



2010 TMGA Officers

President
Lonnie Matthew
Aransas County



First Vice President
Homer Babbitt
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—[TMGA](#)
[Dove Johnson](#)
dove1johnson@gmail.com
Somervell County



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



From Our President

What a great Annual Conference we had in Dallas! I wish you all could have been there. The programs were excellent, with such a nice variety to pick from. The room temperatures were comfortable; the food was great; the weather was even good.

My favorite part of TMGA conferences is the camaraderie we all share. You know, it doesn't really matter if you are from Amarillo or Beaumont, we love digging in the dirt.

We're joyous when our plants do what we want and not happy when a favorite doesn't make it. Even though there are times within the organization when we don't agree, I hope that we may always realize it is the little things of life that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one. That is a paraphrase from a statement used by another group, but I think it's worth remembering.

Have a good month.

Lonnie

Table of Contents

TMGA News & Specialist Training	Pages 1-2
Annual Conference Info.	Pages 3-4
TMGA Special Contributor	Page 5
Special Events & Opportunities	Page 6
County Upcoming Events	Page 7
News from Around the State	Page 7

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](#)

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

Registration Fee: \$200 received by May 19 and payable to Bexar County Master Gardeners

Contact: Angel Torres, AgriLife Extension, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX 78230-4818, 210.467.6575, MATorres@ag.tamu.edu

Contact Angel as soon as possible, as enrollment is capped at thirty applicants. Payment and application must be received by May 19, 2010. Cancellations later than Friday, May 28 are subject to a \$100 surcharge.

The Bexar County Master Gardeners welcome you to our city. Email me for hotel, restaurant, and area sight seeing details.

Thanks, Don Hall, Publicity Coordinator, Bexar County Master Gardeners, 210.355.0533
donhallinsa@sbcglobal.net

TMGA Awards

The full listing of all TMGA Awards and photos from the Awards Banquet can be found on the Awards website, www.tmgaawards.com. Below is a chart of numbers of entries for the past 3 years.

2009	Small	Med	Mdlg	Lg	TTL	2008	Smal	Med	Mdlg	Lg	TTL	2007	Smal	Med	Mdlg	Lg	TTL
Assoc	5	5	5	3	18	Assoc	7	5	3	5	20	Assoc	6	4	4	6	20
Educ	11	7	5	4	27	Educ	8	6	7	6	27	Educ	8	4	4	6	22
Ind	9	6	5	4	24	Ind	8	7	6	6	27	Ind	5	7	3	5	20
News	5	4	1	5	15	News	6	7	3	4	20	News	6	5	1	3	15
Proj	9	5	6	4	24	Proj	9	5	5	6	25	Proj	8	6	3	4	21
Graph	4	2	2	4	12	Graph	3	2	2	4	11	Graph	4	4	2	3	13
Media	4	5	3	4	16	Media	5	4	4	2	15	Media	3	3	2	4	12
Pub	6	2	3	4	15	Pub	2	3	5	3	13	Pub	6	3	2	6	17
TTL:	53	36	30	32	151	TTL:	48	39	35	36	158	TTL:	46	36	21	37	140

Annual Conference Information



2010 TMGA Conference Was a Huge Success

The TMGA 2010 Conference, hosted by the Dallas County Master Gardener As-

sociation at the Omni Mandalay Hotel on April 8, 9 and 10, was by all accounts a huge success.

Many of you remember that the chairmanship of the event was originally with Nita Rausch who worked tirelessly for months but had to withdraw midway through the planning due to health problems. This job was then taken over by Duddly Hargrove, class of 2008, whose organizational abilities and calm approach to the work to be done was a real asset to the Conference Committee. Duddly deserves a lot of credit for the truly wonderful event and we all owe him a debt of gratitude as it is very difficult to step into a process in mid-stream.

The dedication of the Conference Committee to making the 2010 TMGA Conference an event that met the desires of all the attendees showed at every part of the event. Hundreds of volunteer hours were contributed by these selfless volunteers to attend to the smallest details necessary to bring off a large event like this. So many Dallas County Master Gardeners worked on the conference that it is impossible to list each one individually here so this is a collective "Thank You" from us all.

The conference attendees were particularly generous in their positive comments on the surveys taken at the conclusion. The satisfaction ratio on those sur-

veys ran about 90 to 95 %. Many conference attendees were specific about how pleasant it was to have a venue large enough to allow everyone to be housed, attend all the lectures and classes as well as the luncheons and dinners under one roof. The comfort, beautiful atmosphere and the abundance of flowers in the hotel were commented on to Paula Spletter, Conference Secretary, by the many visitors to the conference office. About 350 Texas Master Gardeners registered for the conference. There were plenty of volunteers available to help with any questions and any problems that arose were easily corrected.

The beautiful items collected for the silent auction and the fine, handmade Texas Bluebonnet quilt in the raffle proved very popular and brought in about \$4,000 to help defray the cost of the conference. The DCMGA sales table was very successful and sold not only souvenirs of the conference but also many shirts, aprons and books.

We heartily congratulate everyone involved in the planning of the 2010 TMGA Conference on its success. We invite everyone to look at the pictures of the conference that are available on the web site at www.2010TMGAconference.org. The many handouts given during the lectures and classes are also available for everyone to download from the web site. In reviewing surveys, we realize that some of you did not get handouts. A notice was on the Confirmation Letter that all Master Gardeners attending conference received, stating that handouts would be posted, as received, on the website. This was done within 24 hours of receipt by us. Some speakers preferred to bring their own handouts, and some preferred they not be on website. Hard copies were made available for those without email. Thank you for your survey feedback. It is being compiled and disseminated.



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



Now, that the Dallas Conference is over, you must be thinking what about next year? Well . . . let's look at just one of the several tours that is going to be available to attendees. How about spending an afternoon (or morning) in Africa? Just outside of Glen Rose is Africa! Yep, you can tour Fossil Rim Wildlife Center – an 1,800-acre breeding and conservation center for endangered and/or threatened animals. You will be afforded your very own tour guide and bus or van. This is an extremely up-close and personal experience with the animals roaming free and you in the “cage.” The giraffes will probably come over so you can feed them from your hand as will the European red deer and various other species.



An exciting event has just taken place this past week at Fossil Rim. Marlindi, a mother cheetah, gave birth to 4 cubs on April 16. To date, Fossil Rim has had approximately 130 cheetah babies born since 1984. Wow! Certain areas of Fossil Rim have been likened to parts of Africa by visitors who have been on a real safari in Africa. This is one of those places you will wonder why you have not been there before. So, you see, we are planning some very special tours for you. For more information on the 2011 Conference, visit www.2011tmgaconference.org



Dallas Turns Over the TMGA Conference Trowel

Duddly Hargrove, 2010 Conference Chairman and Bunny Williams, DCMGA President presented the TMGA Conference Traveling Trowel to Donna Hagar, SCMGA and Doug Richards, LGMG, 2011 Conference Co-Chairs at the Dallas Conference Awards Banquet. The trowel is passed on each year to the host for the next conference. The 2011 Conference will be held April 27-29, 2011 in Glen Rose at the Somervell County Expo Center.

Donna and Doug graciously accepted the trowel and thanked the Dallas folks for the great conference at the Omni Hotel. They also thanked Bunny and Duddly for allowing them to have been a part of the Dallas Conference Committees and for the wealth of knowledge passed along to them.

After the passing of the trowel, Doug and Donna gave a whiz bang PowerPoint presentation about next years conference. see video at <http://www.2011tmgaconference.org/>. They announced that the key note speaker is going to be none other than HGTV's The "Gardener Guy", Paul James!



Don't miss this exciting, unique opportunity to participate in a conference “like you've never seen before!!” Sign up to receive conference updates at www.2011tmgaconference.org.

Never Water Again

by Peggy Jones, Cypress Basin Master Gardener



Can you imagine growing a garden that you don't have to water, even in a drought?

I don't mean a cactus garden. I mean a real live, flourishing garden.

It can be done. It has been done. It is being done by TAMU in Wichita Falls. Steve Chaney started it nine years ago as a pioneer project of Earth-Kind.

"Earth-Kind" is a horticultural term trademarked by Texas A & M University which applies to landscape and soil management methods developed by Texas Agri-Life Extension horticulturists over the past decade. It combines the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles with

an aim of being effective and environmental responsibility.

"Think about our ancestors," Chaney said. "They didn't pour chemical fertilizer on everything. They didn't have herbicides and pesticides. They used and reused everything that was natural."

Around 2001, newly assigned to Wichita Falls with the Agri-Life Extension Service, Chaney set out to determine what it would take to prepare a garden bed that would sustain a crop with minimal additives or care.

"Wichita Falls is a tough area to grow things in," he explained. "It's hot and dry and the soil isn't great."

He was certain, if he could create a self-sustaining garden in Wichita Falls, it could be done just about anywhere. His team worked up a 100' x 100' garden.

First thing they did was test the soil.

"Think of it this way," Chaney said, "You go to the doctor once a year and they do a blood test to see how your cholesterol is and how your blood sugar is and to determine what you may need to stay healthy. A soil test serves the same purpose. Until you test that soil you don't know what, exactly, it needs."

Based on the test he amended the soil using compost, manure and the required nutrients.

Then, Chaney says, they were careful to select plants appropriate for the area including roses, groundcovers, perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs, turf, vegetables and bulbs. There were 600 plants in the first batch and they only lost six of them!

Next, they mulched. Mulch decomposes to become the organic matter that sustains the garden and holds in moisture.

Finally, they installed a drip irrigation system and watered the plants for three months.

"At the end of three months we weaned it off," Chaney said. "That was nine years ago. It's never been watered since."

Chaney, now the Texas Agri-Life Extension Service's Home Horticulture Specialist for Tarrant County, teaches the Earth-Kind method of soil management extensively. It's now been tested in 38 states and five foreign countries.

"We're finding the results are the same everywhere you go," he says. "If you prepare your soil correctly you don't have to water. Would it be even better if you did? Sure. But we have proved that if you had a total drought and water was rationed, you could grow a productive garden without any added water if you prepare the soil right."



Introducing Peggy Jones, our newest regular contributor to the TMGA Newsletter!

"I retired from running television newsrooms in 2008 and moved outside Mount Pleasant with my husband, Bruce Jones. I always loved my yard and gardening so when I quit work, I got my Texas Master Gardener certification and am active with the Cypress Basin Master Gardeners Association. I write a weekly column for the Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune using our various master gardeners and activities as the subjects.

Bruce and I have four grown sons, 7 grandsons and 3 granddaughters."

WELCOME, PEGGY!!!

Special Events & Opportunities

Brazos County



Good Garden Therapy - Earth Kind Methods for Gardening

Hosted By The Brazos County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension Master Gardeners
Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX.

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 9 a.m. to noon

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

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

Remember, "Gardening should be enjoyable and good therapy,"

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

Bexar County Master Gardeners

First Alamo Area Horticulture Show, May 29, 2011

Texas Nursery & Landscape Association, Texas AgriLIFE Extension and Bexar County Master Gardeners Present First Alamo Area Horticulture Show. The Show takes place on Saturday, May 29 at the 13th annual Festival of Flowers, to be held at the Alzafar Shrine on N. Loop 1604 West.

For [more information](#) about the Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest, contact David Rodriguez at (210) 467-6575 or DHRodriguez@ag.tamu.edu. For more about the Festival of Flowers, including exhibitor information, contact Anne Schiller at (210) 380-3532 or anne@anneschiller.com.

Submitted by Don Hall, Publicity Coordinator, Bexar County Master Gardeners



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

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](#).....

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: [May County Events](#) –

- ◆ May 1 - Lamar County Master Gardener Annual PLANT SALE
- ◆ May 1 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Saturday with the Master Gardeners
- ◆ May 3 - Kaufman County Master Gardener Association - Meeting
- ◆ May 7 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds
- ◆ May 8 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners - 10TH Annual Hidden Gardens Tour
- ◆ May 8 - Denton County Master Gardener Association - 2010 Garden Tour and Plant Sale
- ◆ May 10 - Somervell County Master Gardeners—Bees and Beekeeping with Dwain Cleveland
- ◆ May 11 - Guadalupe County NPSOT—Water Conservation, Rainwater Harvesting and Drip Irrigation
- ◆ May 11 - Harris County Master Gardener Association - Green Thumb Gardening Series
- ◆ May 13 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - Green Thumb Seminar: Landscape Design and Planning
- ◆ May 15 - San Antonio Daylily Society - Show and Sale
- ◆ May 15 - Rockwall County Master Gardener Association - 2010 Tour of Gardens
- ◆ May 17 - Harris County Master Gardeners Precinct 2. - Open Garden Day
- ◆ May 18 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners -BROWN BAG—“Tough and Beautiful, Meet the Salvias”
- ◆ May 19 - Harris County Master Gardeners - Master Gardener Lecture Series
- ◆ May 20 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners - "Hummers - the Bird, NOT the Car"
- ◆ May 22 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - How to Create a Wildlife Habitat
- ◆ May 22 - The Brazos County Master Gardeners - Good Garden Therapy Earth Kind Methods for Gardening
- ◆ May 29 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association - Become a Garden Detective

News from Around the State

The **Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners** were awarded First Place for their website in the Mass Media Award category, medium associations, in the Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) 2009 Awards. The honor was announced at the TMGA Conference held April 8-10 in Dallas. The award winning website, filled with information and photos on gardening and related topics for the Coastal Bend area, can be found at <http://www.aspmastergardeners.org/>.

The Master Gardeners are a group of knowledgeable and talented volunteers, highly trained by Texas

AgriLife Extension Service to assist them in reaching more people in their mission to provide horticultural education. As such, Master Gardeners meet crucial needs within communities by providing information generated by research at A&M or other universities as a free public service.

Pictured are website committee members, from left, Gail Bergen, Beth Wilson, Ronell Burke, Elayne Arne, Richard Snyder, and Susan Thompson.



Somervell County Master Gardeners Win Awards

Back in January of this year, the Somervell County Master Gardeners Association (“SCMGA”) Awards Committee presented 4 separate awards to the State to be considered for special recognition. They were: Individual, Newsletter, Project and Education. At the Awards Banquet, which was part of the Texas State Master Gardeners Conference recently held in Dallas, it was announced that the SCMGA received 1st Place for their Newsletter “*The Green Piece*” and 2nd Place for their Publication on “*Earth-Kind™ Roses*”. The next time you are in the County Extension Office, you may see these awards hanging proudly on the wall.



Pictured Donna Hagar, SCMGA President, Lonnie Matthew, TMGA President, and SCMGA members Glenda Marsh, Greg Marsh, Sandi Stringer and Julie Conner.