



## 2009 TMGA Officers

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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.

*Web Editor—[TMGA](#)*  
**[Dove Johnson](#)**  
[dove1johnson@gmail.com](mailto:dove1johnson@gmail.com)  
Somervell County



*Newsletter Editor*  
**[Donna Hagar](#)**  
[tmga.news@gmail.com](mailto:tmga.news@gmail.com)  
Somervell County



## From Our President

If you check out the Texas Master Gardener Association By-Laws you will see that communications is the key to achieving the very purpose for our existence. Without good communications we could never provide the support to our local Master Gardener Associations that our By-Laws require.

I recall my first years in Master Gardening someone at our local meeting would ask if anyone had gotten a newsletter from the State Association. The resounding answer was always the same “no”. Then someone would add, “We paid our dues, “Why aren’t we getting something?”. Well those days have ended. Thank goodness Doug Richards accepted the challenge to bring us into the electronic age. We now enjoy a Web Site provided by Dove Johnson, the Web Site Coordinator, and a monthly newsletter provided by Donna Hagar, the Newsletter Editor. Both are at our finger tips.

Yet sometimes I wonder if everyone really receives that newsletter as intended. This doubt will soon be resolved. Donna Hagar is working on a project that will allow each Texas Master Gardener to receive the Newsletter direct from her electronically. This will result in better communications.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### \*\*\*NEWS FLASH\*\*\*

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# *TMGA News and Events*

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## *Introducing—Joan Leach EarthKind® Rose Chairperson*



I am delighted to bring some news on Earth-Kind® rose projects in each issue of the Texas Master Gardener Newsletter. This is an exciting time to be involved with roses as Dr. Steve George's research and testing done throughout the state are identifying roses that are easy to grow and beautiful. You see, I am like so many other gardeners across the state that tried hard to grow roses and finally gave up because I just did not have the time to deal with a plant that gave me so little for my effort. I loved roses, but no longer had them in my landscape until I was introduced to the Earth-Kind® cultivars. Now I just can't have enough, and spend my time trying to find sunny spaces in my garden where I can build another bed.

A lifelong gardener, I learned the basic skills from my father growing up in Nacogdoches, Texas. Jim Stallings always had a vegetables garden and roses. The roses were beautiful, but how he did work at it. I learned all the "new" techniques introduced after World War II including using loads of commercial fertilizer and spraying for everything.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, I went to work for Fort Worth Independent School District where I continued for 38 years, serving as a teacher, librarian and administrator. The last 20 years were spent as Director of Libraries for the district. Although I lived in Fort Worth for a few years, we moved to Johnson County over 30 years ago so that we could have more horses. We were involved with quarter horse racing for a number of years, but more recently have used our horses for pleasure riding and cutting horse competition.

A few years ago, my husband, Bobby Leach, and I decided to stop using pesticides except in exceptional circumstances and to move toward organic gardening procedures. Primarily this decision was made because our once beautiful yard and garden were declining. It took a long time, but we are finally recovering. Our vegetable garden last year was the most successful in a number of years. Naturally, being complete gardening fools, this success led us to almost double the size of the vegetables garden this year. The lawn still has problems, however.

When not gardening I love to travel and cook. Sometimes I combine these interests by attending cooking schools in wonderful places like Italy and Mexico. Time is also spent doing "stuff" for my daughter Nicole Leach, who is a senior at Texas A&M.

The knowledge gained and friends met through master gardening are invaluable to me.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

As we are able to reach out directly to Master Gardeners across Texas it is hoped that we create an interest to serve in the Master Gardening at the State level. Our success tomorrow can only be assured by attracting and developing new members to serve at all levels of our program.

So when you are called on to help implement this change do so knowing that your labors will be rewarded by making the Texas Master Gardening Program more effective in passing the passion of gardening that we share.

Thanks.

Doug

## TMGA News and Events Continued

### EarthKind® News for June



Dr. Steve George discusses the Hood County trial garden with project chairs, Mary Lynn Martin and Kathy Lowe.

On a recent trip to Granbury, I was privileged to tour the Hood County Earth-Kind® trial garden located within the Master Gardener demonstration garden in Granbury. The whole garden area is outstanding. It contains a large rainwater harvesting demonstration, a greenhouse and lovely raised beds where various perennials and herbs are growing. The rose beds are edged with limestone rocks and pathways. The attractive appearance of this whole area doesn't hint at the actual research taking place under the guidance of Master Gardeners Mary Lynn Martin and Kathy Lowe. Marty Vahlenkamp, Agri-Life Extension Agent for Hood County, is also actively involved in the project.

Hood County is testing the following cultivars: Carefree Beauty, Dorcas, Malaguena, Winter Sunset and Penelope. Carefree Beauty is, of course, the control rose in all of the Texas and National Earth-Kind trials. Dorcas, a small shrub with pink and yellow blend blooms, is a Buck Rose. Malaguena, also developed by Dr. Griffith Buck, is a small pink blossomed shrub. Winter Sunset with its gorgeous pale yellow blossoms is a larger Buck shrub rose. Penelope is a mannerly climber. The roses were planted in beds amended with compost during the fall of 2007. They were watered as needed through October of 2008. Since that time they have been watered only when the soil is dry. Hardwood mulch is maintained at three inches. They are never sprayed, pruned or deadheaded.

Now in their second growing season the roses are being evaluated the first Monday of each month by 3 teams of two Master Gardeners each using Dr. George's evaluation procedures and data collection forms. This data will be maintained and final evaluations submitted at the end of the third growing season in 2010.



Signage is important in these trial gardens as they are viewed by many gardeners interested in the project. The signage used in Granbury is easy to see and hard to destroy. They used a model shared by Odessa Master Gardeners. The cultivar names are stenciled on inexpensive concrete bricks from the local big box hardware store.

Earth-Kind® Rose Research gardens are an easy and exciting way for Master Gardeners to be involved in real research that makes a contribution to the beauty and long term gardening health of our state. If you want information about starting a research garden in your county please contact me for a packet of information.

Joan Leach, Johnson County Master Gardener, [leach@ticnet.com](mailto:leach@ticnet.com)

### 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 contact one of the Nominating committee members listed below if you have any questions. We will have a slate put together for the August meeting. 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](mailto:frannie1@swbell.net)

Susan Jung—Travis County, [susanjung@msn.com](mailto:susanjung@msn.com)

Doug Richards—Hood County, [dougrichards@gmail.com](mailto:dougrichards@gmail.com)



## TMGA News and Events Continued

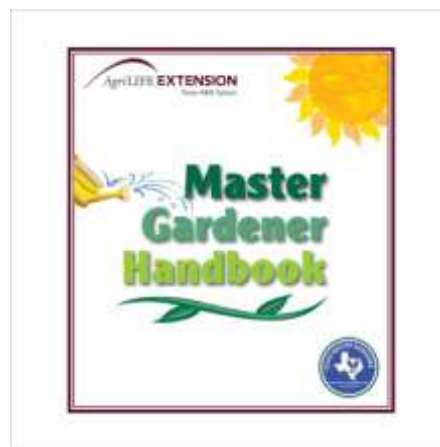
*The Sixth Edition of the Texas Master Gardener Handbook is now available!*

*New features include:*

*Chapter 3 Earth-Kind Landscaping  
Weeds and weed management  
Updated plant lists*

*Master Gardeners can purchase the latest edition through their Master Gardener Coordinators at a price of \$43.00. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition **“Text Only” (no binder or tabs) can be purchased for \$28.00.***

*Master Gardeners, please contact your MG Coordinator to order this edition, publication number B-6217T.*



### **Newsletter Changes in the Works**

*By Donna Hagar, Newsletter Editor*

In order to better disseminate the Newsletter and Special Announcements directly to the hands of the individual Master Gardeners, I am implementing the mass distribution system of Vertical Response. This is a free (to non-profits) email service that will allow for a large database, with subscribe and unsubscribe features.

In order to get this service off the ground, I am requesting each county submit an email roster of their respective Master Gardeners. Rest assured, this database will be used ONLY for TMGA Newsletter and Special Announcements. We will also have a subscribe option placed in future newsletters and on the websites. Once the system is operational, each email will also include a safe-unsubscribe option.

As with all changes, this will be a transition process. It is my goal to have it ready to present and demonstrate at the August Directors meeting.

I have also created a new email address for all future newsletter article submissions, [tmga.news@gmail.com](mailto:tmga.news@gmail.com). Both this new email address and distribution system will make for very seamless transitions when the time comes to pass the newsletter torch.

Directors/Officers/CEA's. Please submit an email roster of your MG organization to [tmga.news@gmail.com](mailto:tmga.news@gmail.com). Include at least first and last name and email address of all MG's and Interns. Inclusion of address and phone numbers welcome, but not necessary.

### **TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION 2009 DIRECTORS MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

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.

## *Specialist Training & Conference*



### Texas Master Gardener **Vegetable Specialist Training**

June 29-June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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. Course will be limited to 50 participants.

Registration information available here ([registration information](#)) and on the TMGA Website.

### **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](mailto: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>



### **2011 TMGA Conference**

#### **Co-hosts Lake Granbury & Somervell County Master Gardeners**

Dianne Allen, Hands-on Workshop Chair, conducted a hypertufa work shop for her committee. The purpose was to teach committee members how to make hypertufa projects. Additionally, it was an opportunity to try different formulas and experiment with the various methods for design and techniques. Dianne, a very creative and innovative person stated "If we are going to do workshops, we are going to be well prepared and have all the bugs worked out". The workshop will provide attendees the opportunity to learn the proper technique for making hypertufa planters from expert instructors and take home a quality product that can be proudly displayed in your garden. Several additional training workshops are planned for committee members prior to the 2011 conference.



Instructor Patty Hofer and committee member Julie Conner are ready to work.

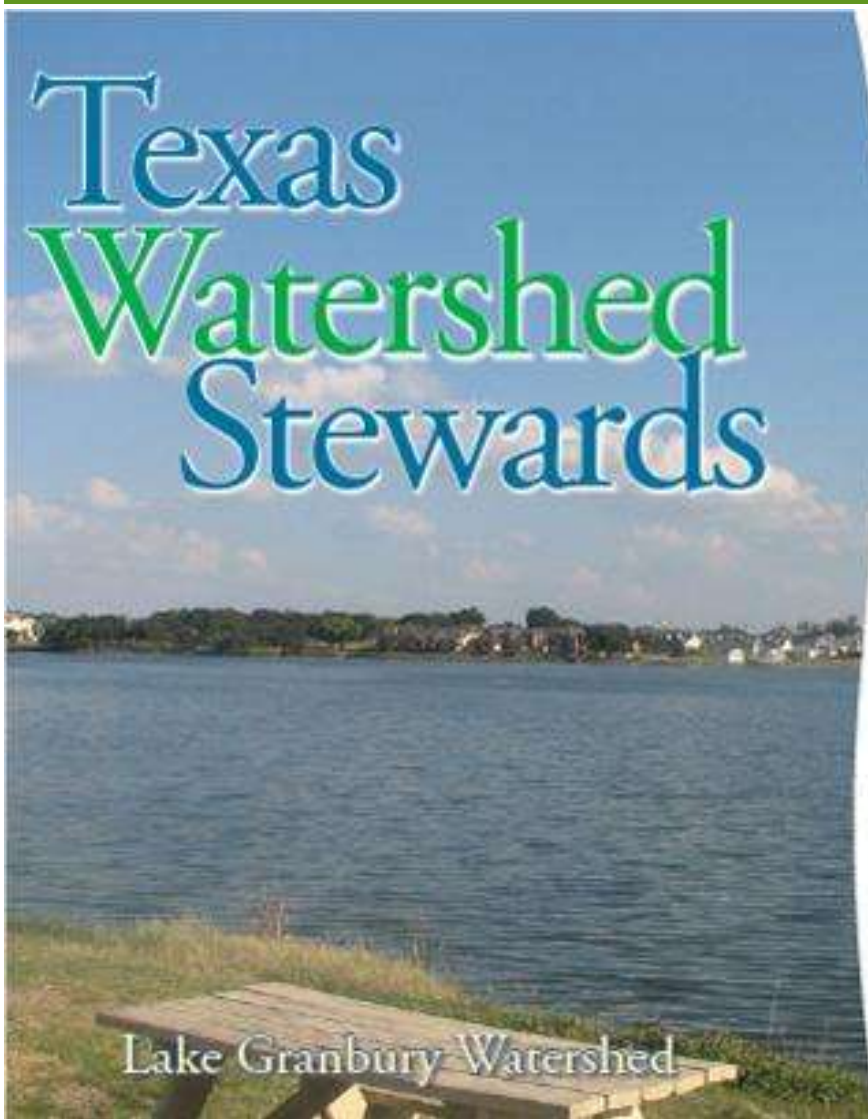


Karen Bitnar, Linda Lillard and Workshop Chair Dianne Allen get busy.



Conference Co-Chairs Doug Richards and Donna Hagar pitch in.

## *Special Events & Opportunities*



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.

**June 30, 2009: 8:00am-4pm**

Granbury First United Methodist Church  
301 Loop 567  
Granbury, TX 76048



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>.



July 10-11 2009 Junior Master Gardeners Wildlife Gardener Mini Camp  
Dig in to gardening for wildlife! Identify local birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. Investigate lifecycles and interrelatedness of wildlife and plant life.

Learn about habitat and constructing a wildlife garden.

How to attract and happily co-exist with wildlife. And much MORE!!

Camp Camp Includes • Wildlife Gardener Golden Ray Series Certification, more than 12 Activities + Service Learning Activities + Life Skills/Career Exploration Activities • Lodging • 3 Meals + Snacks • FUN! FUN!

FUN! Costs: \$70/youth & \$50/adult

**For more information about camp, including what to bring, registration instructions, and directions, visit: <http://texas4h-ctr.tamu.edu>**

**Or contact: Texas 4-H Conference Center  
5600 FM 3021  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-784-5482**

**For more information about JMG or the Wildlife Gardener Curriculum visit:  
<http://www.jmgkids.us>**

**[Registration Form](#) and packet**

## County Upcoming Events

**June 4 to July 16, 2009** Harris County Master Gardener Association Texas Master Gardener Certification.

Would you like to become a Texas Master Gardener? Harris County Master Gardeners are now accepting applications for Texas Master Gardener Certification



**June 6, 2009 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS- Seminar – *Rainwater Harvesting***

On Saturday, June 6, 2009, the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners host the Seminar – Rainwater Harvesting with Karen Ivey, Administrator,

San Patricio Municipal Water District.

In this half-day session, you will learn the various approaches to modern day rainwater harvest systems. These tips, techniques and technology will enable you

to harvest rainwater and store it for future use at your home or business. It's the rebirth of an old idea - that's new again. The program will be presented 8:30 – 11:30 A.M. at the Old Rockport Elementary School, 619 N. Live Oak, Rockport, TX. Enjoy this free Seminar 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.

**June 8, 2009 - *Turfgrass Management***

Somervell County Master Gardener Association  
6:30 p.m. Community Horticultural Education Program  
Somervell County Citizens Center

Free and Open to the Public

Dr. James McAfee, Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will present a program on Turfgrass Management. His area of expertise is developing turfgrass management programs that require fewer inputs of fertilizer, pesticides, water, and evaluating new

turfgrass varieties for use in home lawns, golf courses and sports fields.

Come and learn how to establish and maintain a lawn without using excessive amounts of chemical additives and water.

For additional information visit our website at [www.somervellmastergardeners.org](http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org)



**June 9, 2009—*Guadalupe County NPSOT*** Hot weather is here and we are starting to see our beautiful butterfly friends. The next meeting of the (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) will feature Kip Kiphart from Boerne Chapter of

NPSOT who will talk to us about Monarch butterflies. We will meet on the second Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at the Guadalupe County Annex, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz. There will be a plant exchange and “getting to know you” at 6.30pm followed by the program at 7pm.

For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: [guadalupecounty@npsot.org](mailto:guadalupecounty@npsot.org)

**June 9, 2009 - Harris County Master Gardener Association Green Thumb Gardening Series**

Dr. Scott Hume, Master Gardener, will discuss plant pests and diseases and how to identify them.

When: Tuesday, June 9, 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://hcmga.tamu.edu/>



## County Upcoming Events Continued



**June 9, 2009** - Jefferson County Master Gardeners - **Rainfall Harvesting Seminar**. Tuesday, June 9th Jefferson County will host a Rainfall Harvesting Seminar, 10 am until Noon.

Featured speaker Billy Kniffen, Extension Program Specialist-Water Resources. This is free to the public and will be held at the Extension Office, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200 Downtown Beaumont. For any information please call 409 839 2391.

**June 12, 2009** -Jefferson County Master Gardeners **Tomato Growing Field Workshop**

Friday, June 12 10am to noon  
Dr. Joe Masabni, Extension Horticulturist Vegetable Specialist will have "Tomato Growing Field Workshop." This will be held at 11475 Hwy 90, Beaumont and is open to public at no charge.



**June 13, 2009** Travis County Master Gardeners Association **Rainwater Harvesting for Your Garden**

Saturday, June 13, 2009

10am-Noon Riverplace Country Club  
4207 River Place Blvd Austin TX 78730

Come enjoy a free seminar concentrating on capturing rainwater and lowering water usage in your landscape. This session will teach you all the basics on building a non-potable rainwater harvesting system. In addition, learn about rain gardens which capture valuable rainwater in your landscape. Vendors representing tank and gutter companies will be available to answer specific questions. City of Austin representatives

will be available to answer permit and rebate questions.



This seminar is free and open to the public and does not require reservations.

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.



**June 13, 2009** -Kaufman County Master Gardeners - **Rain Barrel Workshop**

Texas AgriLife Extension Kaufman County Master Gardeners will hold a rain barrel workshop at Gill Park in Terrell as part of the Antique Tractor

Show on Saturday 6/13/09 from 10 am to 12 PM. Cost of the workshop is \$30 per participant. Each paid participant will take home their completed 50 gallon rain barrel. Class is limited to 20 participants and 1 rain barrel each. Pre-registration is required. Please call 972 932 9069 to register. Thank you!  
Lynn Ackerman

**June 15, 2009** Lake Granbury Master Gardeners **A Morning Walk with the Gardeners**

Join Us! Lake Granbury Master Gardeners share "Proven Techniques for Successful Gardening"

Date: June 15, 2009 - Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Cost \$10 - Location: LGMG Demonstration Garden  
1410 W Pearl, Granbury, TX

RSVP Extension Office at (817) 579-3280

By: June 12, 2009

As we walk through the garden, the following hands on demonstrations will be presented:



1. Harvesting Rainwater
2. Installing Drip Irrigation
3. Growing EarthKind™ Roses
4. Improving Soil with Compost
5. Identifying Tough Perennials

Take this opportunity to have your gardening questions answered by Master Gardeners who have had specialist training in the covered subjects. Each participant will receive a packet of information related to the topics.

## County Upcoming Events Continued

### June 15, 2009 - Harris County Master Gardeners **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, June 15,  
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://hcmga.tamu.edu/>



### June 16, 2009 - Travis County Master Gardeners

#### **Becoming a Garden Detective: Diagnosing Plant Problems**

June 16, 2009 7-9pm

Steiner Ranch Towne Square Community Center 12550 Country Trails Lane

Just when you think you've done everything right by your plants, one of them starts to go downhill. One of the biggest challenges for gardeners is correctly diagnosing plant problems and finding effective, safe solutions. Is your plant dying because of an insect, environmental or disease problem? Join us to learn the causes of plant problems, the process for diagnosing plant problems, and preventive garden management techniques.

### June 16, 2009 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS-**"Weeds to Watch For" – Brown Bag**

On Tuesday, June 16, 2009, Master Gardener, Lonnie Matthew, will present the Brown Bag, "Weeds to Watch For". You will learn how to identify the "bad guys" and how to manage them.

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.



### June 17, 2009 Harris County Master Gardener Association **Master Gardener Lecture Series**

Anita Nelson, owner of Nelson's Water Gardens in Katy will present a program on "Jazzing Up Your Garden." This presentation is not for water gardeners only! Anita will inspire you with a slate of ideas for your own garden. Ideas as simple as subtracting from your garden to adding bigger budget items. There will be something for everyone!

When: June 17, 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://hcmga.tamu.edu/>

# News from Around the State



### BEXAR COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

San Antonio is home to the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC) located in Hemisfair

Park in downtown San Antonio. The facility, which functions to educate visitors about the cultures of Texas, is a teaching campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio. A major exhibit in the living museum is the Back-40 featuring typical buildings from the 18th century. Structures include a dog-trot cabin, barn, one room school house, adobe home and barracks room.

However, the Back-40 was found to be missing an important element. There were no kitchen gardens for the dwellings. In May, 2007 Bexar County Master Gardeners (BCMGs) were approached by ITC officials to assist in solving the problem. Criteria for the gardens included specifications that the gardens be

historically accurate. MG Numa Laiche, a historian and vocational anthropologist/archaeologist, conducted the necessary research and planned the gardens. Work of building raised beds and planting a fall garden was carried out by Numa; his wife, MG Helois and MG Judie Lopez. The first garden produced a harvest of onions, squash, carrots, garlic, herbs, tomatoes, three varieties of corn, black beans and okra. Numa noted that some of the produce looked and tasted a little different from that with which we are familiar because the seed was from 18th and 19th century plant genes. Expansion of the garden exhibits includes an herb garden located at the adobe house. BCMGs continue support and maintenance of the historical exhibit. Our MG friends are invited to visit ITC and view the gardens of the Back-40.

*Submitted by Gladys Baker*



### Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Doug Richards of Lake Granbury Master Gardeners and Donna Hagar of Somervell County Master Gardeners present their joint PowerPoint presentation/bid for the 2011 State Conference during the April State Conference at Marshall. Receiving official approval, the fun now begins!

*Submitted by Nancy Hancock*



### SOMERVELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Rhineland Farms is a small, family-owned and -operated concern located just outside of Glen Rose,

Texas. Samantha and Don Rebstock, have approximately 25 acres in which they raise a variety of edible goodies. The Somervell County Master Gardeners visited this lovely enterprise Friday, May 30. We were met by Samantha and two of their five children. Also greeting us were 4 dogs, two cats, numerous goats, chickens, ducks and a very stone-faced pony.

Samantha and Don grow several varieties of blackberries and will sell to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday after the berries ripen. Don showed

us the ins and outs of blackberry growing, the different types of blackberries, his drip irrigation method, and also shared some of the down-side to growing this type of fruit.

After leaving the berry patch, we toured the lavender garden. Mmmmmm. Nice smell. Samantha and Don also have a large planting of tomatoes. After our tour, we were treated to fresh lavender and mint flavored lemonade and home-made feta goat cheese. If anyone would be interested in visiting Rhineland Farms you can contact the Rebstock's at 254-396-5866.

*Submitted by Shirley Smith*

