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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 “New” President

Greetings from the cold South of Texas. I knew this day would come during the hot, very dry summer we experienced, but I really don't like cold weather! And those feelings are compounded when I look out my windows and see all of my poor, dead-looking tropicals that froze 4 weeks ago. However, spring isn't that far away and I am already planning on significant changes in my gardens, especially if those dead-looking plants really are dead.

The new executive committee met on Jan. 11 in College Station to set some goals for this year. Our primary resource was the survey done by the Outreach committee in November. It is obvious that one of our biggest problems as a state organization is one of communication. Many of our member organizations simply do not know who we are nor what the purpose of TMGA is if they know we exist. We received many suggestions from the survey and will be making efforts toward implementation of some of them. Jayla and I will be meeting soon to develop a short program to be shared at local association meetings, as well as a part of the intern training classes. The Outreach committee will be meeting the first part of March to put together plans to increase our communication and ,maybe, some personal visitation with our current membership. As these programs progress, I will keep you all informed. In the meantime, if any of you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please contact any of us on the Executive committee or the Outreach committee. We can't operate in a vacuum, so we need to hear from you.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Dallas. It's going to be a great meeting.

Lonnie

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TMGA News

HELLO 2010!!!



Hard to believe that we are in the year 2010! First let me introduce myself – I am Chris Oefinger, residing in Camp County, 2 year past president and active member of the Cypress Basin Master Gardeners and an “AGGIE”; Class of '76 with a BS in Ag Education, MS in Ag Development and a MA in Counseling. Love to garden, fish, write articles for the local newspaper called – “Down in the garden...”, and do a lot of volunteer work around the area. Along with that, I am this year’s TMGA State Treasurer. Whew.....

Looking forward helps me realize that we have a chance to accomplish a lot as an organization, not just at the local level but at the State level as well. One of the goals from your Executive Committee this year is to improve communications within our membership and that will be one of the two topics I am addressing today.

Homer Babbitt, past Treasurer and current 1st VP, helped streamline the process last year with the county associations paying their dues and it seems to be a successful effort. But to remind everyone of the process, all dues are to be mailed to the current treasurer starting in January using the “Dues” form found on the website, www.texasmastergardeners.com. When you go to the website, on the top left hand side in big letters is “Members Log in”. When you click on this you will be taken to a login page and the password is “sunset”, all lower case. This will take you to the “Members Only” page where you can find the “Dues” form. It is a simple form to fill out, my physical and email address’s are on it for sending in your dues. Dues are \$2.00 per intern/member and when you send it in, I will email you back that I have received you dues. All dues need to be paid via the local association and all dues need to be in no later than March 1, 2010 to prevent being delinquent. Likewise, we need a list of who your current officers and directors are and this needs to be sent to the TMGA Secretary, Diane Bush via email @ dyanb@suddenlink.net. This helps us know our members around the state and gives us all contact information should we need it.

Lastly if you are reading this, then obviously you are receiving the TMGA web newsletter. But we have many folks that are not aware of the newsletter or the website and I encourage each of you to spend some time with your members, especially your interns showing them the TMGA website and all the information that can be found on it. Our website is next to none, loaded with valuable information, trainings and what is happening around our great state.

I look forward to serving you as the TMGA Treasurer this year and hope to meet as many of you as possible over the next year.

Chris Oefinger,
TMGA Treasurer

2009 Awards Program



The Awards submissions are in! In all, 34 counties put in loads of hard work, submitting a total of 151 Awards entries.

The Awards are currently in the hands of out of state judges. Remember, counties are not competing against each other, but rather each is awarded points based on the merits of their entry. This is why it is possible to have ties.

Plaques will be presented at the Awards Ceremony Brunch on April 10, 2010 at the State Conference in Dallas.

A big “thank you” to all those who so tirelessly worked to get your awards to us by the deadline, as well as to those on the receiving end on the State Awards committee! See you in Dallas!

TMGA News continued



January Earth-Kind® Article

Earth-Kind Roses® at Joslyn Castle, Omaha, NE

Today the Joslyn Castle property is still comprised of the 5.5 acres purchased in 1893 by George and Sarah Joslyn. They acquired the farm owned by the Stephen family and moved into the farm house to begin designing their elaborate landscape. Both Joslyns were lovers of nature and built a large greenhouse/ Palm House complex on their grounds to house a multitude of plants along with Sarah's rare orchid collection. At the height of the activity in their home, the Joslyns had 25 or more employees maintaining their mansion, Carriage House, and greenhouses - with many of these workers serving as gardeners.

The picture to the right is of the 120 roses planted and maintained as an "Official EARTH-KIND® Demonstration Garden. The Joslyns were on the "leading edge" of both plant experimentation and for their revolutionary horticulture techniques. Many of those who have gardened on the grounds swear that even a piece of Re-bar will grow in the soil and areas that the Joslyns had their gardeners and staffs prepare ten years prior to the construction of their lovely 1903 mansion.

In keeping with the Joslyn horticulture ideas of using the "best practices" for growing plants, the Omaha Rose Society planted an "Official EARTH-KIND® Demonstration Garden." The garden is comprised of 120 roses planted in the spring of 2007. *Submitted by Garey Wylie*



February Earth-Kind® Rose News

Earth-Kind Roses® at Joslyn Castle, Omaha, NE



Bred in Lyon, France by Jean-Claude Ducher in the year 1869, Ducher, pronounced doo-shay, is one of a very few white China roses. While the Ducher family bred many lovely roses over a lengthy period, this modest rose is the one they chose to bear their family name. It is a favorite in our Johnson County rose garden because of its beauty in the landscape and its tolerance to cold weather. It retains lovely foliage throughout ordinary winter weather in North Texas.

Petals of the small to medium size blooms are pure white though the light reflected often takes on a creamy color. The bush has been described as looking like snow in a pine forest. The double blooms have an intense fruity aroma described as tea and apricot. Blooms occur from early spring until late fall. Like all Earth-Kind® roses it drops its petals after blooming so that the shrub maintains an attractive appearance without the need to deadhead. The flowers are on short stems and tend to nod so they do not make attractive cut arrangements.

The compact and rounded, twiggy bush is a nice landscape shrub either as a specimen plant or in a drift of 3 to 5 plants. The soft fullness of the foliage and showy flowers make this an excellent choice to blend with more structured shrubs in a landscape. Listed as a medium sized shrub rose, in our climate it still can grow to 6 feet in height and 4 feet in width so allow plenty of room in a good sunny location. Mature foliage is light green, but new growth is a handsome bronze. As one of the smaller China roses, it works well in a large pot as well. Ducher tolerates heat, sun and various soil conditions. *Submitted by Joan Leach*

Annual Conference Information



The Dallas County Master Gardener Association invites each of you to participate in the coming 2010TMGA Conference on April 8-10. As host of this event, DCMGA has arranged an excellent venue, the Omni

Mandalay Hotel at 221 East Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, TX 75039. This hotel was chosen for its convenient location in the middle of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and easy access to the DFW and Love Field Airports. We feel confident that the ample conference facilities and comfortable rooms will meet all the requirements of the conference attendees.

Please consult the www.2010TMGAconference.org web site to make your reservations for the conference and accommodations.

As promised in the December newsletter, this month we will discuss some of the excellent speakers that the 2010TMGA Committee has been privileged to arrange for the conference. The speakers and the classes offer an exceptional opportunity to not only hear these experts give a quality speech but also to have questions answered in person with expert advice.

A few of these experts are Dr. Doug Welsh who is not only a former coordinator for the Texas Master Gardener program but also a Professor at Texas A & M. He is also a well know garden writer and broadcaster.



Dr. Doug Welsh



Dr. Carl Whitcomb

Dr. Carl Whitcomb, a Midwesterner, whose company, Lacebark Inc., is a private research facility studying plant growth, especially in containers.

Steven Chamblee, chief horticulturist for Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, is a consulting editor as well as an Instructor for Tarrant County Community College and TCU.



Steven Chamblee

Tim Closs, secondary educator on horticulture in Garland, Texas, where his high school horticulture program is well know throughout the state.



RoseMary Rumbly

Dr. Rose-Mary Rumbly, whose musical and speaking talents are well known throughout the area. She is particularly recognized for her published works about the history of Dallas.

Steve Huddleston who is the senior horticulturist for the historic Fort Worth Botanic Garden, has been very instrumental in promoting the Garden through speaking engagements. He is also a published writer and president of a landscape consulting firm.

Dr. Steven George, Texas A & M expert on its Earth-Kind® Environmental Landscape Management Program. Janet D. Smith, who is Chair of the Dallas county Master Gardeners' Speakers' Bureau, will share knowledge of her photographic expertise which has enabled her to produce well know programs on butterflies and water wise gardening.



Dr. Steve George

Space constraints allow us to mention just a few of the speakers. We invite you to consult the Speakers page of the www.2010TMGAconference.org web site to read expanded biographical notes of these experts and others who will be featured at the conference. Please don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge and meet others of similar interests.

If you have questions, we invite you to e-mail our committee at TMGA2010@hotmail.com . The Committee will make every attempt to assist you.

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 everyone is registering for the 2010 State Conference in Dallas, tuck this idea in the back of your minds for the 2011 Conference in Glen Rose/Granbury -- Cement Mushrooms.

During the 2011 Conference one of the hands-on workshops that will be available is the creating of cement mushrooms for your garden. In various sizes and shapes, these quaint fungi will fit snugly among your plants or displayed in a more obvious location on your patio.

Start looking around your garden now for a place to enjoy this unusual garden art and make plans to attend this fun and interesting workshop in 2011.



Saddle up and come on down!!! Plant your boots in Glen Rose for a real Texas Hoe Down. This will be a real fun boot scootin affair.

Great seminars featuring landscaping, native plants, wildlife, organic and many other interesting garden subjects. You will also have the opportunity to experience hands on workshops and take home your very own creation.

Glen Rose is located 50 miles SW of Ft Worth, 70 miles SW of Dallas, 15 miles S of Granbury.

Smack-dab in the middle of paradise!



We've already been making exciting plans for a very unique conference. Check out our website at www.2011tmgaconference.org.

SURVEY: With the 2011 TMGA Conference over a year away, we are busy making plans for a very unique and exciting event. The TMGA Conferences are for you; therefore your input is valuable in our planning. Please take a few moments and complete our confidential [survey](http://www.2011tmgaconference.org/test/survey.html). Or copy/paste this link into your browser www.2011tmgaconference.org/test/survey.html

Thanks - 2011 Conference Co-chairs, Doug Richards and Donna Hagar



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 Interna-

tional 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](#)

Specialist Training



Master Gardener Specialist – Rainwater Harvesting Training March 4-5, 2010

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service in Ector/Midland County and the Permian Basin Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training in Ector/Midland County on March 4th & 5th, 2010. The training will take place at the Commemorative Air Force Museum, and other locations in Midland.

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. Be sure to dress appropriately for these activities. A copy of the tentative schedule is attached with the registration form with some information on hotels.

Only 20 participant spots are available for this training, so please submit your registration forms as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Payment and forms must be in our office by February 19th, 2010. Contact Kay Pate, 432-367-1865 or email kaypate@cableone.net, 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 the Midland/Odessa area. [Agenda](#) [Registration](#)



Master Gardener Specialist – Irrigation Efficiency Training March 29-31, 2010

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service Host: Bexar County Extension Training Location: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Pl, San Antonio, TX 78209-6635 (210) 207-3250

Automatic irrigation systems are a convenient method to irrigate and maintain landscape beauty and investment. However, most homeowners tend to over-water their landscapes and create runoff. Runoff waste valuable water and contaminates water resources. Irrigation efficiency and other landscape water conservation practices are the keys to protecting water resources, maintaining a beautiful landscape and extending your community's water supply.

The Master Gardener Specialist – Irrigation Efficiency training will cover hands-on practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irrigation repairs, system trouble shooting, catch-can test, converting spray head irrigation to new water conserving heads, converting spray irrigation to drip irrigation and other water conservation practices.

[More Information:](#)

Special Events & Opportunities



Landscape Design Study Courses: Number IV, Series XXI

Dr. Bill Welch and Ms. Suzanne Milstead wish to announce the latest in the *Landscape Design Study Courses: Number IV, Series XXI - February 22-23, 2010*.

The courses are held in College Station, TX., and are co-sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University. They have been attended by many Master Gardeners in the past. It is an opportunity for more in-depth training in landscape design than we normally include in the Master Gardener curriculum.

Courses are typically approved by local Master Gardener chapters to qualify for 12 hours of continuing education toward maintaining certification for Master Gardeners.

Further information may be found at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu> - proceed to Southern Garden, then to landscape design courses. Here you may also view a thumbnail description of each of the courses included in this session

(about:../../../../HTMLDocs/LDIV2,10/LDcurr4.pdf).

This is the last course in a four-part series, although participants can begin with any of the four. The program is nationally accredited by the National Council of State Garden Clubs and offered at approximately

six month intervals here in the Bryan-College Station area. Each of the courses offers an "outside" lecture. This time, we are pleased to have Dr. Alice Le Duc of Duke Gardens, Raleigh, N.C. for this presentation. She will speak on "Pre-Columbian America: Architectural and Landscape Design."

We are pleased to offer "scholarships" for Course IV to County Extension Agents with horticulture and/or Master Gardener responsibilities. This amounts to the course paying the registration fee for qualified individuals. We hope that this will be useful as professional improvement for these agents, as we all strive to improve our educational programs.

We ask that participants fill out and return the registration form as soon as possible. Cost of the course will be \$115; cost of the textbook (good for 4 sessions) \$40.

Stewart Thompson of Martha's Bloomers garden center in Navasota, TX has indicated that there will again be a wine-and-cheese reception for the participants in the course after the course work on Monday. Reservations may be made the first morning of the course for a special dinner, beginning at 5:30 pm (cost: \$16.95).

Feel free to contact my office should you have questions (Tammy Landry, tlandry@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-7342).

Texas Rainwater Catchment Association (TRCA) 2010 State Conference

By Rick Daniel, Ellis County Master Gardener
TRCA Board of Directors/Webmaster

The Texas Rainwater Catchment Association (TRCA) is pleased to announce that we are holding our second annual State Conference in Kerrville, Texas on **March 12th and 13th of 2010**. The mission of TRCA is as follows: The mission of the Texas Rainwater Catchment Association is to provide Texas citizens with credible information and resources on rainwater collection, to promote the advancement of rainwater conservation and to work with state, county and other local government units in promoting rainwater catchment. The agenda of this conference has been put



together with that mission in mind. The agenda for Friday the 12th is targeted towards the rainwater professional, while the agenda for Saturday is targeted towards the general public. All are welcome to attend either day. There will also be tours to visit rainwater catchment systems installed in the local area.

We hope that all you Master Gardener's and Master Naturalist who have attended "Rainwater Specialist" training, as well as all others who have an interest in rainwater catchment will attend. Come and support our new organization and help to ensure our success!

For more information, agenda, registration and TRCA membership application, please visit our website, www.texrca.org.

Special Events and Opportunities Continued

Wilson County Gardening Day set for March 6

Whether you've been babying your winter garden or have spent the colder months poring over seed catalogs waiting for warmer temperatures, perk up your gardening ears. The annual Wilson County Gardening Day is a scant eight weeks away, and this year's event will be bigger and better than ever! The event will be held at the Alternative School campus off Sutherland Springs Road (CR 329) in Floresville. (Sutherland Springs Road turns east off Hwy 181 just a few blocks south of Walmart) and there will be signs posted on the highway.

Sponsored by the Wilson County News, the San Antonio Water System, KLUP Radio, Milberger's Gardening, and more, Wilson County Gardening Day on Saturday, March 6, will include free plants and gardening advice, a live broadcast of the "South Texas Gardening" radio show featuring Calvin Finch and Jerry Parsons, demonstrations of a low-flow potato-flushing toilet, plant sales by the STARS program of the Floresville Alternative Education Center, and much more

For more information about Gardening Day: <http://www.wilsoncountynews.com/articles.php?c=52>



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 flowers 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 information, please contact: Geoffrey Frost, 1011 Strickland Drive; Austin , TX 78748-4847 (Telephone (512) 413-3199; e-mail geoffreyfrost@yahoo.com), or visit our web-site: <http://www.hotos.org/>



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

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: [February County Events](#) –

- ◆ February 9, 2010 – Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas – Meeting
- ◆ February 9, 2010 - The Harris County Master Gardener Association - Vegetable Gardening
- ◆ February 11, 2010 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Green Thumb Seminar: Fruits and Nuts
- ◆ February 11, 2010 - Somervell County - Community Horticultural Education Series - Vegetable Gardening
- ◆ February 13, 2010 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Annual Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale
- ◆ February 13, 2010 - Travis County Master Gardeners - Growing Your Own Potatoes
- ◆ February 15, 2010 - Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 - Open Garden Day
- ◆ February 16, 2010 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners, Brown Bag - "The Wonderful World of Bees"
- ◆ February 17, 2010 - Harris County Master Gardener - Ed Self of the Rare Fruit Society
- ◆ February 18, 2010 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Water Conservation
- ◆ February 20, 2010 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners, BROWN BAG—"Citrus, Palms and Fruit Trees for the Coastal Bend"
- ◆ February 20, 2010 - Master Gardeners of Kaufman County - Vegetable Gardening Program
- ◆ February 27, 2010 - Harris County Master Gardener Spring Sale and Seminars
- ◆ February 27, 2010 - Travis County Master Gardeners - Everything's Coming up Roses
- ◆ March 6, 2010 - Wilson County Gardening Day

News from Around the State

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners



Bob McQueen, Lake Granbury Master Gardener emeritus and charter member, received his 15-year-membership pin Jan. 26 from Hood County Extension Agent Marty Vahlenkamp during a reception in Granbury.

Bob was instrumental in organizing Hood County Master Gardeners in 1994 and responsible for incorporating it as a non-profit organization and for obtaining its 501C status. He later devised a procedure for incorporating and applying for 501C status used by other counties.

He served as LGMG vice president for two years, TMGA delegate for two years and EPC council member for three years. He received the Exemplary Leadership award in 1995. He was chiefly responsible for bringing the TMGA state Conference to Granbury, the first location outside College Station.

Submitted by Jane McConal

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners

In a Lake Granbury Master Gardener's winter garden, this chilly little angel can only see the head of her froggy-friend looking up out of the snow in a rare Christmas Eve snowstorm. Submitted by Nancy Hancock

