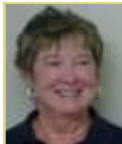




## 2010 TMGA Officers

*President*  
**Lonnie Matthew**  
Aransas County



*First Vice President*  
**Homer Babbit**  
Parker County



*Second Vice President*  
**Doris Rogers**  
Amarillo Area MG



*Secretary*  
**Diane Bush**  
Angelina County



*Treasurer*  
**Chris Oefinger**  
Cypress Basin MG



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—*  
**MiChal Hall —**  
Brazos County



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



## From Our President

Good News!!! We have a new Webmaster!! Her name is MiChal Hall (pronounced Michelle). She is a member of Brazos County Association. Her husband, Charlie, is a professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M. She attended school at Mississippi State and graduated from Texas A&M. They returned to College Station three years ago after several years spent in the beautiful Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee. She states she is a dabbler in many things, including gardening, photography, hiking and quilting. The website will probably look different when it goes back up on the new server. We are all rather impatiently waiting for that to happen. If any of you have suggestions re: additions to the website, please forward those recommendations to either Homer Babbit, our vice-president or to me, Lonnie Matthew, president. This is the time to voice your opinion along with the rest of us.

In the midst of these changes, the dates for the remaining Board of Directors meetings got lost. Make a note that **Saturday, August 7 and December 4** are the dates and College Station will be the location.

Be sure and check out the website for the 2011 Annual Conference ([www.2011tmgaconference.org](http://www.2011tmgaconference.org)). They are getting the excitement going early.

We broke a hot temperature record of 94 degrees today and it's not June yet. I hope y'all enjoyed our Spring and got the hardest part of your gardens in gear. Have a good month.

Lonnie

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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**

## Awesome Tour and Educational Experience

Red Caboose Vineyard and Winery will be featured as one of the tours during the 2011 State Conference sponsored by Somervell and Hood Counties. Using geothermal cooling & chilling and harvesting rainwater for irrigation and electricity, this innovative "green" treat is not to be missed.



## Dallas Conference Display

Hood and Somervell Counties jointly display brochures and information regarding the 2011 State Conference to be held in Glen Rose, April 27-29, 2011.

## You are in For a Real Treat at this Great Conference

- Many new and exciting Tours.
- Great Speakers and Education sessions
- Fantastic Hands on Work Shops

Plus excitement like you have never seen before!



## Have questions? Comments? Concerns?

Visit our FAQ page

<http://2011tmgaconference.org/contacts/faq.html>

## Visit our Website today

Be sure and sign up for Conference Updates

<http://www.2011tmgaconference.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](#)

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## TMGA News

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I for one am looking forward to this summer! Hot as it may be, my plan for this year is to do more gardening and fishing. I enjoy volunteering with the different JMG's, schools and Food Pantry groups but I periodically find the need to do more of my own gardening and fishing as I get older. Certainly there is nothing better than the success of having the year's first homegrown tomato on a sandwich, in a salad or just sliced and eaten. Success in gardening like in everything else takes time and effort as we all know. Since becoming Treasurer, I've had the opportunity to visit with a lot of folks around the state and have heard some great success stories. Like the rebirth of the Jasper County Master Gardeners; numerous successful MG plant sales; the success of this year's conference in Dallas not to mention just the pleasure of visiting with folks from around this great state of ours.

As the Treasurer, I am happy to report what I consider to be a very successful year of collecting Dues too. Out of 82 Counties that are on the TMGA rolls, only six have not paid. A couple of these counties have disbanded or merged with other counties or MG groups and there may be one or two that just haven't submitted their dues yet. I am listing the counties here for one specific reason, that is the fact that we change our officers yearly in a lot of cases and sometimes the new officers either don't know about the state dues or don't know who to contact. They are Erath, Howard, Liberty, Mills, San Saba and Stephens. If you happen to be listed here, send me an email and let's visit. IF you happen to know someone of a disbanded MG group, reach out to them and get them involved again.

Have a great summer!!!

**Chris Oefinger, TMGA Treasurer**

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We are still shy several counties updated officer and director rosters. If you have not sent your 2010 Officer and Director rosters to the TMGA Secretary, Diane Bush, please do as ASAP. Next month you may be named! :)

The unofficial minutes from the TMGA Directors meeting held in Dallas on April 8, 2010 are available for viewing here: [minutes4/8/10](#)

**Diane Bush, TMGA Secretary**  
[dyanb@suddenlink.net](mailto:dyanb@suddenlink.net)

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### Notes from Jayla Fry, MG Coordinator



There are three new Master Gardener Specialist classes that will be available this year. They are Compost Specialist, Citriculture Specialist, and Tree Steward Specialist. The Compost training has been scheduled for June 9-11 in Bexar County (see the TMGA website for details). The other two are working out the details of time and location. I will pass along further information when it becomes available.

The Texas Master Gardener Program website has been updated! Please check it out at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/mastergardener/>. You will still find the Annual Reports and the Management Guide under About the Program, updated links under the County Programs section, and great new educational videos on MG-TV. Thank you to all who contributed to the update and helping make this a user friendly tool for our program.

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## Specialist Training



### Master Gardener Specialist Compost Training

**When: June 9, 2010 through June 11, 2010**

Where: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209-6635

Time: 6/09 Starts at 11:30 am, 6/10 & 6/11 Starts at 9:00 am

In an effort to provide training, the Master Gardener Specialist- Composter Training was created as an intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas AgriLife Extension Service efforts in Earth-Kind® environmental educational programs. The class focuses on composting for the home gardener with insight to commercial compost production.

Compost has many positive benefits when used in our gardens and landscapes. Most people try what they think is composting but often end up with trash piles. This training is meant to help explain the correct way to home compost as well as the added benefits of its usages in the garden. It will include practical applications of composting for the home gardener with the science behind it all, which in turn benefits us all and the environment we all live in.

Master Gardeners who fulfill specified training and volunteer requirements will be recognized as Master Gardener Specialist in the specified field of Composting. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within his/her local county programs but provides them the knowledge to support their Master Gardener Educational Outreach Program

[Information](#)

### Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training Denton County on June 28, 29, 30, 2010

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Denton County Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Specialist - Rainwater Harvesting training in Denton County on June 28, 29, 30, 2010. The training will take place at the Denton County Extension office, 306 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, 940-349-2883.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Research and Extension Center Urban Solutions Center 17360 Coit Road Dallas, TX 75252 972-952-9671 FAX 972-952-9216

Only 25 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 June 15, 2010. Contact Tamaron Hunt, 972-952-9671, to answer any questions or provide further information.

[More Information](#)



**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](mailto:mekeck@ag.tamu.edu) or 210/467-6575 with any questions.

[Registration and information](#)

## *Specialist Training cont.*



### **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 MGSpecialist-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.

### **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](#)

### **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 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.

Only 15 participant spots are available for this training. Registration is first come/first served basis

[Information](#)



## Special Events & Opportunities



### 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](mailto:dparish@sfasu.edu)

Hosted by the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center  
Stephen F Austin State University  
Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

### 4-H Youth Development Foundation Big League Event at Rangers Ballpark In Arlington 4-H Day - Saturday, June 5, 2010



Rays vs. Rangers - 7:05 p.m. . It is a great way to support 4-H, see a baseball game at a discount price, and help your local 4-H program.

Red Rangers T-Shirt (First 20,000) Complimentary "Green-Out" t-shirts for all 4H participants. \*Tickets must be ordered by May 21. Anyone can buy the tickets and be sure to put the county name of the county you are supporting. This will be a fun-filled day of family, friends, and fellowship for all to enjoy.

[More info](#).... [Order Form](#).....

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

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](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>



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## *Jasper County MG Association*

### *by Peggy Jones, Cypress Basin Master Gardener*

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The Jasper County Master Gardener Association is somewhat of a phoenix. Wiped out after Hurricane Rita, the chapter re-organized last fall and graduated its first class in five years in March. They went from zero to 20 certified master gardeners.

"We have so much enthusiasm and demand was so great, we gave it a rest and started another class last week," explains secretary Sharon Kerr. Those 27 won't graduate until November.

Jasper County has just 37,000 residents and soon will have 47 master gardeners.

"I bet you look that up on a per capita basis and you won't find anyone doing better than that." Kerr says. You can hear the pride in her voice.

Their big project?

A Farmers Market open Saturday mornings May through November.

"It came about this way," Kerr said. "Our Agrilife leadership board was really interested in a Farmers Market. While we were getting our Master Gardening group put back together, we realized the only way we would have enough support to operate a Farmers Market was if it was a master gardening project."

So the Jasper County MG Association joined the Texas Certified Farmers Market Association.

"They give us lots of advice and we were able to buy liability insurance through them."

Then, for funding, they held a cake sale.

"I never would have dreamed you could raise \$6,000 off a cake sale but one of the commissioners had the idea of auctioning off the cakes. So we spread the word: you want a Farmers Market help us by baking a cake or coming to the auction and bidding on a cake."

Commissioner Charles Shofner was the auctioneer.

Kerr says the farmers market opened to tremendous community support.

"We typically have 6 to 10 vendors," she said. "We have people selling honey and eggs and fresh produce. We even have home school kids showing up with potatoes and berries."

You can check them out on Facebook at Jasper County Farmer's Market.

Their secondary project is an arboretum along Sandy Creek through downtown Jasper. The group plans a walking trail, native plant garden and bog garden.

"We even plan a Junior Master Gardener project for the fall," Kerr said.

Little group. Lots of enthusiasm. Big success.




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## *County Upcoming Events*

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- ◆ June 8, 2010 - Guadalupe County Chapter of the Native Plant Society meeting. For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: [www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/](http://www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/)
  - ◆ June 8 - July 20, 2010 - Harris County Master Gardener Association - Texas Master Gardener Certification Class
  - ◆ June 14, 2010 - Somervell County MG Monthly CHES program—"It's a Wormy Situation" or worm composting. <http://somervellmastergardeners.org/>
  - ◆ June 14, 2010 - "Cacti and Succulents," Lupe Cook, Victoria County Master Gardener
  - ◆ June 15, 2010 – Aransas/SanPatricio MG – June Brownbag—"Solving the Mystery of Botanical Names". [More information](#)
  - ◆ June 17, 2010 - Bexar County Master Gardeners Invite YOU to a lecture on PALMS - [for more information](#)
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