



NEWSLETTER

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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.

Web Editor—[TMGA](#)
[Dove Johnson](#)
dove1johnson@gmail.com
Somervell County



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



From Our President

Thanks to Donna Hagar, this month's Texas Master Gardener Association Newsletter is reaching many of you by direct email. Donna now has over 1600 Texas Master Gardeners across the State on our new newsletter distribution system. Her goal is to have 2000 members signed up by year end. We are excited about this project because we are now reaching more of our members than ever before. The ultimate goal is that we have every Texas Master Gardener with an email address receiving the monthly newsletter in their electronic mail box.

There are currently two ways to get signed up to receive a monthly newsletter. One way is to have your local association forward to Donna a list of members with their email addresses. This can be done electronically and Donna can have your entire association membership on line in a flash. If for some reason your local association isn't able to do the above you can go to our TMGA Web Site and click on Web Newsletter. Dove Johnson, TMGA Web Site Coordinator, has provided a place for you to sign up individually. Either method will get you on the electronic mailing list.

I encourage each of you to pass the word to your fellow Master Gardeners so everyone can enjoy our outstanding newsletter each month.

Thanks for your help.

A reminder to everyone our next Directors' Meeting will be December 5th in College Station.

Doug

*****Special Late Addition*****

EarthKind® Rose Symposium - page 8

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EarthKind® News

Earth-Kind Goes Global

Debbie Bengé-Frost, CEA-Horticulture, Ector County and Gaye Hammond were invited by the World Rose Federation to go to Vancouver, Canada to give a presentation on the national Earth-Kind program. There were thirty nine different countries represented at the conference. A total of eighteen papers were published and two of them were Debbie's and Gaye's. Some of the states and countries that attended were Hawaii, Utah, Alaska, Alberta, BC, and Uruguay - as well as hybridizers from France, Germany and Canada.



Debbie Bengé-Frost, CEA-Horticulture, Ector County, gives Earth-Kind® presentation at the World Federation of Rose Societies Convention held in Vancouver, British Columbia in June 2009. Delegates from 39 countries attended this week-long educational event.



TMGA News and Events

Texas AgriLife on Facebook

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service is currently investigating the utilization of Facebook as a tool to enhance our recruiting efforts and to more effectively connect with potential applicants. Recruiting the future County Extension Agent will require innovative tech-

niques and one of these innovative techniques includes the use of Facebook and other social networks to market career opportunities and positions in AgriLife Extension.

Here's the address of the Facebook page for AgriLife Extension: <http://www.facebook.com/agrilifeextension>

Newsletter Changes

By Donna Hagar, Newsletter Editor

I hope everyone is getting a feel for the new newsletter distribution system. The August email was sent via Vertical Response to almost 1200 email addresses. Thanks to all the counties who have sent in your email rosters, as well as to those who have individually signed up. We have since increased our numbers to over 1600 email addresses, so it is catching on!

A few things to remember:

- This service account is with the TMGA organization and the database will be used only for TMGA Newsletter and Special Announcements.
- Each email will always include a safe-unsubscribe option
- If your county has not sent in your email roster, please continue to forward the emails as you have done so in the past.
- As you get new members, either have them sign up via the opt-in form at www.tmganewsletter.org

or forward their email address, first and last names and county to tmga.news@gmail.com.

- Newsletter article submissions should be sent to tmga.news@gmail.com

If you have any questions regarding this new system, please email me at tmga.news@gmail.com.

To sign up directly, click [Sign Up Here](#) to access the subscription form. This is a secure, double opt-in form. Once you fill out the form, you will be automatically and immediately sent an email which you must click to complete the registration process. Please check your spam or junk folder if you do not see the email immediately. You will not receive the newsletters until you have completed this double opt-in procedure. Your county may also submit an email roster of your entire MG organization to tmga.news@gmail.com. Include at least first and last name and email address of all MG's and your county. If your county would like to put a subscription form on your own website, please contact me and I can send you the HTML code.

TMGA News and Events Continued



From the Desk of Jayla Fry

Over the last month, Jayla has sent out several communiqués which are important for or of interest to all Master Gardeners. These files and notices are listed below, with more information provided by clicking the appropriate link. You may also access these files and others on the TMGA website under Points of Interest or the specific appropriate section.

- [Scotts Final Newsletter](#)
- [AmpleHarvest.org](#) - TX an update -
- [TMGA Outreach Committee Survey Results](#)-
- Master Gardener Specialist Program - 2 files - [Texas Master Gardener Specialist Program](#) and [Specialist Service Documentation Form](#).
- Liability presentation by Jerry Brown - file [Three Laws that Protect MG Volunteers-2009-Aug-1](#)
- Chartering Documents and Information (on TMGA Members Only Page)
- [Introduction to Horticultural Therapy](#)

Annual Conference Information



2010 TEXAS MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The 2010 TMGA Convention Committee has been searching for months to arrange a Tour schedule for the convention that will appeal to all attendees. There will be a varied selection of venues, length of visits, prices and times. Other Tours will be described in future articles about the convention.

On Thursday, April 8, there will be a long tour that will include an 8:30 AM Butterfly Gardening Lecture at the Omni. This will be a bus tour leaving Las Colinas Omni at 11:00 AM and returning at 5 PM. The price will be \$40 per person that includes the lecture, transportation, box lunch, water and bus snacks as well as admission to the Texas Discovery Gardens.

On arrival at Texas Discovery Gardens a box lunch will be provided while attendees will hear a talk on Butterflies by Dale Clark, who is the renowned local expert on Butterflies. He is the creator of *Butterflies Unlimited*, a butterfly farm south of Dallas. Mr. Clark provides 50 species of live Texas native butterflies to zoos and other exhibits throughout the country. He is also the editor of the *News of the Lepidopterists' Society*, the international newsletter devoted to the study of butterflies and moths.

The Texas Discovery Garden, located inside historic Fair Park, is the first public garden in Texas to be des-

ignated an organic garden. The grounds feature various specialty sites such as butterfly habitat, native wildlife pond, scent garden, shade garden and the Benny Simpson garden. The TDG specializes in native and adapted plants which are propagated in green houses on site with volunteers who are often Dallas County Master Gardeners.

The last stop on this tour will be the new Earth-Kind Demonstration Garden that has been planted in Lake Cliff Park in north Oak Cliff. This Demonstration Rose Garden occupies the site of an historic WPA rose garden from the 1930s and 40s, lost due to budget cuts in the 1980s. This restoration was a joint project between the Dallas County Master Gardeners, Friends of Oak Cliff Parks and the Dallas Park and Recreation Department, District IV. The soil amendments, irrigation and 150 Earth Kind roses found in this garden were funded by a grant from the Oak Cliff Lions' Club to the Friends of Oak Cliff Parks.

The restoration of this historic WPA rose garden and park has been done over several years. It is the site of the annual Oak Cliff Earth Day that this year had an attendance of between 8 and 10,000 visitors.

The web site at www.2010TMGAconference.org is currently being expanded with information that you need such as a detailed listing of Tours, Events, Speakers and Education Sessions. It has been brought to the attention of the TMGA Conference Committee that there were problems with phone reservations at the Omni Mandalay. Please use 1-800-444-6664 or 1-888-444-6664. Please remember that questions may be addressed to our e-mail address TMGA2010@hotmail.com.

Annual Conference Information Continued



2011 TMGA State Conference Co-Hosted by Lake Granbury and Somervell County Master Gardeners

Greetings from Granbury, Texas, the home of Lake Granbury Master Gardeners and co-host of the 2011 Master Gardener State Conference. Last month you were briefly introduced to Somervell County and this month we will travel north for sixteen miles from Glen Rose on Hwy 144 and into the town of Granbury, population 5,718 and located approximately 33 miles southwest of Ft. Worth.

Your first introduction to Granbury and its 33.5 mile-long rural recreational haven, Lake Granbury, will be to drive over the southern portion of this 8,500-acre reservoir created when the Brazos River was impounded in 1969. After crossing the lake, turn right on Pearl Street and head straight into the town's nucleus, the Granbury Square.

The square originally was built starting in 1871 and in 1974 it became the first Texas town square listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was the model for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program and also voted "The Best Town Square in Texas" by Texas Highways. With its Victorian architecture, it is one of the most complete examples of a late 19th century courthouse square in Texas.

The limestone Hood County Courthouse in the center of the square sets the tone with its tall, gray, three-tiered clock tower which can be seen all the way from Lake Granbury and the imposing statue of General Hiram B. Granbury. Over forty antique and specialty shops line all four sides of the square, along with two places for live, family-friendly entertainment, the Granbury Opera House established in 1886 and Granbury Live Theater. At the time of this writing, seven restaurants offering fare to please any palate are also located within walking distance around the square, with more than seventy other establishments operating within the city.

The welcome signs at the city limits proclaim "Welcome to Granbury, Where Texas History Lives". In the months to come, Lake Granbury Master Gardeners can't wait to share more of our town and its history with you. Until next time -- Happy Trails!!!! Submitted by Nancy Hancock, LGMG.

Visit www.2011tmgaconference.org for more information



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](#)

August Directors Meeting

For anyone who missed the August Directors meeting, you can listen to a recording of the event on Centra. Follow this link to sign in. <http://webconference.tamus.edu/main/tce/index.jhtml?default=true> Instructions for Centra are on the TMGA Website [here](#). Search for Texas MG and click 8/1/09. Photos from the meeting can be seen here. [See photos](#)

Specialist Training

September 28 – October 2, 2009 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training

– Texas AgriLife Extension Service Montgomery County Office, Conroe, TX
Hosted by Dr. Paul R. Nester, Extension Program Specialist, Houston/Metro area, and the Montgomery 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 25 applicants; deadline is July 18, 2008

Contact Paul Nester at PNester@ag.tamu.edu or 281-855-5639 with any questions.

http://grovesite.com/GSLibrary/Downloads/download.ashx?file=sites/1569/14485/276310/2009%20MV%202009%20Ento%20Spec%20Training%20announcement%20_%20agenda.pdf



Master Gardener Specialist - Greenhouse Management: October 28-30 Ft. Worth, TX

In an effort to provide training, the Master Gardener Specialist - Greenhouse Management training was created as a hands-on, intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas AgriLife Extension efforts in educational programs. The class is divided into separate tracks, commercial and hobby greenhouse for more specialized situations. Master Gardener Specialist - Greenhouse Management October 28-30, 2009 Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas Master Gardeners who

fulfill specified training and volunteer requirements will be recognized as a Master Gardener Specialist in the specific field of Greenhouse Management. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within his/her local county programs.

Registration fee: \$150.00 (Includes dinner (2), lunch (1), snacks, drinks, Greenhouse Management equipment, Power Point CD and resource materials distributed during course).

- Transportation and lodging is on your own.
- Course is limited to the first 40 applications to send check and application.
- A maximum of 2 Master Gardeners from each county.

[Registration, Information and Course Agenda](#)
[Lodging](#)



Rainwater Specialist Training - November 13th, and 14th- Concho Valley Master Gardeners-

SAVE THIS DATE

[More Information](#)
[Registration Information](#)

"The Concho Valley MG's will be hosting in Tom Green County (San Angelo) a Rainwater Specialist Training November 13th and 14th. Billy Kniffen has his team rounded up and we are getting ready for a training in West Central Texas, more central located for several MG Chapters to travel less miles.

National EarthKind® Specialist
October 7-9, 2009
Coordinator/Sponsor:
Steve Chaney
Texas AgriLife Extension
Fort Worth, Texas



The National EarthKind® Specialist program is designed to provide advance training and resources to Master Gardeners and Rosarians to certify them to be part of a state and national corps of EarthKind® experts and educators.

[Information/Registration](#)

Special Events & Opportunities

September 19 and 22, 2009 Texas Discovery Gardens State Fair of Texas

Choose either Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9am-noon or Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 6:30-8:30pm. Training is required to be a State Fair docent. Docents help visitors identify native butterflies, insects, host/nectar plants,

and other plants in the butterfly gardens, as well as aquatic life in the pond. Shift times: 09/25/09 to 10/18/09. Please RSVP to Blake Morgan, Programs and Volunteer Manager, at Volunteers@TexasDiscoveryGardens.org or at (214) 428-7476 x24.

September 14-15- Extension Horticulture-Landscape Design Study Courses: Number III, Series XXI



225 Horticulture/Forestry Bldg.
2134 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2134
The courses are held in College Station, TX., and are co-sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Texas

AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A and 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. Each course has been approved 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/southerngarden/LDSept09/Flyer9,09.html>

This is the third 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. An evaluation of public and private landscapes is a popular part of this particular course. Each of the courses offers an "outside" lecture among the ten topics covered. This time, we are pleased to have Dr. Larry Stein of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. He will speak on "Fruit for Texas Gardens." In addition, Dr. Neil G. Odenwald, retired Head of Landscape Architecture at Louisiana State University, will talk on "Color in the Landscape" and "Landscape Design Accessories

." We are pleased to offer "scholarships" for Course III 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 you as we all strive to improve our educational programs. Please fill out and return the registration form as soon as possible. Cost of the course will be \$100; cost of the textbook (good for 4 sessions) \$40.

Feel free to contact my office should you have questions (Tammy Landry, tlandry@ag.tamu.edu, 979-845-7342). Thanks for spreading the word about this program to your Master Gardeners and others who may be interested.

TEEA News Release

Now Accepting Applications for the 2010 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards.

The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, presented annually by the governor's office and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, mark the highest distinction of environmental honor in the state. The awards recognize outstanding contributions in 11 diverse categories. The public may nominate an individual, community, company, or organization for an award.

We are asking for your assistance in promoting the awards to your community. We have created a ready-to-use Web banner ad to place on your Web site. Please go to <http://www.teea.org/apply/icons/apply.html> and follow the easy, step-by-step instructions. Once it's added to your site, viewers can easily click directly to the online application and ensure recognition of successful environmental efforts in your community.

Deadline to submit: October 16, 2009. Enter today at www.teea.org.

Special Events & Opportunities Continued



CELEBRATES ROSES AT ROSEDANGO 2009

The City of Farmers Branch & Chambersville Tree Farms

FARMERS BRANCH, TX (May, 2009) – The City of Farmers Branch and Chambersville Tree Farms announce a weekend celebration of roses at the second annual RoseDango to be held **October 17 and 18** in the cities of McKinney, Chambersville and Farmers Branch, Texas. RoseDango features guest speakers Marilyn Wellan and Stephen Scanniello, this year's Great Rosarians of the World (GROW) honorees, as well as Mike Shoup author and owner of the Antique Rose Emporium and Dennis Jones, President of the Fort Worth Rose Society.

Actively involved in local, national and international rose societies, Mr. Scanniello, author and current president of the Heritage Rose Foundation and Ms. Wellan, past president of the American Rose Society, have been honored for their work promoting the love of roses and bridging the gap between two major approaches in the hobby, Modern Roses and Old Garden Roses. Mike Shoup, a Texas Rose Rustler, has long promoted the preservation and use of Old Garden Roses. As the former Rose Gardener at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Dennis Jones has cared for over 2,000 roses and promotes an earth-friendly approach to rose gardening.

This year's RoseDango celebration provides rosarians and rose enthusiasts the opportunity to exchange information and see firsthand the rose gardens in Farmers Branch and Chambersville Heritage Rose

Garden. The weekend will kick-off Saturday with presentations at the McKinney Performing Arts Theater, followed by tours of the Chambersville Heritage Rose Garden. On Sunday the event will move south to Farmers Branch and will feature garden tours, a rose pruning clinic by Mike Shoup and much more. The event concludes with the Dallas Rose Society's Fall Rose Show at the Farmers Branch Senior Center. The show will be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners to see what is thought to be the largest environmental horticulture research in the country. The National Earth-Kind Trial Rose Garden in Farmers Branch is the only garden to evaluate all 100 cultivars under consideration for future Earth-Kind designation on a national level. Under the direction of Dr. Steven George this project has included many volunteer hours including those of Master Gardeners. Also include in the Farmers Branch tour is an Earth-Kind demonstration garden that exhibits the use of perennials and annuls with the roses.

The Chambersville Heritage Rose garden is a study garden of the Heritage Rose Foundation and has been designated by the Heritage Rose Committee of the World Federation of Rose Societies as an important world collection of historical roses. The garden features over 300 different varieties of rare and unusual China, Tea, Noisette and Hybrid Musk roses growing in a natural meadow setting utilizing the Earth-Kind method of growing.

Visit www.rosedango.com for more information

Contact: Pam Smith - 972.919.2625 -

pam.smith@farmersbranch.info

Carol Edwards - 214.250.3023 -

events@chambersvilletreefarms.com

The Masters of Gardening - Dallas Arboretum.

Be our guest. Saturday, **November 7, 2009** 9 am- 5 pm

214-515-6540 or education@dallasarboretum.org

For more information, visit <http://www.dallasarboretum.org/Learn/MasterGardeners.htm>



The Texas Organic Farmers & Gardeners will hold its annual conference: "Texas Conference on Organic Crop Production"

January 28 thru 30, 2010, at the Embassy Suites, San Marcos, TX.

Speakers and events will be posted to the Web site, (TOFGA.org) as soon as they are finalized.

Submitted by Walter Daude

Special Events & Opportunities Continued



EARTH-KIND[®] ROSE SYMPOSIUM ***Presented by Texas AgriLife Extension and*** ***Victoria County Master Gardeners*** ***Saturday, October 17, 2009***



Love to garden, but a too-busy lifestyle got you ready to "throw in the trowel"? Come to Victoria on October 17 to the Earth-Kind Rose Symposium to hear how you can still successfully grow beautiful roses and other plants without spending a lot of time and effort and while still remaining environmentally responsible.

<http://www.vcmga.org/2009EarthKindSymposiumInfo.html>

Victoria County Master Gardeners Association (VCMGA) and Texas AgriLife Service, Victoria County, invite you to this all-day event to be held in the Victoria County 4-H Activity Center located across from the control tower at Victoria Regional Airport just east of Victoria on Business Highway 59. Registration begins 8 a.m. with the program beginning at 9 a.m.

Dr. Steve George, Landscape Horticulture Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension, Dallas; Gaye Hammond, past president of the Houston Rose Society; Steve Chaney, Horticulture Agent for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Fort Worth; and Dr. Shari Koch, Horticulture Agent for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Rosenberg have teamed up to provide a full slate of sessions to aid today's time-strapped gardener.



Morning topics include an "Earth-Kind Overview", "Earth-Kind Roses: The Ultimate in Beautiful, Low-Maintenance Roses", "Improving Existing Soils Through Earth-Kind Environmental Soil Management", and "The Ever-Expanding Horizons for Earth-Kind"

During the afternoon, the attendees will be divided into four groups to attend 35-minute-long concurrent sessions which include an "Earth-Kind Bed Preparation Demonstration", "Introducing Children to the Joy of Growing Roses", "Creating an Earth-Kind Rose Garden in Your Own Backyard" and "Companion Plants for Earth-Kind Roses." Each attendee will have the opportunity to attend each of these sessions.

In addition to admittance to all of the sessions, the \$65 registration fee includes, an Earth-Kind Handbook, a 2 gallon experimental rose, a box lunch, morning and afternoon snacks, and a tour of the VCMGA Earth-Kind Research Study garden located in VCMGA's Award-Winning Victoria Educational Gardens (VEG). Attendees are also eligible for 6 CEU's Master Gardeners credit and 3 CEU's for Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide credit.



The registration fee should be mailed to Victoria County Master Gardeners Association, P.O. Box 1723, Victoria, Texas 77902, and must be received by October 1. Seating is limited, so mail your registration today. (Should seats remain after the Oct. 1 deadline, a late registration fees of \$75 per person will be accepted in the order they are received until seating is full or until Oct. 9, the final deadline.) Registration forms can be downloaded from the VCMGA's web site at www.vcmga.org

County Upcoming Events

[September County Events](#) – For more details, visit the TMGA Website, [click here](#).

- September 30, 2009 - The Collin County Master Gardener Association is preparing for their 6th Annual Fall Fundraiser: Bulbs for North Texas Landscapes. Order deadline September 30, 2009
- September 08, 2009 - Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas - Meeting
- September 08, 2009 - Harris County Master Gardeners- Green Thumb Gardening Series
- September 12, 2009 - Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas - Annual Wildscapes Workshop
- September 12, 2009 - Travis County Master Gardeners Association- Redesigning Your Gardens
- September 12, 2009 - Comal Master Gardeners-“Fall Gardening”
- September 12, 2009 - Kaufman County Master Gardener - Rainwater Harvesting Class
- September 12, 2009 - Victoria County Master Gardener Association - 2009 Fall Garden Sale
- September 14, 2009 – Somervell County Master Gardeners – Community Horticultural Education Program – Fire Ants
- September 14, 2009 - Kaufman County Master Gardener Meeting
- September 15, 2009 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS- Be Earth-Kind to Your Landscape”- Brown Bag
- September 16, 2009 - Harris County Master Gardeners - Master Gardener Lecture Series
- September 19, 2009 - Jackson County Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale
- September 19, 2009 - Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Fall Market
- September 19, 2009 - Parker County Master Gardeners - PCMG Fall Plant Sale and Open House
- September 19, 2009 - Travis County Master Gardeners- DIY Pond Building
- September 21, 2009 - The Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2- Open Garden Day
- September 26, 2009 - Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale
- September 26, 2009 - Parker County Master Gardeners-Willow Park Parkfest
- September 26, 2009 - Brazos County Master Gardener Association- Fall Plant Sale
- September 26, 2009 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS- Fall Plant Sale
- September 26, 2009 - Travis County Master Gardeners- Propagation 101: Growing New Plants for Your Garden
- September 26, 2009 - Cherokee County Master Gardener Association - Fall Plant Sale
- September 26, 2009 - Harris County Master Gardener Association - Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale
- September 30, 2009 - ARANSAS/SAN PATRICIO MASTER GARDENERS- Registration Requested for Earth-Kind Landscaping Class

You Know you're A Master Gardener When:

- You always carry a shovel and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools
- You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking
- The fruit drawer in your fridge is full of seed packets

News from Around the State Continued

Cypress Basin Master Gardeners Launch Weekly Column

Most gardeners will tell you, raising plants is little like raising a child. You plant the seed, nurture the seedlings, apply plenty of tender care through the growing season but, in the end, forces of nature and environment can have a greater influence on your success than all your well-intended efforts.

Water all you want but if it hails your plants are hammered. Slather on that Sevin Dust but when that swarm of grasshoppers hits, your fruit is doomed.

The best we can do is to educate ourselves, apply what we learn and pass it on. That's the thrust of the Texas Master Gardener program. We invest a minimum 50 hours in horticulture training by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. In exchange for our training, we give back at least 50 hours of community service to become certified. Each year after, we take an additional six hours continuing horticultural education and perform 12 hours community service to maintain certification.

As we pursue our individual interests, some specialize in areas like rainwater harvesting or landscape design; herb, butterfly, hummingbird or vegetable gardening. Others may develop an expertise in areas like entomology, composting or plant propagation.

In Northeast Texas, the Cypress Basin Master Gardeners program serves Titus, Franklin, Morris and Camp counties. We grow community gardens to provide for the Community Pantry and Safe T House. We maintain demonstration gardens at the Titus County AgriLife Extension Office utilizing Texas Superstar plants. We worked with the City of Pittsburg recently to landscape downtown and Pendergrass Park and now, in partnership with the Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune, we begin publishing a column each Sunday addressing timely issues about your lawns and gardens.

We don't pretend to have all the answers but we can promise to do our best to help find the answers. We look forward to serving you!

– Peggy Jones, certified Texas Master Gardener



SCMGA & LGMG

In preparation for the Texas Master Gardener State Conference being held in Glen Rose April 27-29, 2011, several members from Somervell County Master Gardeners and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners attended a Workshop on making Concrete Butterfly Puddlers and Mushroom Yard Art. The But-



terfly Puddlers are used in the garden to hold small pieces of fruit for butterflies to enjoy. The Mushrooms are fun whimsical conversation pieces for the garden. The Master Gardeners are trying different projects to determine which will be best for the Workshops for the [2011 Conference](#). A fun time was had by all who attended.



Somervell County Master Gardeners

The [Somervell County Master Gardeners](#) and Guests enjoyed a very interesting and informative evening at the August Community Horticulture Education Program. Polly Parmer from the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners presented the program on Butterfly Gardening. She shared tips on identifying Butterflies native to our area, picking the right location for the garden, the use of colorful native plants, and how to arrange our plantings. Polly stressed the importance of selecting plants that will not only attract the adult Butterflies but also the Larva. Just a few of those recommended host plants for the adult Butterfly were: Butterfly Weed, Common Milk Weed, Zinnia, Lantana, and Blue Mist Flower. For the Larval stage: Snapdragons, Coral Vine, Hollyhocks, Queen Anne's Lace, Dill and Lilac. She advised that Caterpillars are very fussy eaters so to be prepared to have your host plants chewed up.