



Texas Master Gardener Association



texasmastergardeners.org



NEWSLETTER

April 2009
Volume 4, Issue 4

2009 TMGA Officers

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Aransas County



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Please submit information to include on the [TMGA Website](#) or in the TMGA monthly newsletter to the following Editors. Deadline for the newsletter is the 28th of each month.

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Somervell County



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From Our President

A Spring Time Road Trip is in the Air

There is no question about it. It is spring time in Texas! This morning as I walked out to the road to go get the paper I could smell the scent of bluebonnets in the air. And yes, my body still ached from the labors of the previous day but the promise of this spring day would cure all that. So much has been accomplished. Fresh lettuce has already made it to our salad bowls. The onion plants are flourishing. Sweet corn is up and growing. Tomato Plants have survived the most recent freeze. Green beans are planted. The vegetable garden is tilled and ready for more.

The roses have been pruned. Flower beds have been weeded and perennials have been trimmed. Excess plants have been potted for an upcoming master gardener plant sale. The hanging pots of fern on the porch have been repotted. Thank goodness the hummingbird feeders have been cleaned and filled just in time to greet our hungry guest. Yet there is still so much to do. Will this ever end? I hope not for this is truly the time of year gardeners live for. So join me these next few weeks and get out and enjoy our spring time. Let's enjoy our labors of love and then reward ourselves with a spring road trip. Let's meet and spend some time together sharing this passion for gardening.

Hey, let's meet in Marshall! You have time to register.

See you in Marshall. Does anyone know where the pottery place is?

See you soon.

Doug

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TMGA NEWS

Introducing- Lonnie Matthew



I think Donna decided I would be next on the bio list because I'm the newest member of the executive committee. (Thank you all for the honor. I will try my best to represent you.)

I mostly grew up in Muskogee, Ok. Then went to 6 different high schools in 3 different states. We lived in a travel trailer most of those years; so gardening wasn't part of my life. I moved back to Tulsa, Ok to attend nursing school at Hillcrest Medical Center. I got married and had 2 sons and bought 2 ½ acres and really started enjoying digging in the dirt. I had prize-winning irises, roses, baby pecan trees, and a huge vegetable garden. I made pickles, canned tomatoes, froze fruit and got to eat the heart out of all the watermelons I wanted. Of course, I was also working full-time as an operating room nurse, including

helping to set up the first open-heart team at St. Francis Hospital. (My 13-day pickles sometimes set a little longer!) However, a divorce ensued and then a remarriage and a move to an apartment in San Diego, CA. And eventually, a job promotion to Director of Nursing for Surgical Services and, unfortunately, another divorce led me to Eau Claire, WI; Alexandria, LA; Birmingham, AL and Austin, TX. I met and married my wonderful husband, Earl, when we worked at Brackenridge Hospital.

We eventually moved to Rockport in 1997 and I worked in a small hospital in Aransas Pass. I retired in 2002 and looked around and realized I only knew a few of my neighbors. I also didn't know diddly about how to garden in the sand we have here. The Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners have splendid plant sales twice a year and I found out about the program. I am a graduate of our 2002 class and it has been one of the best experiences I have ever had. I became a member of our member relations committee that first year and really got a feel for the organization. I was asked to become secretary midway through the year and continued as secretary for another year, as well as assuming the member relations chair. We introduced the mentoring program the 3rd year for the incoming class, as well as, making a big push to get the interns started immediately in attending our meeting and participating in our gardens and committees. In 2005, I was elected President. During that period, we developed a strategic planning committee. That first year, we revised the bylaws and developed policies and procedures for everyday issues. The committee has continued and has created a series of both short and long range goals. It has remained a work in progress and I am very proud to have been a part of this process.

I became a delegate to TMGA after the Annual meeting held by Denton County. That was a truly outstanding event. And I haven't missed one since!! I also became a member of the awards committee during 2006, under the leadership of Deb Martin and that was also a great experience. As your 2nd vice president, I continue to be a part of the awards committee under the leadership of Ginger Bason. The other major part of my responsibility is to look at bylaws and to be an active part of the executive committee. I look forward to this year and I'll see you in Marshall.

TMGA Officer Nominations for 2010

The nominating committee is accepting resumes for officers for the year 2010. We encourage anyone interested in running for office to attend the state meeting in Marshall to observe how things are done. We will have a slate put together for the August meeting. Please contact one of the Nominating committee members listed below if you have any questions. Please give this some thought as it is such an honor to serve on this board.

Submitted by Fran Amuny

Nominating Committee

Fran Amuny—Jefferson County—Chair, frannie1@swbell.net

Susan Jung—Travis County, susanjung@msn.com

Doug Richards—Hood County, dougrichards@gmail.com



TMGA News continued

Change in By-Laws affect TMGA Membership

The TMGA Directors approved a change in our By Laws at the December 8, 2008 meeting that eliminated the "Member At Large" category of membership. The Member at Large designation was established by amending the By Laws in 2000; however, the By Laws did not contain specific criteria for this membership category, which resulted in confusion and inability to administer this provision consistently on a year over year basis. Eliminating the Member at Large category effectively returns TMGA to its former status as a State Association whose members are the County Associations and their members. Master gardeners who are located in counties not having a Master Gardener Program can determine the closest county with a program/association and seek local membership within that association. Then they are eligible for participation at the State level through that local association, as that association pays annual state dues. Master gardeners working in a county with a program, but who may have opted not to form a local association, may also participate at the State level by following similar actions, or by forming an association of their own.

Individual master gardeners who may have paid 2009 dues, will have those dues refunded to them by the TMGA Treasurer.

A copy of the latest revised By Laws may be found on the TMGA website by clicking on the By Laws link on the left column of the home page.

Homer Babbitt, TMGA Treasurer

REMINDER—ALL MASTER GARDENER ORGANIZATIONS MUST FILE IRS FORM 990

There have been questions regarding the IRS requirement to file the 990N form each year. As a result of a change in the law, if you have gross receipts less than \$25,000 per year as a non-profit exempt organization, you are required to file the 990N (epostcard) each year. It must be filed online and the deadline to file is May 15th of each year. You can do a web search for 990N and choose the IRS website with a link to the form you must fill out. Remember to use your own association's EIN, not your counties and not the Texas Master Gardener Association's EIN. This caused some problems last year. Also last year we had difficulties getting the records of some of the group exemption members corrected and imputed into the system but were successful before the end of the year. We were given some leeway last year because it was the first year for filing but this year I doubt that will be the case. Remember that if you make more gross revenue than \$25,000, you must file a 990 or 990EZ form by May 15th. If you have questions you can call me at 512-869-8016, or email me at mgardener@suddenlink.net.

Wayne Rhoden,
501 (c) (3) Tax Advisory Committee

Special Emphasis Programs for Texas

This program was started by Garey Wylie in 2007 while he served as Vice President. It is an evergreen program that is ever-changing. The program provides our County Master Gardening Associations an opportunity to work together on State Level Projects while maintaining our local autonomy.

After a worthy State Level Project is identified by our membership, leadership is taken on by one of our Local County Associations who develops then coordinates the project across the State with the other Local County Associations. Each project initially has a maximum life of five years. After five years the project will be reviewed for continuation.

Our [Special Emphasis Programs for Texas](#), while in its infancy, has proven to be very successful. If your county is not participating in one of our current projects listed [on the website](#), please contact the chairperson indicated to get started. If you have ideas on new projects for consideration please contact me.

Thanks.

Lynn McKillop First Vice-President

lynn@mckillopfamily.net

TMGA News Continued



GO TEXAN.

Texas Superstar Brochure and EarthKind® Rose Brochures

Richard De Los Santos with the Texas Department of Agriculture has indicated there have been several requests for the Superstar and EarthKind® Rose Brochures published by his department. If your association would like to obtain copies of these or other brochures for training or

your own use, please contact him as indicated below. These brochures from the GO TEXAN branding can be viewed at

http://www.gotexan.org/gt/channel/render/items/0,1218,1670_13537_0_0,00.html

Richard De Los Santos
(512) 463-7472

grow.texan@texasagriculture.gov

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION 2009 DIRECTORS MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Friday, April 24th, Marshall, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Saturday, August 1st, College Station*, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Saturday, December 5th, College Station*, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

*Horticulture/Forest Sci Bldg#1506 Parking lot #74 off Olsen St.

EarthKind® News for April

Omaha Metro Area, the EARTH-KIND® Center of the Midwest

By Joanne Langabee

Master Gardener, Consulting Rosarian, & EARTH-KIND® Specialist



Omaha Metro Area truly is the EARTH-KIND® Center of the Midwest. In the Omaha Metro area there are five sites having flower beds planted in the EARTH-KIND® Manner, six EARTH-KIND® test beds and an EARTH-KIND® pre-test bed.

The sites planted in the EARTH-KIND® Manner are the Ford Birth Place, Joslyn Castle, Memorial Park, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, and Haworth Park, all planted in 2007. The sixth site is the Hospice Center planted in the spring of 2008. At the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Rose Garden there are EARTH-KIND® Test Roses along with Easy Elegance Roses. Joslyn Castle has planted 120 roses and numerous perennials. Memorial Park has 98 Easy Elegance Roses planted by the cement planter and another 150 Easy Elegance roses planted by the flagpole. Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office has planted some of the Griffith Buck Roses in their beds. Haworth Park has 4 demonstration beds containing additional roses, annuals and perennials. The Hospice Center has planted 27 roses.

(Continued on page 5)

EarthKind® News continued

(Continued from page 4)

The two largest test beds are located at Haworth Park in Bellevue, NE. Garden One, located by the marina, contains the 30 EARTH-KIND® Brigade Roses which were planted in the spring of 2007, plus 6 cultivars of the 20 Northern Test Roses which were planted in the fall of 2007. The 20 Northern Test Roses located by the Missouri River were planted in the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008. Lauritzen Gardens is the third site in the immediate Omaha Metro Area. It has 6 cultivars that are being testing; Carefree Beauty, Earth song, Dorcus, Summer Wind, Prairie Harvest and Freckles. All the roses were planted in 2007.



The roses at both Haworth Park and Lauritzen Gardens have also been tested for other extreme conditions besides the EARTH-KIND® tests of NO fertilizer, NO spraying, NO watering once established, NO deadheading, and NO winter protection. The beds at Haworth Park had many of the Rose Brigade roses under water for 7 days while the Northern Cultivars by the Missouri River were covered with mud up to 18 inches in the flood of 2008. All the roses that were under water survived and flourished. Most of the roses that were covered by mud survived but were stunted or dug up and planted in pots for the rest of the year. This spring, 2009, the Northern Cultivars roses will be transplanted to a higher location in Haworth that usually does not flood. The 30 Rose Brigade roses and the 6 Northern Cultivars will not be moved. At Lauritzen the roses were striped of their leaves by hail and 85-115 mph winds in the June 27, 2008 storm. The EARTH-KIND® roses rebounded back and by the end of the year were some of the best looking roses in the garden.



A fourth EARTH-KIND® test site is located at Glenwood, IA. The roses were planted in the spring of 2008 around the clock tower in the town square. The roses planted were Belinda's Dream, Carefree Beauty, Dorcus, Prairie Breeze and Quietness.

The last two test sites are located at Tekamah, NE. One site is located in the city park on the north edge of Tekamah along U.S. Hwy. 75. The roses planted at this test site are Prairie Harvest, Quietness, Freckles, Sea Foam, Hi Neighbor and Winter Sunset. The second site is at the Lydick Farm near Tekamah, NE. The roses planted at this site are Winter Sunset, Summer wind, Quietness, Prairie Princess and April Moon.

The Haworth Park and Lauritzen Garden sites are located in Zone 4/5. The Glenwood, IA and Tekamah, NE sites are zone 4. Our winters can get down to -15 to -20 degrees Fahrenheit and summers can reach well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Definitely, harsh growing conditions, that require extremely hardy roses to be able to survive the winter and disease resistant to tolerate the heat. So far none of the roses have died. Many of the roses did get blackspot but were able to produce new leaves and buds and did not seem to be affected by the disease.

This coming year Bellevue will be putting in another rose bed at Everett Park. The roses are being provided by Dr. David Zlesak of the University of Minnesota. The roses will be evaluated to see if they should be included in the next round of testing for the Northern EARTH-KIND® roses.

Yes, the Omaha Metro Area is the EARTH-KIND® Center of the Midwest having the largest test site outside of Texas testing both the 30 EARTH-KIND® Brigade Roses and the 20 Northern Test Cultivars at Haworth Park and having 4 smaller test sites at other locations. Then the area has 6 sites planted in the EARTH-KIND® manner which shows how successful the EARTH-KIND® Manner is when applied to planting any plant. Our area definitely has something to be proud of and the right to call this area the EARTH-KIND® Center of the Midwest.



Conference Information

2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 23-24 & 25, 2009 Marshall, Texas.

The setting...deep East Texas, is a host of surprises, beauty, and events that you will always remember. Marshall Texas excited to welcome Texas Master Gardeners!



Caddo Lake, a natural wonder, is a trip you don't want to miss. Bald Cypress, hidden coves, the tales of Government Ditch, Old Folk's playground, and our 'gators that lurk call out to all for ad-

venture, serenity, and 'lore. The red clay of East Texas alludes to the World Famous Potteries. Catch a tour, bring a little money, and feast your eyes on beautiful pots, plants, and garden delights. Yep, we even have a first rate Winery, filled with goods and spirits that will temp the best!

Start your Conference with one of many "hands on" workshops. Learn how to 'invite' bats to your home and gardens, explore the wonders of the worm, make your own planter..(oh, yes you can), and develop skills and confidence to prune and shape that special tree.

Thursday night, historical downtown Marshall is hosting a "Block Party" in your honor! Food, sweets, and treats abound in this beautiful setting, with a wine tasting to boot!



Friday conferences are especially designed to help us



learn, explore the unknown, and remember why we enjoy what we do! Irrigation techniques, landscaping, orchids, azaleas, insects....pick a session or two...you can't go wrong. Laughter is the heart of the soul...and just wait until you experience Jerry French-a night worth your

time and investment.

Lodging is what you want-a deluxe suite or an inexpensive dorm room at our beautiful encampment at Scottsville. While you are here, don't forget to visit the historical cemetery, home of the "Weeping Angel", a cultural interest that draws hundreds to our East Texas community yearly.

Harrison County Master Gardeners are honored to host this year's conference and to show off our homes, our lakes, our potteries, and special places of interest. Remember, we are thirty minutes from "THE BOATS", have the historical Jefferson as our neighbor, potteries galore, and we are waiting to share this with you.

Oh, come early! On Wednesday, the pre-conference Rose Seminar will be held at Scottsville-a must for all rose lovers.

Harrison County Master Gardener Association
c/o Extension Office 102 West Houston,
Marshall, TX. 75670 (903) 935-8413
See this link for more information:

<http://www.2009tmgc.org/>



Conference Information

The 2010 Conference Will Have It All!

April 8-10, 2010

Dallas, TX

RAFFLE!

FIRST PRIZE: One free night for one at the Omni Mandalay Hotel, site of the 2010 TMGA State Conference April 8 – 10

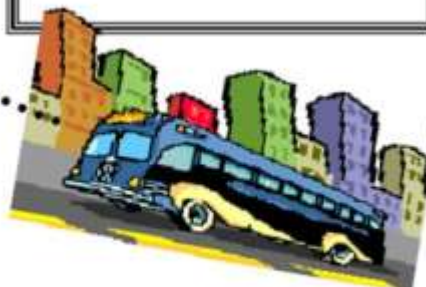
SECOND PRIZE: The American Horticultural Society A to Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants. Master Gardeners registered for Marshall, we will be selling raffle tickets only at Marshall. An online raffle will not be conducted.

[Raffle Details](#)

Beautiful Conference/Hotel Site
Omni Mandalay Hotel



- ✦ Timely Educational Topics
- ✦ Hands-On Sessions
- ✦ Well-Known and Respected Speakers
- ✦ Tours to Inspire



State Master Gardener Conference
2010
Dallas County

For updated 2010 TMGA Conference information visit:
www.2010TMGAconference.org
 2010 TMGA Conference Office: (214) 904-3054
 Dallas County Master Gardener Association, Inc.
 Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Texas Master Gardener State Conference Glen Rose 2011

Somervell County Master Gardeners
and
Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Visit our website
www.2011conference.org

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners and Somervell County Master Gardeners have joined together to pursue hosting the 2011 State Conference in Glen Rose, TX. Our two enthusiastic Master Gardener groups have been working for several months to put together a very exciting program and have secured a unique facility that will create an extraordinary **conference to remember!**

Located in the midst of the Brazos River Valley, our area offers many exciting attractions, breathtaking sites and a variety of fascinating tour possibilities. Join us at the Directors meeting in Marshall to see our presentation and learn more about our exciting plans. Please support our bid for the 2011 conference.
Submitted by Doug Richards and Donna Hagar, Co-Chairs, 2011 Conference

Specialist Training



Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Hood County and the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training in Hood County on **June 1-3, 2009**. The training will take place at the Hood County Annex I, 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas.

This hands-on training will include the installation of a collection system and drip irrigation at an Extension/Master Gardener demonstration site. Every trainee will make a rain barrel to take home for themselves, or to use as a demonstration. Each trainee will receive a shirt, power point and other materials to help them install a rainwater harvesting system demonstration in their counties and teach others about rainwater harvesting. A copy of the tentative schedule is at-

tached with the registration form with some information on hotels and sights to see.

Only 30 participant spots are available for this training, so please submit your registration forms in as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Payment and forms must be in our office by May 15, 2009. Contact Marty Vahlenkamp, 817-579-3280, to answer any questions or provide further information.

Once the course is complete, Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialists will be able to set up a rainwater harvesting demonstration and trainings in their counties for other Master Gardeners and for the public.

We are excited to be able to host such a great learning opportunity and look forward to seeing you here in Granbury.

[Registration Packet](#)



Texas Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training

June 29-June 30th, 2009

Somervell County Expo Center
Glen Rose, Texas



Hosted by Somervell County Master Gardeners and AgriLife Extension Service

Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training will include training by experts on the subject of all phases of vegetable growing such as soil prep, garden location and set up, cultural practices, plant growing, vegetables A-Z, insects and disease control and handling and harvesting vegetables.

This will be two full days of training and will include a workbook, lecture, books, informational files, 2 lunches, snacks, drinks and dinner the first night.

Transportation and lodging is on your own. ([hotel information](#))

Course will be limited to 50 participants.

Registration information will be forthcoming. Please check the TMGA website soon for more information.



September 28 – October 2, 2009 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training

– Texas AgriLife Extension Service Montgomery County Office, Conroe, TX
Hosted by Dr. Paul R. Nester, Extension Program Specialist, Houston/Metro area, and the Montgomery County Master Gardeners.

Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; 3 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks & drinks. Transportation and lodging is on your own. Course is limited to 25 applicants; deadline is July 18, 2008

Contact Paul Nester at PNester@ag.tamu.edu or 281-855-5639 with any questions.

http://grovesite.com/GSLibrary/Downloads/download.ashx?file=sites/1569/14485/276310/2009%20MV%202009%20Ento%20Spec%20Training%20announcement%20_%20agenda.pdf

Special Events & Opportunities



Master Gardener Patches

Harris County Master Gardeners offer the round Master Gardener patches for a substantial discount. Anne O'Neil orders the patches in bulk and is able to pass on the saving to Texas Master Gardeners. You will find information regarding the patches on the TMGA website

information regarding the patches on the TMGA website

www.texasmastergardeners.org Click on Merchandise link. If you need patches this year please let Anne know as soon as possible. When enough interest is expressed she will place a bulk order. The patches will be the NEW Master Gardener logo with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Price of patches varies depending on the number ordered. Contact Anne W O'Neil, Harris County Master Gardener awoneil@juno.com for more information.

April 9 - Somervell County - Feral Hog Biology, Control & Management Seminar

Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices in Somervell, Bosque and Hood counties are sponsoring a Feral Hog Biology, Control & Management Seminar in Glen Rose, TX on Thursday April 9, 2009. The seminar will cover "The Good, Bad & Ugly" on feral hogs. Registration begins at 8:30 am at the Somervell County Expo Center on Hwy 67 and Bo Gibbs Blvd. in Glen Rose. During the past several years Agriculture producers and homeowners alike have started to see the damage that can be caused by feral hogs. The



aim with this program is to bring landowners up-to-date on the latest development in the world of feral hog management. The morning program includes Status and Distribution of Feral Hogs in Texas; Feral Hog Biology; Game Laws and Regulations; Disease Control; Feral Hogs... an Economic Nuisance or an Opportunity; and an update on the Feral Hog Abatement Project and Current Research. The program will finish with trapping and baiting techniques and lunch. Individual pre registration is \$10.00 until April 6 and \$20.00 at the door. Registration includes lunch, refreshments and handout materials. For more information contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Hood County Office at 817-579-3280. [Info/Agenda](#)

Invasive Landscape Pests Seminar **April 16, 2009, 1-3 pm**

Training will be held in the Pavilion building at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas (see map on reverse side of flier) on April 16th from 1:00-3:00. The meeting is free and open to all Master Volunteers, garden club members, rosarians, landscape professionals or any citizens with a green thumb. Master Volunteers and landscape maintenance professionals

have an important role to play as critical "first detectors" of these new pests. This two hour seminar will address new or potential exotic pests likely to be found in our region. We will learn about the new chilli thrips, pink hibiscus mealybug, azalea bark scale, emerald ash borer, Formosan termite and Caribbean crazy ants. Hands-on sessions will focus on identification and management. You will also learn steps to take if you suspect you have found a new pest. Be the first in your community to be ready for these new invaders. [For more information](#)



SFA to Host Spring Plant Sale

The SFA Mast Arboretum will host its annual Garden Gala Day on **April 18, 2009** from 9 am until 2 pm at the SFA Intramural Fields on Wilson Drive. This event features the annual spring plant sale fundraiser benefiting the SFA Mast Arboretum,

Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, and their educational programs. All of the plants are produced at SFA by the staff, students and volunteers.

The public is encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon. For more information and a list of plants for sale call 936-468-4404, or visit <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu> and click on "upcoming events."

County Upcoming Events



Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

LGMG will also hold their annual plant sale on **Saturday April 4th** at the Hewlett Park Pavilion, across from the Hilton and Granbury Convention Center, from 8:00 until 2:00. *Submitted by Nancy Hancock*

April 4th, 2009

Kaufman County Master Gardeners

The Kaufman County Master Gardeners will hold their 2009 Annual Spring Seminar on Saturday April 4th from 9 am to 1pm. Registration begins at 8 am and admission is free. The event will be at the First Assembly of God Church, 3401 South Houston St in Kaufman [corner of FM1388 and State Hwy 148- 1/2 mile south of HWY 175] . Lynn Ackerman, Kaufman County Master Gardener, will speak on landscaping with succulents/cactus. Dotty Woodson Ed D AgriLife Extension Specialist -Water Resources, will speak on Home Irrigation Systems. Pat Abramson, Hunt County Master Gardener will speak on Herb Gardening. The Seminar will also feature the sale of orchids and Earth Kind roses, Master Gardener plant sale, silent auction and information booths on constructing a rain barrel, composting and square foot gardening. Also, we will have the 2nd Annual horticulture photography contest-* Up to two 8x10 photos in black and white or color can be entered. Photos are to be submitted during registration. Ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Refreshments and door

prizes. 1 CEU will be given for Pesticide Application Continuing Education. For more information on this event call 972-932 9069 or check "Events" at www.kcmastergardeners.org.

* The photography contest will be held in conjunction with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Kaufman County Master Gardeners' Spring Seminar on April 4, 2009. One entry per person. Picture should be 8 1/2 x 11 and may be of any horticultural / gardening subject. Picture may be color or black and white. Ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The 2009 Seminar will be held in the gymnasium at the First Assembly of God Church 3401 S Houston St [Corner of State HWY 34 and FM 1388] in Kaufman, Texas. Please bring your photography entry to registration at 8 am. The Spring Seminar will be from 9am to 1pm, and is open to the public at no charge. More Seminar information coming in the near future. For more information about the photography contest, or to have a Kaufman County Master Gardener speak to your group please call 972 932 9069. *Submitted by Lynn Ackerman*



April 13, 2009 6:30 p.m. Somervell County Master Gardeners Association Container Gardening Somervell County Citizens Center Community Horticultural Education Series

Wanda Riley has been a Lake Granbury Master Gardener since 1997, has her certification as a Master Composter, and is a charter member of the Rio Brazos Naturalists. Her program will include a PowerPoint presentation on Container Gardening as well as a discussion on everything one would want or need to know about container gardening.

- Container/pot selection
- Appropriate plants for containers

- Design and color choices
 - Potting and caring for your containers
 - How to make your own potting soil
 - Watering containers with drip irrigation
- How to make your own Hypertufa pot (a container made from a mixture of cement, sphagnum peat moss and perlite)
- Marty Vahlenkamp, Hood County Extension Agent, will follow with a brief presentation on drip irrigation. Get a "jump start" on adorning your patios, porches and yards with colorful container plants and learn how to make your own unique, lightweight pots and incorporate wise watering practices. We hope to see you there!
Submitted by Sandi Stringer



County Upcoming Events Continued



Harris County Master Gardener

Green Thumb Gardening Series

Chris LaChance from the Texas AgriLife Extension Office will present a program on Water Smart Landscapes. Chris will discuss drought tolerant Texas native plants and smart ways to water. When: Tuesday, **April 14, 2009**, 6:30-9 pm Where: Bass Pro Shops, Highway 288 at the Sam Houston Tollway, Pearland, TX 77047 For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>



Master Gardener Lecture Series

Harris County Master Gardener, Carol Fraser, will present Shade Gardens for Harris County. Carol's program will help you understand and develop your shade garden areas with innovative technologies and techniques. When: **April 15, 2009**, 10 a.m. Where: The Meeting Room at Clear Lake Park (on the lakeside), 5001 NASA Road 1, Seabrook, TX 77586. For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>

Open Garden Day

You are invited to tour the working and demonstration gardens maintained by the Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2. Please come and visit our wonderful garden that includes an extensive vegetable garden, fruit orchard, perennials, roses, herb and cactus gardens and 2 working greenhouses. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions during this free event. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult at all times. If you have any 1 gallon or smaller plastic plant pots and trays you would like to re-cycle, please bring them to Open Garden Day and the Master Gardeners will put them to good use. When: Monday, **April 20**, 9-10:30 a.m. Where: Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff, Houston, TX 77034 For more information visit our web site at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu>

April 14, 2009 Guadalupe County

For a real change of pace, the next meeting of the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will be held at the Antique Rose Emporium at 7561 E. Evans Road, San Antonio. Robbi Will, former commercial native plant nursery manager, will give a program on propagating native plants. We will meet on the second Tuesday,

April 14, 2009 for socializing at 6.30pm before the program starts at 7pm, followed by a short business meeting. Visitors are most welcome.

For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: guadalupe-county@npsot.org



April 15 Travis County Master Gardeners Gardening Above Ground 7-9pm Zilker Botanical Garden

Love to garden but don't have the space or soil for the plants you love? This free seminar will increase your knowledge of working with plants in containers. It is an ideal learning experience for anyone wanting to know more about growing flowers or vegetables on a patio, an apartment balcony or in other locations. We will discuss what plants grow well in containers, types of containers, soil, fertilizer and watering. In addition, we will introduce you to using Grow Boxes, an easy to

construct gardening container made from a plastic storage box that allows for growing of vegetables or flowers without weeding and only needing infrequent watering.

A limited amount of Grow Box kits will be offered for sale. This seminar is free and open to the public. This seminar is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For more details, see <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org> or call the Travis County Master Gardener's help desk at (512) 854-9600.

County Upcoming Events Continued

Henderson County Master Gardener Spring Conference

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center Athens, TX
Plant Sale and Silent Auction start @ 6:00pm

Speaker: Elvin McDonald, Friends Director, Des Moines Botanical and Environmental Center
Formerly Editor at Large for Better Homes and Gar-

dens, 2008: Named Honorary Master Gardener by Iowa State University Extension Polk County Master Gardeners

Elvin has authored 60 plus books and will speak on "Why I Love To Garden"

Tickets: \$20.00

Thank you so much. Any questions, please call Robyn G Stack 903-477-0982.

Henderson County Master Gardener VP

Brazos County



Master Gardener
Association

April 16, 2009 — Earth Kind Lawn Care

by Dr. David Chalmers, Professor & State Extension Turf grass Specialist
The Texas Turf grass Specialist will share how to get your lawn green and happy. Learn the best management practices to effectively use resources to get the results you want.

Cost is \$10 per session at the door or pre-register for \$20/3 sessions

Payable to: Brazos County Master Gardener Association (BCMGA)

Pre-register by January 14, 2009.

For additional information: www.brazosmg.com or email: brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu

Call: 823-0129 — Brazos County Extension office.

April 18, 2009 - Jackson County Master Gardeners

Jackson County Master Gardeners will once again offer beautiful and healthy plants for sale at their Spring Plant Sale on April 18, 2009.

The sale will be at the Jackson County Service Building, 411 N. Wells in Edna and the doors will open at 8:00am.

A wide variety of plants, annuals, perennials, shrubs and fruit trees will be available. Also, we will have garden art, raffle items, and planters available.

For more information, call the Jackson County Extension office at (361) 782-3312 or email the Master Gardeners at admin@jcmga.com. You can also check out previous plant sales at the Master Gardener website at www.jcmga.com

April 18, 2009 The Collin County Master Gardener Association

is preparing for its 6th Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 9AM – 3PM. Everyone can grow Texas Superstars and EarthKind® plants with success! These beautiful plants are Texas-tough, water-conserving, insect and disease resistant, and are highly recommended by Texas A&M. Purchase these proven performers by cash or check only. No credit cards accepted.

Free classes will also be presented during the event. Classes being offered are Designing the Garden for Hummingbirds and Butterflies at 10:00am, Earth-Kind® Roses at 11:00am and Water Conservation at noon. Class space is limited, registration recommended. Attendees will also enjoy a container garden demonstration, and view rain barrel and soil preparation displays. Children ages 5 and up can participate in environmentally friendly activities in the

morning.

The Texas Superstar Plant Sale will be held in the pavilion at the Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center in Dallas, 17360 Coit Road, between Campbell Road and George Bush Tollway. To find our more about the plant sale, or register for the free classes, call the Collin County Master Gardeners by contacting the Collin County AgriLife Extension office at 1-972-548-4219 or 1-972-548-4232.



Submitted by DAWN OLDFIELD

County Upcoming Events Continued

Cherokee County Master Gardeners

April 18, 2009 Cherokee County Master Gardeners Spring Has Sprung Plant Sale from 8AM -2PM at 555 S. Jackson Street, Jacksonville 75766. Color your landscape with a large selection of master gardeners' favorites from their own gardens. Featuring perennials, herbs, bulbs, ground covers, and much more that will satisfy the gardening urge for all. For additional information email: billingsk704@yahoo.com

May 30, 2009, Cherokee County Master Gardeners Garden Tour from 9AM – 2PM . This years theme of 'Gardens of East Texas Beauty' is highlighted in the selection of four gardens located in Jacksonville. Included in the ticket price of \$5.00 is an Orchid Show and Sale sponsored by the Central East Texas Orchid Society. For additional information email: billingsk704@yahoo.com.

Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

April 21, 2009 – "The Well-Designed Perennial Garden" – Brown Bag – Rockport, TX
On Tuesday, April 21, 2009, Master Gardener, Jeanna Godfrey, DVM, will present the Brown Bag, "The Well-Designed Perennial Garden" Learn about using perennials effectively and dramatically by attention to design concepts such as: color, form, texture, and more.

The program will be presented noon – 1:00 PM at the Aransas County Library, 711 E. Mimosa, Rockport, TX. Enjoy this free Brown Bag hosted by the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners and generous community sponsors. For more information call Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Aransas County Office at 361 790-0103.

Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

April 25, 2009 – Kids' Garden Fest
On Saturday, April 25, 2009, the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners host their Kids' Garden Fest. A rollicking good time for ages 4-12 including a learning loop of fun activities and prizes. A parent must accompany children. Snack lunch provided. Kids' Garden Fest will be held from 10:00A.M - 1:00P.M. at the

Children's Garden in Green Acres Demonstration Gardens. Green Acres is located at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service - Aransas County Office, 611 E. Mimosa, Rockport, Texas. If it rains, event moves indoors to the Aransas County Library, 711 E. Mimosa, Rockport, TX. For more information call Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Aransas County Office at 361 790-0103.



April 28, 2009 -Jackson County Master Gardeners
"Hibiscus" will be the subject of the Jackson County Master Gardener's "Come Grow With Us" seminar at 7:00PM on April 28, 2009. Mr. Lon Smith of Devereaux Gardens

in Victoria will be our speaker. The seminar is free to the public, and we offer 2 CEU credits for those who

need them. Come learn about hibiscus at the Jackson County Service Building, 411 N. Wells, Edna, Texas.

For more information, call the Jackson County Extension office at (361) 782-3312 or email the Master Gardeners at admin@jcmga.com. You can also check out our schedule of "Come Grow With Us" seminars at the Master Gardener website at www.jcmga.com; Click on Education.

April 30, 2009 - Travis County Master Gardeners Going Native in the Garden 7-9pm Zilker Botanical Garden

Having trouble picking the right plants for your Central Texas garden? Attend our Going Native seminar and hear more about the beautiful native and adapted plants that can grow well in Central Texas and still be

earthwise plant choices. Let us help you discover plants that are drought tolerant and resistant to pests and diseases, yet offer the color and texture you desire in your garden. These plants will allow you to build a breathtaking garden while using plants that require less fertilizing, less watering, and less chemical control. Going native is an experience everyone should have in their garden!

County Upcoming Events Continued

May 2, 2009 Travis County Master Gardeners Creating a Wildlife Garden

10am-Noon—Hampton Branch Library, Oak Hill
5125 Convict Hill Rd.

Come learn how to build a habitat that is more attractive to beautiful songbirds, butterflies, frogs, and other

beneficial wildlife. Using native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees will increase the beauty of your property, protect the environment, and provide a nurturing refuge for all types of animals. Requirements for building a certified wildlife habitat will also be covered.

Amarillo Master Gardeners



Garden Fest
Saturday, May 2, 2009
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

To be held at The Amarillo Botanical Gardens
1400 Streit Drive

Gardening With the Masters
Saturday, May 16, 2009
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

To be held at the Texas AgriLife Research Center
6500 Amarillo Blvd West
Submitted by Andi Wardlaw

May 9, 2009 Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners Great Mother's Day Idea

Hidden Gardens Tour – Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners 361 790-0103

611 East Mimosa St. at Pearl St. Rockport, Texas 78382

Grab your friends, take Mom on a Garden Tour for Mother's Day weekend! Beautiful gardens to explore in both Aransas and San Patricio Counties. May 9, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m \$10.00 per person. Start by getting your tickets and maps at Green Acres. Rain date is May 16, 2009.



Howard Garrett to Speak in Central Texas May 14, 2009

Organic gardening guru and "Dirt Doctor" Howard Garrett, author of 14 books and columnist for *The Dallas Morning*

News, has accepted a 6 p.m. speaking engagement in Hamilton, Texas, for May 14, 2009. Venue is the Hamilton Middle School cafeteria on College Street, just southwest of the courthouse square.

The newly formed Hamilton County Master Gardener Association is hosting the event, which will make two CEUs available to both Private Applicator Licensees and Certified Master Gardeners. Tickets will be \$10 in advance for Master Gardeners, \$12 in advance for others. Tickets are \$2.00 more if purchased after May 8th, IF THERE ARE ANY. Send a check for tickets to Hamilton County Master Gardener Assoc, 2470 CR 513, Hamilton Texas 76531. For more information to contact Michael Langford, HCMGA treasurer and event chairperson, at bar-nun@htcomp.net.



May 12, 2009
8:00am-4pm
Granbury First United
Methodist Church
301 Loop 567
Granbury, TX 76048

The Texas Watershed Steward program is a free, one-day educational workshop designed to help watershed residents improve and protect their water resources by getting involved in local watershed protection and management activities.

The workshop will provide an overview of water quality and watershed management in Texas. It will primarily focus on water quality issues in Lake Granbury as well as efforts by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Brazos River Authority (BRA) to help improve water quality in the lake and the health of the surrounding watershed. Pre-register for the workshop by going to: <http://tws.tamu.edu>

News from Around the State

Little River Basin Master Gardeners



CAMERON—Little River Basin Master Gardeners assembled recently at the Triangle Demonstration Garden in Cameron to prepare for the organization’s fifth annual plant sale Saturday, April 18 in the garden.

Thirty-five Texas Master Gardeners participated in the session, where they potted plants for the sale, and learned how to prune and propagate cuttings.

Plant sale merchandise will include oak trees, roses, sun and shade plants, herbs, and cactus, plus items useful around the yard and garden.

Texas Master Gardeners will conduct tours of the demonstration garden and serve refreshments to visitors. Plant sale proceeds will benefit association projects.

Little River Basin Master Gardeners--part of Texas AgriLife Extension’s Texas Master Gardener program-- provides horticultural information through projects and programs presented by highly trained, talented and dedicated volunteers. Special training in horticulture sets Texas Master Gardeners apart from other gardening organizations.



BEXAR COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



Dedicated volunteers of the BCMG Propagation Group are being rewarded with the satisfaction of seeing hundreds of beautiful plants ready for sale after months of hard work

and plant pampering. The Propagation Group works with the San Antonio Botanical Society, a nonprofit organization that assists the San Antonio Botanical Garden in numerous projects to benefit the gardens. Work by the volunteers continues during most of the year. Plants are propagated from specimens grown at the Botanical Garden as well as from plant specimens grown in the yards of volunteers. Tender loving care is provided by the volunteers as they water, weed and move plants to appropriate size containers. With few exceptions, the plants use little water and enhance Xeriscape style options.

A wide variety of plants including annuals, perennials, trees, shrubs, ornamental grasses, vines, bulbs, cacti and succulents are available for sale to the public. Plant sales are held on Wednesday at the Carriage House, the entry to the Botanical Garden, and during special events at the Botanical Garden and other facilities. The major sale of the year occurs in the springtime when the urge to garden is high. The 2009 sale is a three day event at the San Antonio Botanical Garden beginning in the evening on April 17 for members of the San Antonio Botanical Society and continuing for the general public on April 18 and 19. Sales continue at the Carriage House through December and resume in mid-February.



News from Around the State continued



Amarillo Master Gardeners *Master Gardener Completes Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) program*

The Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) has announced that Barbara Hatchel of Amarillo, Texas has become the 120th grounds management professional to successfully complete its Certified Grounds Manager (CGM) program. Barbara currently serves as a Technician

for the City of Amarillo Parks and Recreation where she has been for the past 11 years. Barbara is a certified Master Gardener, class of 2005 who has always enjoyed working in yards and gardens. Her work in Master Gardener's sparked an interest in obtaining the Certified Grounds Manager certification. Barbara states that this certification will enable her to further her education in the grounds industry and allow her an opportunity to learn all aspects of her profession. Best of all her community service through Master Gardeners and her profession will compliment each other.
Submitted by Andi Wardlaw

Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners



Saturday Mar 14 - It was a good crowd on a rainy day. Master Gardeners were out in full force and in their rain slickers. We had so much fun we decided to do the Plant Sale

again on March 21. For more information, contact the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners at 361 790-0103 or via email at aransas-tx@tamu.edu.

Submitted by Ernie Edmonson



Smith County Master Gardeners Association 2009 Spring Home Garden Tour Selects Interesting Gardens

The garden tour committee has named five homes to feature in the 2009 MG Home Garden Tour. The five delightful homes—ranging from a large formal traditional garden in the historic Azalea District to a modest home in a rustic country setting—spotlight a variety of landscaping styles and methods. Homeowners include Donald and Chelli Warren, Bennett and Carrie White, Melinda Cook, David and Linda Gary, and Barbara Null.

In the Azalea District, the large two-story White home is graced with an expansive garden that includes a swimming pool area, a formal knot garden in the front, and an abundance of seasonal color. The homeowner does all of the work, including pruning of the intricate shrubs in the knot garden. The Warren home features an attached curtained cabana, a koi pond, garden art, and many container plants. The landscape was designed by Casey Brownlow. The Cook home—named Best Yard in the 2008 Azalea Trail home tour—features a creek with bridges, interesting perennials, roses, shrubs, and hostas, and a cottage in back with a draped patio.

The Gary home, in the Woods subdivision, features a small garden with paths throughout made of decomposed granite, making the garden more accessible to gardeners with physical challenges. David Gary lends the skills of a Master Gardener to his environment.

The Null home demonstrates that gardening miracles can be realized on a limited budget. Master Gardener trainee Barbara Null showcases several hundred iris and daylilies and other perennials at her home in a country setting.

The 2009 Home Garden Tour, sponsored by Smith County Master Gardeners Association, is set for Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of tour. To order tickets, make checks payable to SCMG and mail to 14608 Foxwood Circle, Tyler, TX 75703.

News from Around the State Continued



Bill Milligan, attendee watching as Brad Ackerman assists Marline and John Ballard construct their rain barrel.

Kaufman County Master Gardeners

6 KC Master Gardeners-Rain Water Harvesting Specialists presented this event at the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Kaufman on Saturday 3/7/09. Ralph Davis, Texas AgriLife Extension Agent welcomed attendees and stressed the importance of Water Literacy. As explained during

the program, by Brad Ackerman RWH Specialist, water literacy involves knowing where our water comes from, where it goes and how to use it wisely. Attendees received information about the Cedar Creek Watershed, how much rainfall can be collected from a roof with only 1 inch of rainfall and how the collected water can be used around the home and farm. 24 rain barrels were constructed at this event. Rain Barrels were taken home by attendees to use in their water conservation efforts. Due to high demand for the class, a 2nd class will be held 3/28/09 and 5/2/09. Our KCMG Spring Seminar is 4/4/09 and will include a booth with information on Rain Barrel Construction.

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Nancy Hancock, Doris Oltmann, Georgia Blaylock and Master Gardner Intern Lou Van Zandt get ready for spring by cleaning and trimming the Demonstration Garden.



The senior citizens at the Courtyard Assisted Living Center enjoyed making bird feeders out of pine cones covered with peanut butter and bird seeds. Attendance continues to grow with a total of 14 residents participating this month. Master Gardeners, Kathy Murray, Linda Belleau, Barbara Cuzner and Doug Richards presented the program this month.

Nancy Hancock receives March Master Gardener of the Month.

Nancy is a great asset to the LGMG organization. She works tirelessly to ensure that we have Plant Books available to sell to the community. In addition, she used her own computer to burn all to the CD's and printed all of the labels that are a part of the Plant Book package. Nancy also works in the Demo Garden regularly on the Monday work days. She is faithful in writing a monthly article for the TMGA newsletter. Pictured L/R Nancy Hancock, Kathy Murray



Somervell County, Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Participate in 5K Walk

On March 21, Somervell County and area Master Gardeners drove to Meridian, the town known as being the Top of the Hill Country, to walk 3.3 miles in order to help raise money for a young Meridian girl who is being treated for cancer at St. Jude's Hospital. A large crowd of enthusiastic people clad in Darcy's Angels T-Shirts began the walk on the town square. The weather was ideal as we walked thru the residential streets of Meridian and enjoyed the early spring blooms of iris, redbuds, and wildflowers. Although we weren't the fastest walkers, we also weren't the slowest and we actually had 2 blue ribbon winners in

a special category! A fun time was had by all and there was great satisfaction in being part of such a worthwhile cause.

Submitted by Sandi Stringer



Pictured L-R Yvonna Brown, Donna Hagar, Daphne Lain, Sandi Stringer, Shirley Smith and Doug Richards