



2010 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.

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From Our President

The countdown is in full swing now for our Annual Meeting in “Big D” (or Las Colinas to be accurate). Dallas County Master Gardeners are to be commended for what looks like a wonderful conference. I’m looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Your Outreach Committee had a great meeting in March. I would like to thank Ila Jean and Jon Carothers for hosting us. The committee did a good job last year gathering information from associations around the state regarding demographics and opinions. This meeting was to discuss where we go next. The consensus of the committee was to increase the personal interaction of the committee and the Executive Committee with the TMGA membership by visiting the local associations. You will be hearing more about these plans as soon as we bring them before your Board of Directors during the annual meeting in Dallas. Again, if you have any comments, just send me an email.

See you next week.

Lonnie

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Annual Conference Information



Just eight days until the 2010 TMGA Conference that the Dallas County Master Gardeners have dedicated many hours to making an exciting and educational event for each participant. The 2010 Conference Committee

wants each of you to attend and announces that registration is still open for a few more days. For the agenda, registration form and hotel information see the web site at www.2010TMGAconference.org

Most of the planned classes have a few seats available. The many experts who are giving classes and lectures will make this a memorable educational experience.



There are still a few Tours open and they include the renowned "Dallas Blooms" at the Arboretum and the new Butterfly House

at the Texas Discovery Garden, both sights not to be missed.

The Omni Mandalay still has a few rooms and suites available for the conference participants.

Speakers at the conference meals include Mariana Greene, Doug Welsh and Rosemary Rumbley who will entertain and inform you. As a matter of fact, it has been decided that if you wish to attend only one or more of the meals and not register for the whole conference, that is possible. To register for meal service only, just fill out the information at the top of the registration form and complete section B under the heading "Guests". Check the meals you wish to attend and send the form and your check ASAP. The various meals are as follows:

Friday Breakfast is with Mariana Greene and Dr. Doug Welsh.

Friday Lunch will be the Junior Master Gardener Awards.

Friday Evening will be Master Gardener Specialist Recognition Dinner and Rosemary Rumbley as featured speaker.

Saturday Brunch will be the Texas Master Gardener Awards

We also want to remind everyone of the truly beauti-

ful handmade Bluebonnet Quilt that is being raffled on Friday. This is a masterwork of quilting elegance and some lucky Master Gardener will take it home. Friday there will also be a Silent Auction starting at 11 AM and continuing all afternoon. The Committee has collected many beautiful and unusual items for this auction. See a few of the many items below!



Stick Dog Metal Art
 → Art
 ← AHS Encyclopedia of Garden Plants



→ Texas Ties
 ← Blooming HubCaps



→ Oil Painting of Thatched Roof Cottage
 ← Texas Birdhouse



→ Hummingbird Note Cards
 ← Quilted Purse



→ Waterford Marquis Ice Bucket set



In keeping with our emphasis on conservation and sustainability, we invite everyone to print your own copy of the handouts for the educational sessions. Help us avoid the printing expense and possible waste of extras. Please consult your registration confirmation for the password necessary to access the handouts on the website prior to the conference. Don't forget that the Dallas County Master Gardeners will have a sale table in the hotel foyer throughout the conference. The variety of the publications is extensive and should provide for all requirements. There will also be convention lapel pins, key chains and shirts for sale.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee at TMGA2010@hotmail.com.

Annual Conference Information Continued



2011 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 27-29, 2011 Somervell County Expo Center in Glen Rose, TX Co-hosted by Somervell County and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

While visiting Granbury during the 2011 State Conference, be sure to visit The Nutshell Bakery on the



corner of Pearl and Crockett Streets, which was once one of the many saloons on the square, for a glimpse into one of Granbury's historical mysteries.

In a mural painted on wall is depicted a man named John St. Helen who first surfaced in Glen Rose five years after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The handsome black-haired man with a limp lived a little less than a year there when he learned a local politician's daughter was to be married and the United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas was on her guest list. Whereupon, he immediately moved to Granbury without bothering to pack.

In Granbury he became a saloon keeper and acted in amateur theatrical productions. He was quite at home on the stage, had tremendous stage presence and also had an almost encyclopedic mastery of the plays of William Shakespeare.

Although he did not drink himself, on one specific day a year he drank himself into a stupor. That day was April 14, -- the anniversary of the Lincoln assassination.

While in Granbury he fell gravely ill and thought to be terminally ill. He summoned a priest and his friend Finis Bates, a local lawyer, to his bedside and made what he believed was a deathbed statement. "My name," he said, "is not John St. Helen. I am John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of Abraham Lincoln." He then revealed where they could find the gun he used to kill the president. As it turned out, St. Helen recovered and quickly disappeared from Granbury, whereupon Finis Bates searched his rented room and found a Colt single-shot pocket pistol of a type first manufactured in 1866. It was wrapped in the front page of a Washington, D.C. newspaper dated April 15, 1865.



Although there are historians who scoff at such conjecture, the popular television series "20/20" and "Unsolved Mysteries" have provided enough corroborating evidence to at least arouse a collective curiosity. What do you think?

For more information on the 2011 Conference, visit www.2011tmgconference.org



October 11-14, 2011 2011 International Master Gardener Conference

West Virginia University Extension Service and the West Virginia Master Gardener Association invite you to join us at the 2011 International Master Gardener Conference, October 11 -14 in Charleston, West Virginia. Come and join us in sharing gardening information, history and Appalachian culture.

The International Master Gardener Conference will be held at the Charleston Convention Center October 11-14, 2011 when fall brings cool nights and colorful mountain scenery. The event will provide opportunities to learn gardening techniques that will help increase biodiversity, control exotic weeds, make the most of native plants in the landscape and improve gardening methods. Pre and post tours will help you discover the splendor of the Appalachian Mountains and the beauty and history of West Virginia.

[Information](#)

TMGA Roving Reporter

by Peggy Jones, Cypress Basin Master Gardener

Sandy Gammon spent her childhood in Southeast Texas tagging along behind her father in his vegetable garden. It was in Deweyville, in Newton County, not far from Angelina National Forest. "I thought my Daddy hung the moon," the Gulf Coast native recalls. "He loved his garden so I loved his garden. I can't recall ever having any more fun than digging potatoes with Daddy."

That passion for the vegetable garden led Sandy to become a certified Texas Master Gardener, to be elected president of the Liberty County Master Gardener's Association then to train as a specialist not only in vegetables but in Earth Kind roses. "That's what I love," she tells me, "Vegetables and roses."

After training in Glen Rose last summer under TAMU Vegetable Specialist Joe Masabni, Tom Leroy and Bill Adams, she went home to conduct two different county workshops on vegetables.

Now, propelled by Sandy's specialist training in vegetables, Liberty County Master Gardener's Association is teaming with the Rotary Club to give back even more. "We have an old school here that was destroyed by a hurricane," she tells me. "So we're working with Rotary to turn that property into a community garden."

Sandy Gammon exemplifies everything our Specialist Training is about: advancing your knowledge in a specific area of horticulture then passing on that expertise to benefit others.

Texas Master Gardeners Association, working with TAMU and Texas Agri-Life Extension Service, train specialists each year in vegetables, Earth-Kind® roses, Earth-Kind® landscaping, greenhouse production, irrigation, xeriscape, rainwater harvesting, entomology and Junior Master Gardeners. The state requires specialist training be a minimum of eight hours but most, like the vegetable training Sandy went through last summer, are two-day courses led by TAMU specialists. "They were very entertaining and educational," she says. "I learned so much beyond our master gardening training. Probably the most helpful to me was learning how to deal with the insects that plague vegetable gardens. "Everybody's got 'em," she laughs. "Plus, what I learned really helps me answer peoples' question better."

Another example of passing it on. After specialist training you must perform at least 20 hours community service training others. For Sandy, that meant holding seminars in Dayton and Cleveland, in north and south Liberty County, for about 70 people.

Newly-elected TMGA Treasurer Chris Oefinger says he's found some confusion exists among members about specialist training. "Whether you pay for your training yourself or your local association pays for it, once you complete your required community service hours you are eligible to receive \$50 reimbursement from TMGA," he explains. "Just fill out all the paperwork and have the County Agent sign off on the invoice."

The agent signs off on the completion and then it is sent to the trainer to be reported to the state so you can be recognized at the annual conference. Paperwork for specialist training reimbursement is on the TMGA website. The reimbursement is more symbolic than anything. Specialist training can cost several hundred dollars, not counting your travel, food and room expense. Often the local chapter pays for the tuition since you will come back and train other members in the specialty, but normally any travel expense is on you.

So why go to all that trouble and expense? "Because you get so much information, meet so many people with the same interests, make lots of contacts and have the pleasure of giving back," Sandy tells me. "That's reason enough to take the specialist training."

Once trained and word gets out about your specialty, you may be invited by other groups to pass on your knowledge. Perhaps by conducting a class in your area of specialty for the master gardener interns; or, like Oefinger, who leads training sessions in his specialty areas of rainwater harvesting and EarthKind Landscaping for the Mount Pleasant library.

Or maybe you'll be like Sandy Gammon, still following in her father's footsteps, as she uses her specialist skills to help create a vegetable garden for her community.

Specialist Training



September 27 – October 1, 2010 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training

– Texas AgriLife Extension Service Bexar County Office, San Antonio, TX

Get immersed in the wonderful world of insects this week, and come out feeling like a true entomologist. Meet others like you, who have a passion for bugs! Topics will include: Ento 101, Integrated Pest Management, Beneficials, Spiders, Urban Pests, Insect Photography, Veggie Pests, Landscape & Ornamental Pests, Invasives, and much more! Hosted by Molly Keck, Extension Program Specialist, and the Bexar 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 30 applicants; deadline is July 30, 2010

Contact Molly Keck at mekeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210/467-6575 with any questions.

[Registration and information](#)

Special Events & Opportunities



April 3rd & 4th Heart O' Texas Orchid Society's 39th Annual Or- chid Show & Sale

"Easter Orchids"
2010 Zilker Botanical Gar-
dens Center
2220 Barton Springs Road,
Austin, TX 78746

(512) 477-8672 Show & Plant Sale : 10:00am -
5:00pm , Saturday April 3rd & 10:00am - 4:00pm Sun-
day, April 4th.

This year we are very proud to present the 39th An-
nual Orchid Show here in Austin. Orchids are Mother

Nature at her best, so come join us and check out all
the beautiful orchids that will be on display. There will
also be hundreds of blooming orchids for sale, as well
as helpful information for growing these beautiful
plants from vendors and society members. Need flow-
ers for Easter...orchids are becoming one of the most
popular flowers in the U.S. , so why not get an orchid
this year for that special occasion. Admission to the
event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.
For a complete schedule of events, or for more infor-
mation, please contact: Geoffrey Frost, 1011 Strick-
land Drive; Austin , TX 78748-4847 (Telephone (512)
413-3199; e-mail geoffreyfrost@yahoo.com), or visit
our web-site: <http://www.hotos.org/>



TIME FOR ROSES AND MORE

Roses, perennials, and land-
scaping pop into mind with the
coming of spring. Dr. William C.
Welch, Texas A & M Professor
and Texas AgriLife Extension
Service Landscape Horticultur-

ist, will explore the various aspects of these three top-
ics when he speaks in Hamilton at the Lee Confer-
ence Center on **Tuesday, April 6, 6:00 p.m.** His
presentation is open to the public for an admission fee

of \$5, with CEUs available to Master Gardeners and
Interns, who will be admitted free. Audience will be
limited to the first 100 to get their tickets from the
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Dig This, Maestro-
Gro, Hamilton's AgriLife Extension office, or at the
door. Master Gardeners can reserve their seat by
contacting Bonnie Chism at 254/372-3120 or bonchism@htcomp.net. Further information is available at
AgriLife Extension Services at 254/386-3919. Co-
sponsors are Texas AgriLife Extension and the Hamil-
ton County Master Gardener Association. *Submitted
by: Bonnie Chism*

Special Events & Opportunities Continued



Rainwater Harvesting Conference
Saturday, April 24, 2010,
9:00-2:00
Texas AgriLife Extension Building, 1102 E. FM 1294

Presenter: Billy Kniffen

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Water Resource Specialist National Director of American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association. Nationally known speaker and educator, Billy and his wife Mary live in Menard, TX, where they supply all their water needs through rainwater capture.

You will learn:

- Where the rain goes—the science behind rainwater harvesting
- Watersheds and runoff
- Basic rainwater harvesting methods—from rain barrels to whole house systems.
- How to build a rain barrel—and you may win a rain barrel to take home!

Cost: \$30 for the general public, \$25 for Master Gardeners. Includes lunch and all materials. Master Gardeners will earn 4 CEU's.

For registration information, please visit www.lubbockmastergardeners.org

Brazos County



Good Garden Therapy - Earth Kind Methods for Gardening

Hosted By The Brazos County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Master Gardeners
 Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX.
 Saturday, May 22, 2010, 9 a.m. to noon

Get answers to your spring-summer vegetable gardening questions and prepare now for a successful fall garden with Tom LeRoy, Montgomery County Extension Agent and author of the Southern Kitchen Garden.

Learn about “The Soil Food Web”, a new model of soil fertility and management, from John Ferguson, owner of Nature’s Way Resources. This model explains how biological methods (and organic methods) work to save time and money and give better gardening results without toxic chemicals. Cost \$20.

Remember, “Gardening should be enjoyable and good therapy,”

Visit our web site <http://www.brazosmg.com> for information or email us at brazosmg@ag.tamu.edu or phone: 979-823-0129



5th Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference Nacogdoches, Texas June 2-5, 2010

Workshops* *Tours* *Lectures

Mark your calendars for the next native plant conference! Registration begins February 1, 2010 The Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center is once again proud to host the 5th Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference June 2-5 in historic Nacogdoches, Texas. *The conference will be held on the beautiful SFA campus which is home to the Mast Arboretum, the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden, as well as the 40-acre Pineywoods Native Plant Center.*

Come join a unique blend of naturalists, horticulturists, nurserymen, landscapers, and gardeners to hear talks ranging from green roofs to landscape design and native azaleas. Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to enjoy unique local flora from a choice of guided tours as well as educational workshops. Mark your calendar and go to <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu> for the registration and the conference agenda.

For details visit <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu>

For [more information](#) contact Dawn Stover at 936-468-4404 or dparish@sfasu.edu
 Hosted by the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center
 Stephen F Austin State University
 Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

County Upcoming Events

April Plant Sales Around the State

Angelina County Master Gardener Annual PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 10, 2010 8 a.m.-3 p.m. At the Angelina County Farmers Market, 2107 S. Medford Dr.
Proven Performers and Practical Prices
Contact: Carol Chalfant lbc123@peoplepc.com

Texas Tuff Plants” is the theme of the **Johnson County Master Gardener Plant Sale** on Saturday, April 17, 2010. The sale to be held at the Cleburne Senior Center from 9 AM to 3 PM will feature perennials, shrubs, and annuals selected for their ability to perform well in harsh Texas conditions. There will be talks by gardening specialists and master gardeners will be available for consultations.
For additional information contact Joan Leach, leach@ticnet.com

The **Jefferson County Master Gardeners** will host their annual spring plant sale and Market Day on April 17, 8am-2pm at the Southeast Texas Regional Airport, Hangar #4 off of Jerry Ware Road in Beaumont. This event is the largest of it's kind in the Golden Triangle, complete with vendors of all kinds and of course, a huge plant sale. Gardening seminars are offered free of charge and Master Gardeners are on hand to answer questions and to help you choose the right plants for your landscape. For more information, call 490-835-8461.

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale - April 17

Please come and join the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners once again for our Annual Plant Sale. The sale will be on Saturday, April 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hewlette Park Pavilion across from the Hilton Hotel <http://hoodcountymastergardeners.org>

The **SFA Gardens at Stephen F. Austin State University** will host its annual Garden Gala Day on April 17 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the lower arboretum parking lot on Wilson Drive. Stephen F. Austin State University Outdoor Pursuits will host an Earth Day Celebration in conjunction with this year's sale. The event features the annual spring plant sale fundraiser benefiting the SFA Mast Arboretum, Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, and educational programs hosted at the gardens. All the plants are produced at SFA by the staff, students and volunteers. According to Dawn Stover, Mast Arboretum horticulturist, a wide variety of hard to find, "Texas tough" plants will be available. The public is encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon. For more information call (936) 468-4404, or visit <http://arboretum.sfasu.edu> and click on "upcoming events."

The **Parker County Master Gardeners** Spring Plat Sale April 17, 2010 at 8:00am . The events are held rain or shine in the parking lot/lawn of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service office at 604 N. Main Street in Weatherford, Texas. There are tremendous selections of perennials, herbs, vegetable plants, annuals, shrubs, and roses available to help you get your gardening off to a great start. Master Gardeners will be on hand throughout the event to provide information about the plants, answer questions and assist with plant selection to meet your gardening needs. <http://www.pcmg-texas.org/plantsalead.htm>

Tarrant County Master Gardener Community and Demonstration Garden Annual Plant Sale, April 17, 2010, 9 am to 2 pm, Tarrant County Resource Connection. Perennials, Earth-Kind Roses, Herbs, Annuals, Native Grasses, Trees and many more, plus heritage plants from the landscapes of Master Gardeners. Demonstrations of composting and planting containers for patios. Bring plant and landscape questions to the "Ask a Master Gardener" table. For more information taddieh@sbcglobal.net

County Upcoming Events Continued

To preserve space in the newsletter, below is a list of MG events throughout Texas. If you'd like more information, please visit the TMGA Website: [April County Events](#) –

- ◆ April 9 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Cool Plants for the Shade Garden
- ◆ April 13 - Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
- ◆ April 17 - The SFA Gardens at Stephen F. Austin State Univ - Garden Gala Day
- ◆ April 17 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Plant Propagation
- ◆ April 20 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS - "Designing with Native Plants"
- ◆ April 24 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS - KIDS GARDEN FEST
- ◆ April 28 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - DIY Pond Building

News from Around the State



Tarrant County Master Gardeners—CASA INC

CASA (Community and Shelter Assistance) House is one of the services of Catholic Charities in Fort Worth Texas. CASA provides low income housing for individuals over age 62 and disabled persons over age 18. It is non-denominational and offered to anyone in Tarrant County. CASA is located at 3201 Sondra Drive. Members of the board of directors and staff at CASA approached the Tarrant

County Master Gardeners to install a garden at CASA House to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities in Fort Worth.

The area for the garden is at the center of a five story housing facility and is approximately a quarter of an acre in size. Residents as well as board and staff had input into the overall garden design which includes a covered patio area, barbeque area and raised and box beds that are handicap accessible. There are areas for herbs and vegetables, as well as flowers. There is a small water feature planned and electrical outlets for a fan and overhead lighting at the pergola. Seating is planned throughout the garden area which will incorporate native as well as adapted plants and shrubs. Knockout roses and Earth-Kind® roses will be put in at various spots in the garden.

In early August 2009 plans for the new garden were presented to the staff and board. CASA enthusiastically accepted the entire plan and immediately began fund raising for the project. A general contractor offered his expertise for the project and he is coordinating with concrete and irrigation companies to enhance the existing walkways and irrigation system. Catholic Charities is seeking donations from board members for other garden accessories such as benches and statuary. A member of the board worked with the city of Fort Worth, HUD and the Fire Department to have a handicap accessible door installed for easy access to the garden area for persons in wheelchairs.



Once the garden is fully planted and in place the residents of CASA will take over the maintenance. Tarrant County Master Gardeners will provide monthly educational classes including information on nutrition and gardening. The Master Gardeners will assist the residents twice yearly preparing the beds in spring and fall and offer guidance along with classes.

This is a project that we are very excited about because it incorporates the mission of the Master Gardener Association to provide the community with information on horticultural practices and education consistent with Texas AgriLife Extension recommendations.

Submitted by: Jackie Heidinger