



## 2009 TMGA Officers

President  
Doug Quicksall  
McLennan County



First Vice President  
Lynn McKillop  
Ft. Bend County



Second Vice President  
Lonnie Matthew  
Aransas County



Secretary  
Brenda Cunningham  
Dallas County



Treasurer  
Homer Babbitt  
Parker County



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](#)  
[dmthagar@gmail.com](mailto:dmthagar@gmail.com)  
Somervell County



## From Our President

There was Magic in Marshall

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Harrison County Master Gardeners for treating us to a wonderful State Conference. Randy Reeves has certainly put together an impressive group of Master Gardeners. From the moment we stepped into the Marshall Convention Center their hospitality was felt. Every hosting Master Gardener we met was smiling and working to make the Conference a success. This effort continued throughout the Conference.

With each annual conference I have attended I have left with at least one memory that reflects that conference. It might be a special speaker that inspired me to try something different in the garden. It might be an air conditioner that was broken in the room where we stayed. It might be the overall silky smooth way the conference ran. Perhaps it was a tour. But each conference does leave its own special mark. For me, Marshall was somewhat different from an observation perspective since I was serving as President. However, I did leave with three lasting memories I would like to share with you.

The first memory was attending the Block Party and Reception in Downtown Marshall. How unique to step off our bus and see an entire city block, with tent, waiting for us. We enjoyed a beautiful spring evening with a nice breeze as we walked from shop to shop. It was so re-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Be sure to see [pages 3 through 6](#) for a full listing of all of the 2008 Master Gardener Awards winners. This was a record year with over 120 winning entries! Keep up the good work, Texas Master Gardeners!*

### Table of Contents

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2008 TMGA Awards           | <a href="#">Page 3-6</a>    |
| TMGA News & Events         | <a href="#">Pages 7-8</a>   |
| State Conference           | <a href="#">Page 9</a>      |
| Specialist Training        | <a href="#">Page 10</a>     |
| County Upcoming Events     | <a href="#">Pages 11-14</a> |
| News from Around the State | <a href="#">Pages 15</a>    |

## TMGA News

### Introducing-Ginger Bason, Awards Chair



The Master Gardeners that I knew enjoyed what they were doing and had lots of fun. I learned so much associating with them that I decided to apply for the MG class when I retired from teaching in 2001. What I enjoy most are the friends I have made since becoming a MG, all the new plants to discover and the knowledge that I have gained and now can share with others. There

is always something else to learn. In my own yard things are always changing – I add this, change that. My favorite plants are anything that blooms because I like color. I believe we see things that we want to do in our gardens and visitors see what we have already accomplished.

To someone thinking about becoming a Master Gardener I would say really commit to what you are signing up to do; to the new Interns I would say find a place to work where you enjoy the tasks and the people.

My Favorite Project : Teen Challenge because we are working with the people. They are interested and I hear back from them after they graduate about how they are growing things. I see how some come there and are very uninterested at first and before long they are asking questions and talking about the plants their grandmothers grew. They think MGs are a blessing to them, but really they are a blessing to us because it is a pleasant educational setting with lots of interaction.

*(Continued from page 1) There was Magic in Marshall*

laxing to sit with friends and enjoy the fellowship. Everywhere I looked there were smiles and conversations. This was truly an event for sharing of good music, good food and good friends. There was magic in Marshall.

The next evening at Scottsville left me with a couple of more lasting memories. The first was at our Awards Banquet when I walked up the steps to the microphone and looked out to all of you. I was shocked by that view. I wish each one of you could have seen how great the room looked from that vantage point. Looking down on that full room of master gardeners and the white tables with all the beautiful flowers and pottery, it was actually stunning. I hope the photographer was able to capture that moment.

Career: I was a teacher for 30 years, teaching homebound, all grade levels and subjects. In the classroom I taught high school students who were behaviorally challenged again, all subjects. I now work parttime with teen parents.

Family: Husband, daughter, 3 grandchildren. My husband says my gardening causes him to have to dig a lot of holes. The grandchildren help in the garden and are future MGs.

Activities : Gardening and taking care of grandchildren. I am a MG level II. That was an experimental pilot program, like another intern class with extra classroom and volunteer hours required. I'm a member of the Oak Cluster Garden Club, Oakhurst Neighborhood Association Board, on the council at church and a board member for CrossTimbers Master Naturalists. I volunteer locally at Teen Challenge, Perennial Garden at the Demonstration Garden, Juvenile Detention Center Garden, Hospitality (mugs-that's another story), newsletter, advisory board, speakers bureau. State level: Awards Chair, Outreach Committee, Audit Committee

As Awards Chair for TMGA I have learned a lot about the many and varied things MGs do across the state. There are so many things going on that we should all be proud of. The comments from the out-of- state judges tell us that they are very impressed with what is happening in the Texas Master Gardener Program. The number of entries this year was amazing and next year I hope will be even better. All of the MG Associations are doing great things, please enter your submissions and share what you are doing. Information about the 2008 winners will be on the website soon.

The second lasting memory that evening was as we were leaving the Awards Banquet and headed to our buses. It looked like everyone had been shopping. Arms were full. Everyone was carrying roses, pottery, candles and other numerous items. The Award Winners even had bigger loads to tote. But we were all pleased with our bounty of goodies as we labored to get them to our bus. It was a good evening for everyone attending.

So Marshall, as we leave I want to express to you our thanks for your hospitality and a job well done. To Doug Buchan and Debbie Bates, a special thanks to each of you for your work with the Executive Committee and taking care of our needs.

Dallas get ready we will see you soon!

Doug

## *2008 Awards*

| <b>Publication</b> |     |              |  |
|--------------------|-----|--------------|--|
| small              | 1st | EIPaso_pub   | Growing Tomatoes in El Paso & the Desert Southwest |
|                    | 2nd | Hunt_pub     | Hunt County Planting Guide Bookmark                |
| medium             | 1st | Aransas_pub  | In Our Coastal Gardens                             |
|                    | 2nd | Parker_pub   | 2009 Calendar                                      |
|                    | 3rd | Walker_pub   | LEAF-PRO/Landscape Environmental Awareness         |
| med-lg             | 1st | Smith_pub    | Northeast Texas Gardening Guide                    |
|                    | 2nd | FtBend_pub   | Garden Insect Field Guide                          |
|                    | 3rd | Victoria_pub | Victoria Educational Gardens                       |
|                    | 3rd | Ellis_pub    | EARTHKIND: Minimal Maintenance, Minimal Water      |
| large              | 1st | Harris_pub   | 2007-2008 Annual Report                            |
|                    | 2nd | Tarrant_pub  | Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Perennial Garden        |
|                    | 3rd | Dallas_pub   | Master Gardener Training School Final Exam         |

| <b>Graphic</b> |     |                      |   |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|---|
| small          | 1st | EIPaso_graphic       | Greenhouse Selection and Operation            |
|                | 2nd | Hunt_graphic         | The Heritage Garden of Hunt County and You    |
|                | 3rd | Rockwall_graphic     | Successful Composting                         |
| medium         | 1st | Walker_graphic       | LEAF-PRO/Environmental Protection Program     |
|                | 2nd | Bell_graphic         | American Colonial Gardens                     |
| med-lg         | 1st | FtBend_graphic       | Attracting Birds & Butterflies To Your Garden |
|                | 2nd | EctorMidland_graphic | Plant Propagation                             |
| large          | 1st | Galveston_graphic    | Growing Citrus in the Home Landscape          |
|                | 2nd | Tarrant_graphic      | Texas Water Management                        |
|                | 3rd | Dallas_graphic       | Sex In The Garden                             |
|                | 3rd | Montgomery_graphic   | Rainwater Harvesting                          |

| <b>Media</b> |     |                  |  |
|--------------|-----|------------------|--|
| small        | 1st | Somervell_media  | Somervell County Website                             |
|              | 1st | Hunt_media       | On The Grow  |
|              | 2nd | Fannin_media     | It's True; I read it in the local paper              |
| medium       | 3rd | Rockwall_media   | Tour of Gardens                                      |
|              | 1st | Walker_media     | LEAF-PRO/ Educational Series                         |
|              | 2nd | Kerr_media       | Hill Country Master Gardener Website                 |
|              | 2nd | Aransas_media    | Gardening With Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners |
| med-lg       | 3rd | Bell_media       | Bell County Master Gardener Tip of the Week          |
|              | 1st | Smith_media      | Tip of the Week                                      |
|              | 1st | Victoria_media   | The Gardeners' Dirt                                  |
|              | 2nd | Ellis_media      | Living Magazine Articles                             |
|              | 2nd | Collin_media     | Collin County Master Gardener Website                |
| large        | 1st | Tarrant_media    | Above the lawn                                       |
|              | 1st | Montgomery_media | In The Garden  |

## 2008 Awards Continued

| Education |     |                 |   |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|---|
| small     | 1st | Brazos_educ     | Gardening 101   |
|           | 2nd | EIPaso_educ     | Garden Talks at the Farmer's Market                       |
|           | 3rd | Leon_educ       | "Pumpkin Patch"   |
| medium    | 1st | Walker_educ     | LEAF-PRO  |
|           | 2nd | Aransas_educ    | Live Oak Learning Center Field Trip                       |
|           | 2nd | Hood_educ       | 2008 Community Educational Series                         |
|           | 3rd | Potter_educ     | Gardening With The Masters Step by Step                   |
| med-lg    | 1st | Nueces_educ     | Learning To Grow  |
|           | 2nd | Victoria_educ   | Lunch & Learn With The Masters                            |
|           | 3rd | Smith_educ      | First Tuesday in the Garden–Seasonal Garden Tips Lectures |
|           | 3rd | Denton_educ     | Cool Shade for Third Grade                                |
| large     | 1st | Harris_educ     | Butterfly Gardening                                       |
|           | 2nd | Galveston_educ  | GCMGA Speakers Bureau                                     |
|           | 3rd | Montgomery_educ | 2008 Texas Master Gardener Conference                     |
|           | 3rd | Tarrant_educ    | Community Gardener Certification Program                  |

| Project |     |                |  |
|---------|-----|----------------|--|
| small   | 1st | Hunt_proj      | The Heritage Garden of Hunt County                         |
|         | 2nd | Rockwall_proj  | Rockwall County Discovery Garden                           |
|         | 3rd | Fannin_proj    | Fannin County National Earth-Kind™ Rose Field Trial        |
|         | 3rd | Kaufman_proj   | Storm Water Management and Water Literacy Demonstration    |
| medium  | 1st | Burnet_proj    | Burnet Middle School Greenhouse Project                    |
|         | 1st | Wood_proj      | Butterfly Haven at Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape       |
|         | 2nd | McLennan_proj  | Children's Garden Fair                                     |
|         | 2nd | Parker_proj    | City of Azle Central Park                                  |
|         | 3rd | Walker_proj    | LEAF-PRO Demonstration Gardens and Outdoor Learning Center |
| med-lg  | 1st | Nueces_proj    | Prescott Elementary Goes Green                             |
|         | 2nd | Victoria_proj  | Painting Texas With Wildflowers (PTWW) – Phase I           |
|         | 3rd | Smith_proj     | Our Secret Garden  |
| large   | 1st | Galveston_proj | Insects in the City . . . A Visual Display                 |
|         | 2nd | Dallas_proj    | Lake Cliffs Park Demonstration Garden                      |
|         | 2nd | Harris_proj    | Houston Habitat for Humanity                               |
|         | 3rd | Bexar_proj     | Children's Vegetable Garden Program                        |
|         | 3rd | Tarrant_proj   | Thistle Hill Children's Sensory Garden                     |

| Newsletter |     |                 |   |
|------------|-----|-----------------|---|
| small      | 1st | Rockwall_news   | EnviroSMART   |
|            | 2nd | Brazos_news     | Get It Growing (GIG)                                |
|            | 3rd | Hunt_news       | "Seeds of Knowledge"                                |
|            | 3rd | Somervell_news  | SCMGA NEWS  |
|            | 3rd | Williamson_news | Williamson County Master Gardeners Journal,         |
| medium     | 1st | Burnet_news     | The "Dig It" News                                   |
|            | 2nd | Potter_news     | The Panhandle Perennial                             |
|            | 2nd | Wood_news       | Wood County Master Gardeners Association Newsletter |
|            | 3rd | Jefferson_news  | The Latest Dirt                                     |
|            | 3rd | Kerr_news       | Of Leaf & Limb                                      |

## 2008 Awards Continued

| Newsletter continued |     |                  |  |
|----------------------|-----|------------------|--|
| med-lg               | 1st | FtBend_news      | The Grapevine  |
|                      | 2nd | Smith_news       | MG Grapevine   |
|                      | 3rd | Travis_news      | The Compost Bin                                      |
| large                | 1st | Bexar_news       | The SCION  |
|                      | 2nd | Montgomery_news  | "Can You Dig It"                                     |
|                      | 3rd | Tarrant_news     | The Sharecropper                                     |
| Association          |     |                  |  |
| small                | 1st | EIPaso_assoc     | El Paso County Master Gardener Association (EPCMGA)  |
|                      | 2nd | Fannin_assoc     | Fannin County Master Gardeners                       |
|                      | 3rd | Hunt_assoc       | Hunt County Master Gardener Association              |
|                      | 3rd | Somervell_assoc  | Somervell County Master Gardeners Association        |
| medium               | 1st | Hood_assoc       | Lake Granbury Master Gardeners                       |
|                      | 1st | Wood_assoc       | Wood County Master Gardeners                         |
|                      | 2nd | Parker_assoc     | Parker County Master Gardener Association            |
|                      | 3rd | Bell_asoc        | Bell County Master Gardener Association              |
| med-lg               | 1st | Denton_assoc     | Denton County Master Gardener Association            |
|                      | 2nd | FtBend_assoc     | Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.              |
|                      | 2nd | Victoria_assoc   | Victoria County Master Gardener Association          |
| large                | 1st | Galveston_assoc  | Galveston County Master Gardener Association (GCMGA) |
|                      | 2nd | Bexar_assoc      | Bexar County Master Gardeners, Inc.                  |
|                      | 3rd | Montgomery_assoc | Montgomery County Master Gardener Association        |
|                      | 3rd | Tarrant_assoc    | Tarrant County Master Gardener Association           |
| Individual           |     |                  |  |
| small                | 1st | EIPaso_ind       | Virginia L. Morris                                   |
|                      | 2nd | Somervell_ind    | Donna Hagar  |
|                      | 3rd | Hildalgo_ind     | Norma Linda Santos-Sanchez                           |
|                      | 3rd | Kaufman_ind      | Brad Ackerman  |
|                      | 3rd | Blanco_ind       | Susan Hamm   |
| medium               | 1st | Potter_ind       | Doris Rogers   |
|                      | 2nd | Walker_ind       | George and Sandy Tykol                               |
|                      | 3rd | Wood_ind         | Billie Wilder  |
| med-lg               | 1st | Denton_ind       | Mary Morrow  |
|                      | 2nd | Nueces_ind       | Stephanie Martin                                     |
|                      | 2nd | Travis_ind       | Susan Decker   |
|                      | 3rd | FtBend_ind       | Cliff Bergman  |
|                      | 3rd | Smith_ind        | Martin Davis   |
|                      | 3rd | Victoria_ind     | Roy Cook   |
| large                | 1st | Bexar_ind        | Lou Kellogg  |
|                      | 1st | Galveston_ind    | Herman Auer  |
|                      | 2nd | Montgomery_ind   | Carol Weitzel  |
|                      | 3rd | Harris_ind       | Louis Mickler  |
|                      | 3rd | Dallas_ind       | Nancy Wilten   |
|                      | 3rd | Tarrant_ind      | Marilyn Sallee                                       |

## 2008 Awards Continued

| <i>Exhibits</i>   |                   | <i>Poster</i> |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1st Place         | Tarrant County    | 1st Place     | Tarrant County  |
| 2nd Place         | Highland Lakes MG | 2nd Place     | Denton County   |
| 3rd Place         | Victoria County   | 3rd Place     | Victoria County |
| Honorable mention | Denton County     | 3rd Place     | Dallas County   |

**Photos** taken by Doug Richards of the awards winners are posted at [Picasa Web Albums](#) or cut and paste this link into your browser:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=dougrichards&target=ALBUM&id=5329068464536734321&authkey=Gv1sRgCNHe57PgkpxDcg&authkey=Gv1sRgCNHe57PgkpxDcg&invite=CJSYgcML&feat=email>

These photos are free to download as you see fit. See [page 9](#) for Professional Photographer Ron Munden’s link to his photos.

### Judges Comments

The awards committee received numerous highly complimentary comments on the Texas Master Gardeners awards submissions from the out of state Judges. We should all be proud of the great job our associations are doing!!

“It was an honor and privilege to judge the excellent work of the Texas Master Gardeners. It was also very helpful to me, as State Coordinator Master Gardener Program, to see what the Master Gardeners in the Great State of Texas are doing. Thank you again for this excellent opportunity.”

“Thank you for the opportunity to review your projects. You have some great programs across Texas and I enjoyed learning a little about what you do.”

“WOW! What a task, and all because so many of the Texas MG programs are thriving and doing just great outreach and education and Extension work all across Texas!!”

“I was wondering how long the applications would remain online. I was hoping to share some of these with the MG programs here, both at the state and county level – not the specifics of names, etc, but the general info for the particular project, newsletter, or educational program.”

“My compliments to you, the Awards Committee and to Jayla for facilitating your AgriLife Extension Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Recognition and Awards Program!”

“Thank you for the opportunity to review and score the Texas MG projects, educational programs, and newsletters. This was difficult because they were all good. I tried to score fairly and hope I did what you needed.”

“Excellent competition again!”

“I had a lot of fun doing it, and it was also a learning experience for me to see what other MG programs in Texas are doing, and also how the state association recognizes excellence in programming and outreach efforts.”

## 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.

## TMGA News

### *EarthKind® News for May* **Chamblee Rose Garden Dedicated**



During the celebration this bronze sculpture was unveiled. "Fidelity" was created by artists Cherry and Jim Day of Whitehouse. A plaque on the base dedicates the sculpture to Dr. Stephen W. George, "The man who brought EarthKind to the world".

The Chamblee Rose Garden at Tyler's LeGrand Gardens was officially opened in March with a celebration that included speeches by Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass, Dr. Stephen George and Mark Chamblee, owner of Chamblee Roses. The garden features 120 Earth-Kind® roses donated by the Chamblee family in memory of Mark Chamblee's grandfather, Walter Kelley, a former groundskeeper of the Goodman Estate, which is now the Goodman Museum, site of the LeGrand Gardens.

The Chamblee family has lengthy ties with the Goodman family. Mr. Kelley was born on the Goodman farm and Mark Chamblee says that is where he learned to tend roses while working for his own father who grew roses on the Goodman grounds.

The rose garden is the first step in the development of the LeGrand Gardens at the Goodman Museum which will be the first entirely Earth-Kind® botanical garden in the world. Additional plans include butterfly, azalea and kitchen gardens all of which will utilize the Earth-Kind® approach to land management.

### **Texas Legislators Receive Earth-Kind® Roses**

April 2, 2009 was designated as Texas Agriculture Day by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples. As part of the celebration individuals connected with all phases of agriculture descended on Austin for 3 days of exhibits and conversations with state lawmakers in Austin. Included in this effort was a group representing the Earth-Kind® initiative. Armed with 600 Belinda's Dream rose bushes to distribute at the capitol, this was among the most popular delegations. Along with Dr. Steve George, the group included Garey Wylie, and Mark Chamblee. Belinda's Dream was the first rose to be declared as Earth-Kind® so made an appropriate presentation gift. Two hundred of the plants were delivered directly to the offices of the legislators while 400 more were distributed from the Earth-Kind® booth that was set up in the capitol building. Look for a splendid display across Texas next spring as these 600 new Earth-Kind® roses begin their awesome display.

Submitted by Joan Leach



### **Paint Texas With Wildflowers**

All of the participating counties will receive new information concerning their wildflower seeds for this year. They again can request amounts of 500 packets from TDA for this year's broadcast of seeds. If there are new areas or a different location that will be undertaken, we would like an addendum of those plans to add to

their original project. Thanks to the many who have returned their reporting and recording forms. It appears that the drought affected many of the projects. Hopefully this year will bring better results.

Counties, who were not able to participate last year, will be invited again to join the project. They will be given all of the necessary information for contacting TDA and TxDot representatives, as well as their contact person on our committee. We are still requesting photos of the initial projects to be part of a collage in the GO TEXAN booth at the State Fair in October, either the planting of, the results this Spring or both,

for those who were lucky enough to have gotten rain or had the ability to water their locations. So, please continue to send them to Maria Sobczak, [msgarden03@suddenlink.net](mailto:msgarden03@suddenlink.net) or mail them to VCMGA, Attention - Maria Sobczak, P.O. Box 1723, Victoria, Texas 77902

We look forward to expanding the numbers of counties taking part in the Painting Texas with Wildflowers project in order to see more wildflowers across our great state. We have some competition in Austin, where their newspaper, THE STATESMAN, is running a campaign to raise funds for the purchase of seeds to be spread along highways and parks. I will be contacting them to see if this is something that we can collaborate with them or perhaps dovetail their idea into our project. If anyone has more information about this please contact me through either of the above methods.

Until next month, I hope you are able to enjoy the wildflowers in your area and that you can gather some seeds from them if possible.

Maria Sobczak

# TMGA News

## 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](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)



## 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](mailto:mgardener@suddenlink.net).

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



### 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 Earth-

Kind® 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](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](mailto:grow.texan@texasagriculture.gov)

## Texas Master Gardener License Plates

Support the Texas Master Gardeners by displaying specialty license plates on your vehicle. More than 70 percent of the specialty plate fee is dedicated toward a scholarship fund for future Master Gardener Coordinators.



The specialty plate fee (\$30 or \$40, depending on the plate) is collected in addition to the regular registration fee and any other applicable fees.

Place your order online at <http://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us>

## *State Conference*



### Conference Photos

Many of you may have noticed a professional photographer, Ron Munden, taking photos throughout the Marshall Conference. He has posted the photos on his website for your viewing and purchasing. The link is:

<http://easttexasowns.com/TMGCphotos/>

or people can just go to the EastTexasTowns.com main page and click on the 2009 TMGC logo.

The link is now live and all of the photos will be on the site in the next 3 days. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Munden.

Additionally, Doug Richards has posted his own personal photos at the link below. These are free to download. [2009 conf pics](http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreidir?uname=dougrichards&target=ALBUM&id=5330077639281325281&authkey=Gv1sRgClnZ3cijx4T00gE&authkey=Gv1sRgClnZ3cijx4T00gE&feat=email) or copy and paste the following link into your browser:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreidir?uname=dougrichards&target=ALBUM&id=5330077639281325281&authkey=Gv1sRgClnZ3cijx4T00gE&authkey=Gv1sRgClnZ3cijx4T00gE&feat=email>

If anyone else would like to post photos from the conference for everyone else to see/download on any online photo site, please send me the link and I will include it in next month's newsletter.

Donna Hagar, [dmthagar@gmail.com](mailto:dmthagar@gmail.com)

## **CONGRATULATIONS to Marshall and Harrison County MG for an EXCELLENT Conference!**

**The 2010 TMGA Conference will have it ALL...**

**Beautiful Conference/Hotel Site—Omni Mandalay Hotel**

- \* Timely Education Topics**
- \* Hands-On Sessions**
- \* Well-Known and Respected Speakers**
- \* Tours to Inspire**

For updated 2010 TMGA Conference information visit:

[www.2010TMGAconference.org](http://www.2010TMGAconference.org)

2010 TMGA Conference Office: (214) 904-3054

Dallas County Master Gardener Association, Inc.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service



### **Congratulations to Marshall and Harrison County Master Gardeners for a GREAT Conference!**



### **SCMGA and LGMG to Host the 2011 TMGA Conference in Glen Rose**

For those of you who weren't at the TMGA Conference in Marshall, Glen Rose was selected as the site for the TMGA 2011 Conference. The Somervell County Master Gardener Association and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners will be co-hosting this event. We are very excited about the prospect of welcoming Master Gardeners from around the state to our beautiful rural surroundings and unique venue. We have numerous attractions nearby for tours and have already begun planning some exciting educational sessions and hands-on workshops. Bookmark our website [www.2011tmgaconference.org](http://www.2011tmgaconference.org) and check back often for progress as we make our plans for an unforgettable conference!

See you in Glen Rose in 2011.

## 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 attached 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 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](#)) 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>

## County Upcoming Events

### 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.

### May 4, 2009 Kaufman County Master Gardener Master Gardener Meeting

9 am to 1130, KCMG Office, 2471 N State HWY 34  
Kaufman

Guest speaker Paul Riddel- Topic: Carnivorous plants  
Meeting is open to the public at no charge.

2009 Master Gardener Class Kaufman County Master Gardeners will hold free informational meetings for persons interested in becoming Master Gardeners.

Meetings will be Tuesday May 5th and Tuesday May 19th at 6:30 PM at the Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 2471 N State Highway 34  
Kaufman, Texas 75142

Pre-registration is not required, but is recommended. For more information [www.kcmastergardeners.org](http://www.kcmastergardeners.org) 972 932 9069. Thank you! Lynn Ackerman Kaufman County Master Gardener 972 486 3797 214 502 6567

### MAY 9, 2009 Comal County Master Gardeners An Herb Affair

Comal County Master Gardeners join the Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 E. Evans Rd., San Antonio to present a free, fun, family-friendly festival. Learn about growing and using herbs in the home--in food, cleaning, pest control and home remedies.



Enjoy hands-on wreath-making and herbal printing. Learn how to dry herbs and use herb plantings in your landscape. Special activities for children. For more information: (210) 651-4565 or see the website: [www.antiqueroseemporium.com/events.html](http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com/events.html) Thank you, Kathleen Scott

### Denton Master Gardeners Host 2009 Garden Tour and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9



DENTON, Texas – The Denton County Master Gardeners will celebrate the organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the annual Spring Garden Tour and Plant Sale from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9.

The perfect family event for Mother's Day weekend, the Spring Garden Tour includes seven beautiful residential gardens located in Flower Mound and South Denton. Each garden addresses a typical backyard situation for North Texas homeowners. These include a garden that thrives in a strong, western exposure; a low-maintenance yard designed for a family on the go; a stunning landscape on a steeply sloped lot that features year-round blooms, and a two-acre, certified wildlife habitat.

As an added bonus for 2009, each garden will include a "Diggin Deeper" outdoor demonstration covering topics specific to that particular yard. These range from organic gardening tips and square-foot gardening to perennials for shade and worm composting. Each demonstration will be conducted by veteran Master Gardeners, giving visitors an opportunity to "Learn from the Masters" and ask probing questions.

In addition, the Master Gardeners have selected their favorite plants for the Denton area, which will be offered at the organization's annual plant sale on the same day. Commercially grown annuals, perennials, herbs for sun and shade, hanging baskets and one-of-a-kind gifts will be available at special prices. The public will have the opportunity to acquire pass-along plants from the Master Gardeners' own yards, many of which are not available in local stores. The sale will be held from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church at the corner of Hobson and Teasley Lane.

Garden guests are invited to bring their cameras to record gardening ideas or snap a family Christmas photo that will be the envy of northern relations. For more information for the 2009 Spring Garden Tour and Plant Sale, visit [www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com).

## County Upcoming Events Continued

### May 9, 2009 Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners—Hidden Gardens Tour

On Saturday, May 9, 2009, the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners host their Hidden Gardens Tour. Enjoy 8 beautiful gardens and explore the private worlds created by gardeners in Aransas and San Patricio Counties. This delightful garden self-tour is from 9:00 A.M to 4:00 P. Rain date is Saturday, May 16, 2009

Tickets are \$10 and are available in Aransas County at Green Acres Demonstration Gardens. Green Acres is co-located with Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Aransas County Office at 611 E. Mimosa, Rockport, Texas. In San Patricio County, tickets may be purchased at Greens 'N Things, 801 Moore Ave., Portland, Texas. For more information call the Master Gardeners at the AgriLife Extension – Aransas County Office, 361 790-0103.



### May 11, 2009 Earth-Kind® Roses with Garey Wylie Somervell County Master Gardener Association

Community Horticultural Education Program May 11, 2009

6:30 p.m. Somervell County Citizens Center

We are very pleased and fortunate to have Garey Wylie as a speaker at our next program. He's been a Master Gardener since 2001, was a charter member of the Johnson County Master Gardener Association, served as president of the JCMGA during 2001-2003, has been a director of the Texas Master Gardener Association as well as President of the state organization during 2008. Because he has a passion for roses, he assisted in the organization of and participated in the first Earth-Kind® Rose Specialist Training Course in 2004. He became a member of the Cleburne Parks Board in 2005 and became National coordinator of the Earth-Kind® Rose Program for Parks

Departments in 2006. Serving in this capacity led to travels throughout the U.S. with the goal of having Earth-Kind® Roses in city parks nationwide as well as internationally.

Earth-Kind® Roses are among the most thoroughly tested, and environmentally responsible plants for use in Texas Landscapes. The roses do very well in almost any soil type. They are not immune to pest problems but their tolerance to pests is so great that they rarely require the use of chemical pesticides. Only a few roses have received the Earth-Kind® designation. However, the list continues to grow as new selections meet the criteria.

Garey will discuss how the Earth-Kind® Rose program came into existence, the 19 roses that have thus far earned the designation of Earth-Kind® and much more. All of you will want to have some of these beautiful, easy to grow roses in your garden.

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

### May 12, 2009 Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

If you have shady areas in your yard and don't know what to plant there, this talk is for you. Come to the next meeting of the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) and hear Judit Green from Texas Parks and Wildlife tell us about shade gardening with

native plants.

We will meet on the second Tuesday, May 12, 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)



### May 12, 2009 Texas Discovery Gardens Plant Sale Volunteer Training

The Plant Sale Volunteer Training is Tuesday, May 12

from 6-8pm. Volunteers will learn about the many species of organic native and adapted plants for sale

and their planting/care instructions. Volunteers get first dibs on our organic plant varieties. The plant sale is on May 15 and 16. Please RSVP to Blake Morgan, Programs and Volunteer Manager, at [Volunteers@TexasDiscoveryGardens.org](mailto:Volunteers@TexasDiscoveryGardens.org) or (214) 428-7476 x24.

## County Upcoming Events Continued

### Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2



#### Green Thumb Gardening Series

Louis Mickler, Harris County Master Gardener, will present a program on Growing Plants from Seeds and Cuttings. Propagation is a great way to

save money by learning to grow your own plants. When: Tuesday, **May 12, 2009**, 6:30-9pm  
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

Mike Howlett, Assistant Director of Jessie Jones Park & Nature Center will present a program on Frogs and Toads. You will learn the benefits of frogs and toads in the garden and how to identify species of frogs and toads by sight and sound. When: **May 20, 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, **May 18, 2009**, 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>



**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>



#### 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](mailto:bar-nun@htcomp.net).

## County Upcoming Events Continued

### Amarillo Master Gardeners

#### 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 16, 2009—Rockwall County Master Gardener Association

The 2009 Tour of Gardens sponsored by the Rockwall County Master Gardener Association will be held May 16 from 9am-2pm. This year we are featuring 4 private gardens with a variety of

styles, 2 local business gardens and the ever growing and changing Rockwall County Discovery Garden.

Tour addresses and a map will be on the tickets. This is an at your leisure tour. You may tour the gardens in any order you choose, just be sure to make sure you leave enough time to visit all the gar-

dens before they close at 2 PM!

Tickets are on sale now at the following local retailers: American National Bank - all Rockwall branches, Calloway's in Mesquite, Covington's in Rowlett, Culver's Restaurant in Rockwall, Homesley's in Forney, Land Art, Landscape Source and North Texas Waterscapes - all in Rockwall.

Tickets are also available at the County Extension Office located at 1350 East Washington Street in Rockwall

Monday through Friday from 8-5 (closed 12-1 for lunch), as well as, any Rockwall County Master Gardener. For more information please call 972-204-7660 or visit <http://rockmga.org>.

### May 18, 2009 Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

Growing Green the EarthKind® Way

Speaker – Mary Lynn Martin

Date: May 18, 2009 Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Location: Texas AgriLIFE Ext Office, 1410 W Pearl, Granbury TX

RSVP Extension Office at (817) 579-3280

By: May 15, 2009

Learn the procedure for growing roses and other per-

ennials using the EarthKind® gardening method with Lake Granbury Master Gardener, Mary Lynn Martin. Mary Lynn is an experienced rose grower and EarthKind® specialist whose gardens were featured



on the 2007 International Rose Society Garden Tour. Submitted by Doug Richards



### May 19, 2009 – “Composting the Easy Way” – Brown Bag – Rockport, TX

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, Master Gardener, Russell Bell, will present the Brown Bag, “Composting the Easy Way” You will learn composting basics and short cuts that will allow you to recycle common

materials and yard waste into useful soil amendments.

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.

### May 30, 2009, Cherokee County Master Gardeners Garden Tour

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](mailto:billingsk704@yahoo.com).



## *News from Around the State*

### **Milam County Little River Basin MGA News**

As housing and commercial developments continue to pour concrete over Texas' wildscape, many varieties of native plants could become extinct.

But all is not lost. Through a joint venture of Milam County's Little River Basin Master Gardener Association, El Camino Real Master Naturalists Chapter, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Milam County volunteers are collecting wildflower seeds to be sealed in a vault at the Millennium Seed Bank of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, U.K. for future generations to enjoy.



On March 31, Milam County's Little River Basin Master Gardeners and El Camino Real Master Naturalists were ferried by trailer to a virtually untouched piece of property near Gause for field training in the Millennium Seed Bank program.

On March 30 and 31, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists underwent two days of classroom and field training conducted by Michael Eason, the Lady Bird center's conservation program manager, who is heading up the seed collection project in Texas, and Flo Oxley, LBJWC director of plant conservation and education.

In Texas, Ms. Oxley explained, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center serves as the

"mother ship" of the Millennium Seed Bank Project, working with the Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Harris County; Sul Ross State University in Alpine; the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute at Fort Davis; the Sibley Nature Center in Midland; and two groups of trained Milam County volunteers.

Wildflowers are threatened because of people need places to live, places to raise food, roads, stores, and "all of these threaten habitat where all these plants are found," Ms. Oxley said. Seed banking serves as a savings account for wild plants.

Depending upon the species, scientists have proven that seeds 300 years to a thousand years old can still germinate, Eason said. Texas boasts roughly 6,000 species of wildflower and plants, and thus far, about 10 percent of those seeds have been harvested.

Milam County wildflower seeds will be stored with plants from throughout the world at Wakehurst Place West Sussex as "an insurance policy" against extinction. Easton's wildflower seed program of recruiting volunteers, training them and conducting field trips, has been adopted as a national prototype.

Wildflower seeds will be used in research, and during next year's Phase 2, seeds will be used in plant restoration projects, replenishing areas where native species have been wiped out, said Eason.

Milam County has fewer than 500 plant species identified in the University of Texas herbarium, and the number should be in the thousands, said Eason. Apparently, Milam County's flora has not been completely surveyed, because of a lack of field researchers, Eason said. Not only will the seeds be preserved for perpetuity, but Milam County's Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists will be contributing to the state's plant data base. Identifying the county's flora will help botanists track contiguous habitat of wildflowers and other native plants, Eason said.

Most landowners who volunteer their properties for seed collectors are "excited to know the seeds from their plants are going to be at the Kew Seed Bank," Ms. Oxley said.

The goal is to collect seeds from 24,000 species of plants by 2010 representing 10 percent of the world's dry land flora; to collect seeds from all of the U.K.'s native plants; to further research into conservation and preservation of seeds and plants; and serve as a focal point for research in this area and encourage public interest. Seeds taken from the field are cleaned and their identification confirmed. They are dried, repackaged and stored in sub-zero conditions.

Seeds collected in Texas will be taken to the wildflower center where a corps of about 30 volunteers will assemble for a pizza and seed cleaning party. Workers will remove excess plant material, and divide up seeds between Kew, the National Center for Genetic Resource Preservation at Fort Collins, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Milam County teams will be taught to clean and process and package the seeds they collect, she said.

"Then they will have been a part of the entire process: identifying the species they want to collect; going out and finding them; collecting the voucher specimens; collecting the seeds and cleaning them," Ms. Oxley said.

A bonus to wild plant seed collection is the probability that Milam County teams are sure to discover the illusive *Spiranthes Parksii*, or Navasota Ladies-tresses growing in East Milam County, Ms. Oxley said. The rare wild orchid has been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1982. The flower is a Milam County native, and the property used for seed hunts, qualifies as native habitat.

Ms. Oxley praised Milam County's seed collection volunteers for being organized, dedicated, and ready to work.

"This is going to be one of the most successful volunteer corps we have gotten," Ms. Oxley said, adding that the work of grass roots volunteers such as Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists is vital to the success of the seed collection project, Ms. Oxley said. "We have a very, very large state," Ms. Oxley said. "We could not hire enough seed collectors to blanket the state. These are our seed collectors and they are doing the work."

To learn more about the Millennium Seed Bank Project, and view a video of seed collectors in action, visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Website at <http://www.wildflower.org/>.