rnhottel@att.net | | 817-295-2883 |
| Hospitality (Cook-outs) | Beverly Beazley, babeazley@tx.rr.com | | 817-483-7080 |
| Orchard | Renee Beckum, jrbeckum@sbcglobal.net | | 817-790-8575 |
| Perennial Garden | Ginger Bason & Joann Hahn, gbason@hotmail.com, joannhahn@att.net | 817-838-7321/817-923-9250 | |
| Plant Sales | Carol Lally & Linda Winn lallyca@sbcglobal.net, mwinnclan@aol.com | 817-656-2736/817-581-4486 | |
| Potting Shed | Pat Lovejoy, palovejoy@att.net | | 817-447-7924 |
| Rain Barrel Construction | Claudia Teague, cteague@flash.net | | 817-444-2247 |
| Rose Garden, Tuesdays | Nan Garvin, garbre@hotmail.com | | 817-477-2867 |
| 304 Thistle Hill | 1 st , 3 rd Weds. 9:30 am | Emily Ward | 817-281-5925 |
| 304 Union Gospel Mission | Mon. 9 am | Gay Larson | 817-441-6560 |
| 304 Teen Challenge | Wed. 9 am | Debbie Bollinger | 817-498-1508 |
| 304 Common Ground NRH Community Garden | Wed. & Sat 8:30a-12n | Linda Hawkins Pam Braak | 817-791-4295 817-488-5665 |
| 304 JPS Meditation Garden | 2nd & 4th Fri. 8:30am | Bernice Ransbottom | 817-485-6631 |
| 203 Grapevine Botanic Garden | | | |
| Docents | Call Chairman | Rachel Clark, Co-Chair Paula Wilbanks, Co-Chair | 817-488-003 817-481-4398 |
| <u>Environmental Projects:</u> | | | |
| 305 Composting Demo | 1st Sat., Veterans Pk, Arlington 2 nd Sat., River Legacy, Arlington | LaVonne Nowlin Charlie Shiner | 817-581-1850 817-488-6123 |
| 305 FW Library at Hulen St. | 3rd Wed. 9 am | Evaline Woodrey | 817-295-5281 |
| 305 SW Sub-Courthouse | 2 nd Sat., last Wed. 9 am | Gailon Hardin | 817-475-0923 |
| 305 Southlake Liberty Garden | Call Chairman 2nd Tues., 8-11 am | Wendi Carlucci | 817-488-5640 |
| 305 Veterans Park-Wildscape | Wed. 8-11pm, 1st Sat., 8-11 pm | Nancy Swan | 817-535-9991 |
| 305 Bob Jones Nature Center | 3rd , Wednesday, 9 am | Nancy Searl | 817-542-3190 |
| <u>School Gardens:</u> | | | |
| 306 Alice Carlson OLE | Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am | Sharon Chastain | 817-926-2575 |
| 306 Fitzgerald OLE | Wed. 3:15 pm | Leeann Rosenthal | 817-237-7180 |
| 306 Heritage School OLE | Mon. 8-10am | Jackie Peel | 817-581-0977 |



Tarrant County Master Gardener Association

200 Taylor St., Suite 500

Fort Worth, Texas 76102-7308



Important Websites to Know!



Our local TCMGA website:

<http://www.tarrantmg.org/>

State MG Website and TMG news:

<http://www.texasmastergardeners.com>

State Newsletter:

<http://www.tmganewsletter.org>

Our RC Demo Garden Website:

<http://www.localharvest.org/member/M27123>

Native Plant Society of Texas

<http://txnativeplants.org>

Aggie Horticulture:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Earthkind:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind>

Texas Superstars:

<http://texassuperstar.com>

Fort Worth Botanic Garden:

<http://fwbg.org>

Wildscape:

<http://thewildscape.org>

Urban Solution Center:

<http://urbansolutioncenter.tamu.edu>

Botanical Research Institute of Texas:

<http://www.brit.org>