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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

Spring has finally arrived, at least here in Rockport. The windchill is still a brisk 55, but a great time to start cleaning up outside after our unusual freezes this winter. I realize that those of you who live in Amarillo may not be outside just yet, but it won't be long.

Jayla and I met earlier this month and are putting together some additional goals for TMGA to be working toward. We will get some kind of working draft together and be presenting to the Board of Directors during the annual meeting in Dallas.

The program in Dallas looks really good. I hope lots of you are planning to attend. One of the neatest parts of our annual meetings is seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It's one of the best ways to find out how other MG groups are handling similar issues, such as: fundraising; dealing with difficult members; gaining new active members and retaining old ones; producing outstanding programs to benefit the public, as well as our own membership; and last, but not least, working with our AgriLife Extension Service.

See you next month.

Lonnie

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TMGA News

Earth-Kind® News for March

Two long-established roses earn Earth-Kind distinction

Judges say they are “beautiful roses for busy people”

By: Mike Jackson, 972-952-9232

Contact: Steve George, 972-952-9217, s-george3@tamu.edu

DALLAS – They embody traits few others share – beauty, toughness and easy maintenance – and that has earned them the highest distinction a rose can achieve, said Dr. Steve George, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist in Dallas.

Cecile Brunner and Reve d’Or were recently named Earth-Kind Roses by a team of horticulturists with AgriLife Extension. Only 21 roses hold the title.

Reve d’Or, originally released in 1869, earned an additional honor by being named 2010 Earth-Kind Rose of the Year, George said. “Both roses are simply gorgeous,” he said.



Cecile Brunner, introduced in 1881, is light pink and the bush grows to about 4 feet by 3 feet, George said. Adapted throughout Texas, it’s a repeat-bloomer, fragrant and tolerates some light-dappled shade in the afternoon. It is also known as the “Sweetheart Rose.”

Reve d’Or (pronounced rehv dohr) is medium-yellow, fragrant, nearly thornless and also a repeat-bloomer. Adapted to all of Texas except the upper Panhandle, the bush is a vigorous climber that will grow 10 feet to 18 feet tall and about 8 feet wide, he said. Its name is French for “dream of gold.” “Reve d’Or is the healthiest yellow rose that we have ever tested,” he said.



There is more to these roses than good looks, George said. Earth-Kind Roses are robust and thrive in tough conditions. Grown and evaluated over eight years on average, the roses are not fertilized or pruned when tested. They are not treated with pesticides, and are watered far less than other roses. They also are grown on their own roots, as opposed to those grafted onto other plants. The results are roses that are easy to grow and maintain, he said. To be Earth-Kind, a rose must have received the designation from AgriLife Extension, an agency of the Texas A&M System. Earth-Kind is a registered trade mark of AgriLife Extension. “These winners of the prestigious Earth-Kind designation are long-lived, tolerant of most any soil and are so environmentally responsible that almost never will you need to apply harsh pesticides or even commercial fertilizer,” George said. “These are truly roses with which anybody can be successful.”

A list and descriptions of all Earth-Kind Roses can be found at <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu> .

George and the team of Earth-Kind rose evaluators offer growing tips:

- The roses should be planted where they receive at least eight hours of direct sunlight daily.
 - Their location should allow for good airflow over the leaves.
 - They should be planted in well-aerated soils. (Visit the Earth-Kind Rose Web site for details on how to manage specific soils.)
 - They need the year-round protection of a 3-inch layer of organic mulch over their root systems.
-

Annual Conference Information

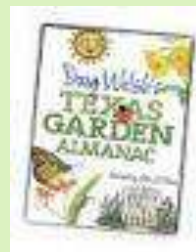


The Dallas County Master Gardeners are very pleased with the positive response to the 2010 Texas Master Gardeners Association Conference. Many of the DCMGA members have devoted much time and care

to provide conference attendees with excellent programs, interesting and varied tours and outstanding speakers as well as a venue well known for its fine conference facilities and comfortable rooms. This has been a very positive experience for the committee and we are looking forward to April 8-10 with great enthusiasm.

Although the early registration deadline was March 1, registration is still open but the fee is now \$279. If you still need to register, please contact the web site at www.2010TMGAconference.org for detailed program and tour information to be able to complete your registration form. Conference venue hotel reservations at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at 221 East Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039, are easily done with a link on the conference web site. Please complete your registration as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as the places at the programs and tours are limited. Each conference participant will receive a detailed confirmation from the reservation committee by the end of March.

The Program Committee is pleased to announce that several of the speakers will be available after their seminars on Friday, April 9, to autograph books in the Mandalay Foyer at a Book Signing Table. The schedule is as follows: Dr. Doug Welsh will sign his book, *Garden Almanac*, from 10 until 11AM. Jeff Crilley will autograph his book, *Free Publicity*, from 11AM until noon. Barbara Gollman will sign her book, *The Phytoia Cookbook*, from 4 until 5 PM. Gaye Hammond will also be available to sign her book, *Guide to Earth-Kind® Roses and E-K Environmental Landscape Management Systems* from 4 until 5 PM.



On Friday at 11 AM the Silent Auction will begin with numerous display tables in the Mandalay Foyer. The Silent Auction will continue throughout the day. There is also a Raffle of a beautiful handmade Blue-bonnet Quilt which is pictured on the web site. The Dallas County Master Gardeners will also provide a sale table with publications and convention souvenir lapel pins, key rings and T-shirts.

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.



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](#)

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

One of the many things that we think will be exciting about our conference is our selection of speakers. Scott Ogden and Lauren Springer Ogden are a prime example.

They lecture internationally, emphasizing plant diversity and ecological attunement. Or to put it more simply, establishing harmony with our gardening and our environment. Their experience spans USDA zones 4-10 and they have designed garden spaces and/or gardened professionally in many U.S. states as well as some foreign countries. Since Texas contains zones 6 thru 9, they are knowledgeable about our varied climate and one public project they designed is at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. As an added bonus they also split their time between a small, jam-packed urban garden in Austin and an expansive naturalistic garden in Fort Collins. So... we can say they have truly experienced the challenges in Texas gardening. They have 5 children, and grow well over 3,000 species and selections of plants.



Scott and Lauren have written several books in which they pioneer new plants and garden aesthetics. Their latest book, *Plant-Driven Design*, takes a bold look at garden design from a plant perspective, marrying site, region, plants, and people while both embracing and transcending regionality. The Ogden's and their work have been featured on several television shows and in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Nature*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Sunset*, and *Horticulture*. Awards include two American Horticultural Society book awards and a landscape design award from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Before making horticulture and garden design their life's work, Scott studied geology and paleontology at Yale, and Lauren studied Spanish and Latin American literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She also received a master's degree in horticulture from Penn State. A more complete bio of this obviously talented couple will be on our website in the near future.

Please visit our website at www.2011tmgaconference.org.

There is still time to get your voices heard!

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](#). Or copy/paste this link into your browser www.2011tmgaconference.org/test/survey.html

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



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:](#)

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

Check Out the New Features on the TAMU Website!

***By Martin Anderson, Web Administrator
Texas AgriLife Extension Service***

Earth-Kind® Website

If you would, please take a few moments to look at the updated Earth-Kind website along with a revised Earth-Kind Roses section. <http://earthkind.tamu.edu>
<http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu>

New features include:

- * Updated look, with new logos and navigation.
- * New and revised publications
- * Downloadable versions of the new logos, see

<http://earthkind.tamu.edu/logos.html>.

- * Updates to the Earth-Kind Roses site, including the cultivar information, Field Trial forms, and the section's own look. And much more to come...

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Martin Anderson

Email: mganderson@tamu.edu, manderson@ag.tamu.edu

Web: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Introducing Tomato growing 101

The best garden is a well planned garden, so while you wait for spring, get ready for the best tomato harvest by taking the new online course 'Tomato 101'.

This course teaches all aspects of growing tomatoes in a home garden, at your own pace and in your own home.

The course covers:

- Garden and soil preparation
- Plant selection and training
- Fertilization
- Irrigation
- Weed, disease and insect control
- General care

A short quiz at the end of each section lets you review what you learned before moving on, and at the completion of the course generates a certificate for you.

So get out from the rain, take a seat by your computer and dream about those summer tomatoes while you go through Tomato 101. Available at: <http://www-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/>

Creating a free user account is required to participate.

Martin Anderson

Email: mganderson@tamu.edu, manderson@ag.tamu.edu

Web: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Special Events & Opportunities Continued

March 13, 2010 - Walker County Master Gardeners invite you to their Annual Spring Plant Sale. Located at 102 Tam Road (Hwy 75 north, 2 miles north of Pilot Truck Stop) Sale from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Included will be vegetable plants, heirloom tomatoes, annuals, shrubs, natives, herbs. Many unusual plants will be offered at the Walker County facility.

Call 936-435-2426 for additional information. All proceeds from plant sale will be used to benefit Master Gardener community activities and educational projects. For more information, please call (936) 435-2426 or visit our website at www.walkercountymastergardener.org



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.



The 15th Annual Herbal Forum at Round Top w/ preceding optional participation workshops March 19th. Theme: "CREATIVITY WITH HERBS and a Celebration of the Umbel Family with Dill, Herb of the Year, 2010."

Sponsored by The Herb Society of America, Pioneer Unit (Round Top based) and The International Festival-Institute at Round Top. Each year our Herb Society members host our annual Herbal Forum educational event. This is our 15th year doing so. In past years I've individually emailed the brochure to many of the Master Gardener Associations in counties surrounding Fayette and Brazos Counties. We've had good support with the Master Gardeners being use attendance at the event for CEUs. I'd like to expand our Herbal Forum coverage by including it on the TMGA Calendar of Events.

Registration is limited and advanced registration is required by March 15th. However, open to the public both days are the "Thyme Well Spent" Gift Shop, Lucia's Garden Bookstore, and the Plant Sale. Henry Flowers, Garden Director at Festival Hill, will review the plants for sale at 10 am, Friday morning. The full schedule, registration forms and information on accommodations are available at www.festivalhill.org. To have a brochure mailed to you or to register by phone call 979-249-3129 or fax to 979-249-5078. For additional information contact Henry Flowers at henry@festivalhill.org or leave a message at 979-249-3129.

[Registration and Agenda](#)

Special Events & Opportunities Continued



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

"Easter Orchids"
2010 Zilker Botanical Gardens 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 Sunday, April 4th.

This year we are very proud to present the 39th Annual 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/>

SFA Gardens to Host Spring Plant Sale

NACOGDOCHES, Texas – 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."



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: [March County Events](#) –

- ◆ March 1 - Kaufman County Master Gardener Meeting Greenhouse Planning and Construction
 - ◆ March 2 - Smith County Master Gardeners - "First Tuesday in the Garden" lecture series for 2010 "Salvias – Color, Spring to Frost."
 - ◆ March 6 - Wilson County Gardening Day
 - ◆ March 6 - Victoria County Master Gardener Association - "Spring Fever" Symposium
 - ◆ March 6 - Gregg County Master Gardeners to Host Spring Garden and Landscape Seminar
 - ◆ March 6 - Fort Bend County Master Gardener - Saturday with the Master Gardeners
 - ◆ March 8 -- Victoria County Master Gardener Association "Lunch and Learn With the Masters" lecture series "Butterflies and Bees: Their Role in Pollination," Frances Kanak and Brynn Lee, Victoria County Master gardeners.
 - ◆ March 8 - Somervell County Master Gardeners, monthly CHES program "From Gourds to Birdhouses"
 - ◆ March 9 - Harris County Master Gardener Association - "Great Plants for Houston"
 - ◆ March 9th - Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas - Native Grasses
 - ◆ March 11 - The Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Green Thumb Seminar: Gardens to Attract Butterflies and Birds
 - ◆ March 12 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Spring Into Action: Starting Your Vegetable Garden Right
 - ◆ March 13 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Spring Vegetable Gardening
 - ◆ March 13 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Annual Perennial, Tomato, Pepper and Herb Sale
 - ◆ March 15 - Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2 - Open Garden Day
 - ◆ March 16 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS - 2010 BROWN BAG—"Plants and Pets – What's Toxic and What's Not"
 - ◆ March 17 - Harris County Master Gardener Association - "Using Native Plants in Home Landscaping"
 - ◆ March 20 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - 4th Annual A Passion for Plants: An East Austin Garden Fair 2010
 - ◆ March 22 -- Victoria County Master Gardener Association "Lunch and Learn With the Masters" lecture series "Propagation of Plants," Roy Cook
 - ◆ March 27 - The Ellis County Master Gardeners - 10th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo
 - ◆ March 27 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners - Spring Plant Sale
-

News from Around the State



Two Wichita County MG received their 10 year service pins on February 2nd. Agent is Fred Hall CEA Ag/NR. The lady in red is Virginia Krebs, the other is Virginia McCrary. What are the odds of having TWO Virginias who were in the same class????

