



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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Somervell County



From Our President

I received an email from Bunny Williams, President of Dallas Master Gardener Assn., a couple of weeks ago that contained such a good idea, I wanted to share it with you all. One of the Dallas County board members proposed paying the registration costs of both a Certified Master Gardener and an intern, based on an hours earned competition. They feel that is a terrific way for counties to be involved and return from the conference with information about what's going on around the state.. It also would help build awareness for both the TMGA and local Associations widely variant activities. I know that my favorite part of the annual meeting is visiting with other Master Gardeners and learning what is going on in their communities. We are such a diverse group that our range of activities is really broad. I would also like to commend Dallas County for contributing monies toward the 2011 meeting. I realize that not many of us belong to large, well-funded groups, but this is an idea that could be considered in a slightly different variance. Just think about it.

Lonnie

Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, August 7, 11am—3pm

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

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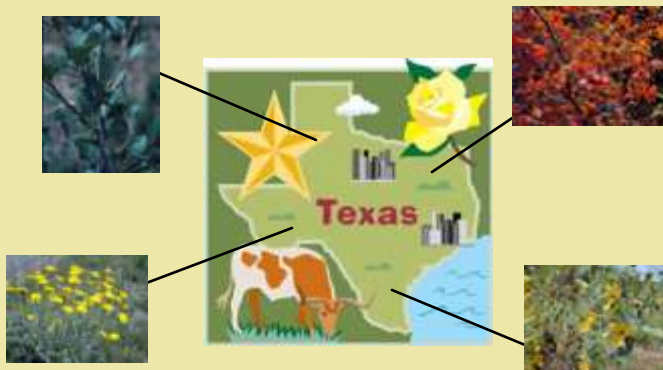
Annual Conference Information



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

North, South, East or West
Which Plants Grow the Best?!

You spoke, we listened! Speakers from all 4 corners of Texas as well as the Gulf Coast will be at the 2011 TMGA Conference in Glen Rose, April 27-29, sharing the best plants for each area. You can read more on our website at www.2011tmgaconference.org



In order to make our registration process fast and easy, we have developed an online registration form! You will love it!

Thanks to everyone who has already signed up for our conference email updates. More notices will be forthcoming!!

Not signed up yet?
Visit our Website today
<http://www.2011tmgaconference.org/>

Have questions or Comments?
 Visit our FAQ page
<http://2011tmgaconference.org/contacts/faq.html>
 We want to hear from you!

We look forward to having everyone join us in
Glen Rose for a truly exciting conference!



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](#)

Earth-Kind® News

Raising Roses in West Texas

By HAYLEY ANDERSON

Herald Staff Writer



Master gardener Nell Rains is introducing her native West Texas to a new kind of rose. Roses are thought to be hard to grow without hours of maintenance and care, but Earth-Kind roses are hardy — even in West Texas' harsh elements.

Earth-Kind is the trademark Texas AgriLife Extension gives to types of roses that have gone through years of testing and prove to be the most resilient plants. Today there are 21 varieties of roses that have been designated Earth-Kind. Along with the scientific research at universities, others like Rains have been doing observational field tests. Rains is currently growing several of Dr. Griffin Buck's roses in a field test outside her rural home near Edmonson.

Rains, who was born and raised in Hale County, is a "farmer by profession and a gardener by choice." She decided to become a Master Gardener by participating in training and becoming certified through Texas A&M. The Master Gardener position is a volunteer capacity through which she gives horticulture advice based on scientific information. Rains also is a certified national Earth-Kind rose specialist, which comes after study, research and approval by the Earth-Kind team. "I have been a gardener since my days in 4-H," Rains said. "I've gardened for over 50 years. Rains has about an acre of winding pathways between luscious green trees and bushes dripping with rose blossoms. She also grows a variety of other plants, including peonies and herbs.

The Earth-Kind program is testing roses not only for the south, but for the entire nation. The name Earth-Kind suggests that these roses are more environmentally friendly than other roses, mainly because they need less watering and do not need harsh chemical pesticides or commercial fertilizer. Earth-Kind roses can grow any-

where in Texas and in any soil type. They are disease resistant as well as insect tolerant. Once established, Earth-Kind roses require little maintenance. To get established, the roses need to be planted in soil mixed with some compost material. To avoid rotting, the rose should not be planted in a basin where water can sit. Instead, the plant needs to be planted in a raised bed to promote drainage from the base of the plant. As with all roses, Earth-Kind roses should not be watered overhead but receive water at ground level. The rose also needs to be surrounded by three inches of mulch. The mulch keeps moisture in the soil and gradually breaks down to provide additional nutrients to the plant. Earth-Kind Roses also need direct sunlight for at least eight hours a day. They also need plenty of air circulation.

The rose varieties designated as Earth-Kind are: Marie Daly, The Fairy, Caldwell Pink, Knock Out, Perle d'Or, Belinda's Dream, Else Poulson, Carefree Beauty, Duchesse De Brabant, Spice, Mutabilis, Climbing Pinkie, Sea Foam, Ducher, Georgetown Tea, Cecile Brunner, La Marne, Mme. Antoine Marie, New Dawn, Reve d'Or and Souvenir de St. Annes.

If you have an Earth-Kind article or would like to write one about your Earth-Kind roses for the newsletter please send them to garey-wylie@charter.net. Feel free to include a couple of photo's. Keep it as concise as possible and have it proof read because of spacing.

Texas Master Gardener 2009 Annual Report

Master Gardeners continue to reach greater audiences in Texas

The Master Gardener program has trained 1,208 individuals increasing the number of volunteers to 6,393 Master Gardeners throughout the state. They have offered 520,144 hours of volunteer service which saves Texas AgriLife Extension 260 full time employees. This has a \$10 million dollar impact on the state of Texas. Master Gardeners answered 32,557 phone calls from citizens of their local communities. They have increased the number of youth gardens to 273 gardens. This is more than 65 new youth gardens in 2009. They have maintained 212 demonstration gardens and they continue to reach their audiences with 50 county web-sites.

One of the main goals of the Master Gardener program is to train individuals to teach citizens in their local and surrounding communities about horticultural topics. The Master Gardeners gave 2,614 presentations which have reached 153,847 individuals. The total of number of people receiving researched based information has continuously grown.



Master Gardeners are highly trained, passionate gardeners who serve their county and state to their fullest. It is because of their work and dedication that Texas AgriLife Extension can continue to reach greater audiences and expand their capabilities.

Specialist Training



Master Gardener Specialist Training- Citriculture July 29-30, September 2-3, (Session 3 TBA)

The popularity of growing citrus in the home landscape has grown significantly in recent years. Citrus is also an important horticultural crop in Texas agriculture. The future of successful citrus production in Texas, at the home or commercial level, hinges upon preventing the establishment and spread of Citrus Greening (CG) Disease in the state. Citrus trees infected with CG produce undesirable fruit and have a shortened lifespan. The disease is vectored by psyllid insects that have been detected in Texas. CG-infected trees have been found in Mexico, and several U.S. states, including Florida, California, and Louisiana.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is offering a Master Gardener Specialist training in citriculture during 2010 to enlist Master Gardeners' assistance for detection and prevention of CG. The MG Specialist-Citriculture training is a comprehensive educational program aimed at preparing Master Gardeners to grow citrus in the home orchard successfully and manage the challenging complex of associated insects and diseases, including CG. The two-day course will cover varieties, nutrition, frost protection, propagation, as well as identification and management of insects and diseases of citrus.

Due to the imminent threat of Citrus Greening, the MG Specialist-Citriculture training will be offered three (3) times in 2010. The first two sessions are as follows:

July 29-30, 2010, Fort Bend Co. Ag/Extension Center, 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX, hosted by Fort Bend Co. Master Gardeners.

September 2-3, 2010; The Neighborhood Place, 3014 Rivas St., San Antonio, TX 78228 hosted by Bexar Co. Master Gardeners.

The date and location of the third session are To Be Announced.

Participants for each session must be preregistered by their County MG Coordinator/Agent and approved by the MG Specialist Training Coordinator (Monte Nesbitt, Extension Program Specialist). Due to the urgency in training Master Gardeners to detect and mitigate movement of CG, priority is being given to individuals who reside in counties from Williamson County (Georgetown) and south. If available seats are not taken by Master Gardeners in this "citrus zone", other Master Gardeners in Texas interested in the training will be invited to attend one of the three sessions. Fee for the course is being specially priced at \$85/person, because of state grant awards for CG prevention. Registration fee includes educational materials and three meals.

If you are interested, please contact the County MG Coordinator for the session you desire for a preregistration form.

Specialist Training cont.

Master Gardener Specialist Training: Plant Propagation August 26-28, 2010

Held by the Taylor County (Abilene) Extension Service and the Big Country Master Gardeners
The first 40 paid registrations will receive a Fiskars®

hand pruner, pruning knife and other equipment to help you with your propagation work and trainings.
Registration deadline: July 30, 2010

[MG MG Propagation Specialist Trng_Taylor Co..10.pdf](#)



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](#)

Master Gardener Specialist Irrigation Efficiency Training October 27, 28, 29, 2010 Dallas County Extension

The Master Gardener Specialist – Irrigation Efficiency training will cover hands-on practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irriga-



tion 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.

Only 15 participant spots are available for this training. Registration is first come/first served basis. [Information](#)

County Upcoming Events

July 13, 2010 - Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas Nancy Masterson, Certified Arborist, will speak about selecting, planting and caring for native trees. We welcome all visitors. For more information contact: www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/

July 20, 2010 – Aransas/SanPatricio Master Gardeners - BROWN BAG—“Good Weeds”

Lonnie Matthew, Master Gardener, will present the program, “Good Weeds” - pioneer and Native American uses of plants. 1:00 PM at the Aransas County Library, 711 E. Mimosa, Rockport, TX. For more information call Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Aransas County Office at 361 790-0103.

July 24, 2010 - Lubbock County Master Gardeners will sponsor their third Waterwise Garden Tour on Saturday, July 24th, from 9:00-1:00. All gardens on the tour were designed by Master Gardeners. For more information, go to lubbockmastergardeners.org

July 27, 2010 -Aransas/SanPatricio Master Gardeners - INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION SESSION – Master Gardener Class 1:30 P.M. at Green Acres Demonstration Gardens. For more information call Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Aransas County Office at 361 790-0103.

Just in...—The SFA Gardens of Stephen F. Austin State University to Host Arcadia Dogtrot Tour of historic Shelby County homes from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010. [more information](#)

Special Events & Opportunities



Junior Master Gardener Training Class for Adults Who Educate and Guide Young Gardeners

July 26-30, 2010

You are invited to apply for a week long summer class, training you to guide and educate children in gardening. This training tracks the Master Gardener training program and adds materials for training children to plant their own vegetable gardens. Subject matter meets and exceeds the TEKS guidelines (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). The faculty is an impressive list of leaders in the fields of horticulture, entomology, plant science, propagation, etc.

The classes are July 26 to July 30 from 8:00a to 5:00p daily at the San Antonio Botanical Garden meeting room at 555 Funston Place, San, Antonio, TX 78209. Classes are limited to 20 students. The course tuition is \$150.00 to cover the costs of materials. For the application click on this link:

http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/HomeHort/MasterGardener/JMG_Class_5_Application.pdf

Call the Bexar County Master Gardeners Hotline for details: (210) 467-6575. Posted by Don Hall, Bexar County Master Gardeners

Texas Bluebird Society 2010 Bluebird Symposium in Henderson (with silent auction fundraiser)

Saturday, August 14, 2010, New Civic Center at Lake Forrest Park, 1005 Hwy 64 W, Henderson, TX 75652
9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Doors open at 8:30 for Registration and Silent Auction
Keith Kridler *How, What & Why? Eastern Bluebirds*
Greg Grant *The Hole Truth: East Texas Woodpeckers*

Other Topics include:

- Bluebird Basics
- Recordkeeping with Cornell's "Nestwatch"
- House Sparrow Control

Advance Registration \$10, includes Hot Lunch
Early Bird Registration Bonus: Register by July 1, 2010, and receive 10 chances for door prize.
Advance registration ends July 31, 2010, and receive 1 chance for door prize. At door registration (No Lunch and No Door Prizes) \$6.00.

- ♦ \$15 Membership at this event includes free nestbox!

Membership form is available in the current newsletter @ <http://texasbluebirdsociety.org/Information>



“Urban Farming – The Ultimate Backyard Experience”

4th CENTRAL TEXAS GARDENERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 9, 2010, 8:00am–4:15pm
1400 Schertz Parkway, Bldg 5,
Schertz Civic Center Schertz, Texas

Urban farming, edible landscapes, whatever you call it, is “growing” in popularity; converts flock to talks and demonstrations given by Agri-Life Extension and Master Gardeners!

Now it's your turn, join us for an educational fun filled day learning about the concept of Urban Farming from the microbes in the soil to the fruit, flowers and

vegetables perfect for your home grown edible landscapes.

Our esteemed speakers are: Dr. Larry Stein, Dr. Diane Boellstorff, Dr. David Reed and Dr. Joe Novak. Please note: 6 CEU credits will be granted to Certified Master Gardeners for attending!

In addition to our educational talks, vendors will offer books, plants, fruit trees, and goodies for your gardening pleasure. Visit our educational displays on honey bees, backyard poultry, beneficial nematodes, compost tea and more!

Additional information and to register form are available at www.tcmastergardeners.org

See you at the conference!

CTGC Committee: Don & Germaine Tuff – Co-Chairs, Comal Co., George Ammermann, Jean Vanderhider – Guadalupe Co., Susan Jung, Tommie Clayton – Travis Co. Past conferences were held at the TDS Game Ranch just south of Austin.

This year's conference is in Schertz located 65 miles south of Austin on IH-35 in Guadalupe County, and 22 miles north of San Antonio.