



Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT



Grow With Us



## Buds From The Board

BY PAT MOYER, PRESIDENT

A lot has happened from my Roots deadline in mid-April to my current deadline in mid-May. These include the State Master Gardener Convention, our annual Plant Sale, and our famous Garden Tour.

The State Conference this year was held in Victoria. The venue, the Victoria Community Center, seemed to be made for the conference. The variety of speakers kept up our interest, and their demonstration garden, the Victoria Education Garden, was outstanding. With all that was going on during the conference, I wasn't prepared for the success DCMGA had at the awards banquet on Friday evening.

We received a number of project related awards: 2nd Place for the Fall Garden Fest (PM: S. Nova & S. Ely), The Root (PM: K. Wells), Help Desk/SPLASH (PM: A. Hillmann), and the Speaker's Bureau (PM: D. Payne).

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<https://dcmga.com>

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

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## Buds from the Board (Cont.)

We also had individual awards for two of our members: 3rd Place for Outstanding Individual to Tammie Gurley and the statewide Marva E. Beck Award for Junior Master Gardener Leadership to Beth Sharum.

The icing on the cake was the unprecedented (at least in my mind) DCMGA 1st Place Award for Extra Large Organizations. That's a repeat that recognizes an active, involved organization.

Coming back from the Conference we had to put the awards behind us and get ready for the Plant Sale and Garden Tour on back-to-back weekends. It seemed everything was in order. Pat and Don Edwards for the Plant Sale and Karen Roberts for the Garden Tour had everything under control. The only variable we couldn't totally account for was the weather, and it threatened both events.

Despite the weatherman's 90% certainty the Plant Sale would be a washout, we were miraculously spared any weather issues. We were able to set up, hold the sale, and tear down in dry weather. The final numbers are being finalized, but the initial accounting indicates we may have set a net income record.

The Garden Tour wasn't quite as free of weather issues, but the rain on Saturday morning let up early enough that we still had a successful tour. All the gardens were ready and looked beautiful.

Next up is the Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show (aka "The Fruit and Veggie Show") on June 15. You are all eligible. Bring and enter your best!

Pat Moyer

### *Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary*

DCMGA planned, organized and hosted the 2005 state conference.

Attendance was over 600 MG's. 2005





## Resource Room

BY KATHY RAINEY

In past issues we've covered some of the amazing projects led by Master Gardeners and projects where Master Gardeners volunteer in many ways to promote our mission of educating and engaging county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

There are also many administrative projects led by Master Gardeners who work behind the scenes to enable other Master Gardeners to perform their work. This month we'll spotlight the Resource Room project led by Steve Spurgin. For the last two years Steve has been involved in administering and improving the organization of the many resources available to fellow Master Gardeners.

The Resource Room is located on the 6th floor of the Joseph A. Carroll Building in Denton. It is organized by type of inventory or by program, and is available for all Master Gardeners to use when volunteering. The categories of items include consumable items, such as handouts, brochures, or publications; speakers bureau materials; hospitality/kitchen items; lost and found; Science with Attitude (SWAT) curriculum kits; and special activity items for Plant Sale, Garden Tour, Veggie Show, Worm composting, etc. Hand trucks and carts are also stored in this area.

Within the interior of the Resource Room are three separate small rooms used for storage:

- Room 1 has limited access for technology storage.
- Room 2 contains banners, canopies, and cones. Steve has posted in the Inventory Book a picture of each banner with quantity and sizes, and he updates the book with pictures as new banners arrive.
- Room 3 stores Intern class supplies, rain water harvest barrels, and Jr. Master Gardener materials.

In the Resource Room there is a large conference table that seats twelve to twenty people and also a small office area that seats four. Reservations can be requested from the AgriLife Extension office for use of these meeting areas. There is also a separate storage area straight in after entering the Resource Room that is designated for Master Naturalists.

Supplies are checked in and out by Master Gardeners based on an honor system. Master Gardeners who need support material for presentations or activities should visit the Resource Room to see what is



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Steve Spurgin

### The Banner Inventory Book

includes photos of each banner, in addition to quantity and sizes available.

## Resource Room (Cont.)

already available for their use. Materials have been created over the years and updated as necessary. For additional items, submit a request to Nicki in the AgriLife Extension Office from the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/dcmga/print-request-v2>.

When asked how Master Gardeners can help keep the Resource Room orderly and well stocked, Steve had a few tips:

- Use the check-in/check-out clip boards.
- Be mindful of remaining inventory when items are taken. If additional publications need replenishing, use the link above to request addition stock from Nicki.
- Return items to the location they were taken from. Avoid the temptation to leave returned items on the tables or floor area since there is no one assigned to restock the area.
- Dispose of obsolete items in a timely manner to enable space for new items.
- Contact Steve when new items are being ordered so old items can be disposed.



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

**The Large Conference Room**  
seats 12 to 20 people.

Administrative Projects, such as managing the Resource Room, doesn't get you out into the garden or into the classroom educating our residents, but when you have a volunteer like Steve who takes pride in organizing the limited space we have to maintain our resource materials and equipment, fellow Master Gardeners take notice. Steve says this project has helped him see the variety of activities that occur, which results in the same sense of pride shared by fellow Master Gardeners who perform volunteer work in the community. Improvements Steve has implemented include the photos of banners and flags in the inventory book and the updated Resource Room Procedures document that was recently updated on the DCMGA website.



### Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

DCMGA hosted a *Little Hands on the Farm* interactive exhibit at the State Fair of Texas for a number of years. In 2002, 41 DCMGA members worked 645 hours to produce and man the Texas State Fair's *Little Hands on the Farm* program. They produced fully painted, 3-D cutout plywood decorations as well as a windmill and plantings. Over 1800 children 2-10 years of age took the tour each day of the Fair. This exhibit was part of the Fair until 2008.

## Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

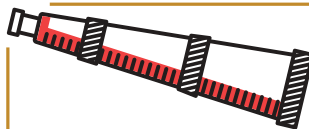
The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) was begun by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003 as a way to thank and honor volunteers. The program continues today as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is managed by the Points of Light, an international nonprofit whose mission is to inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take action to change the world.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service during a twelve-month period.

DCMGA has participated in the program for nine years and has given 498 awards to 193 recipients. This year, we have 81 members who have earned an award. Our thanks and congratulations to our:

- 61 members who earned a Bronze Award for contributing 100–249 hours
- 15 members who earned a Silver Award for contributing 250–499 hours
- 5 members who earned a Gold Award for contributing over 500 hours

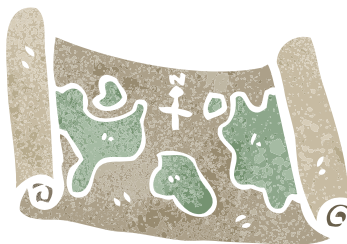
*Well done, DCMGA volunteers who work to be the change in our world!*



***We are on a treasure hunt  
for former members!***

Were you a member of DCMGA anytime in the last 30 years,  
or do you know someone who was?

Are you interested in joining us for our big 30th anniversary celebration  
in August 2019?



Please send your contact  
info to Shirley Manfredi  
at [wilshirm@live.com](mailto:wilshirm@live.com).





## Celebrating 30 Years: DCMGA Thanks Its Most Veteran Gardeners *Myrna Engle, Class of 1993*

BY GAY CAMPBELL

A self-described "plant rustler," Myrna Engle lives by the motto, "Have shovel, will travel." Claiming to know the best places to "source" plants, Myrna's ready to rustle at a moment's notice. Her enthusiasm and infectious sense of adventure has convinced me to ride shotgun when the opportunity presents. Although I've heard that rustling can sometimes be tricky business, I'm confident that Myrna can talk her way onto any property and get the owner's permission should the need arise.

When it comes to rustling, Myrna offers a cautionary tale. She once found a lovely pink rose and gave it to an out-of-town friend, who then propagated it and sold it commercially. Unfortunately, her friend neglected to share the profits.

Myrna's home is on a 4+ acre tract that backs up to Marcus High School in Flower Mound. Her property includes a spacious greenhouse built by her late husband, Bob. She also has a chicken coop, a barn, beehives, and a golf car to access her acreage. Myrna and Bob met in 1967 while making bomb components at Texas Instruments. They were married for forty-eight years and have three children. Forty-two years ago, Bob convinced Myrna that they should purchase the property in Flower Mound because it had the best soil in the area. As it turns out, Bob made a wise decision. Not only is the soil enviable but the front yard boasts one of the largest Post Oaks in North Texas. When Myrna had it professionally evaluated a few years ago, it was estimated to be at least 440 years old! Another towering tree just off the back porch is home to a family of Cooper's Hawks. Several years ago, Myrna convinced Congressman John Tower to award her a wildlife management exemption for the property.

In spite of various health issues, Myrna retains her natural curiosity and love of learning. "There's always room to learn something new," she says. Not only is Myrna a Master Gardener and a Master Naturalist, but she's also a member of The Audubon Society and the Native Plant Society of Texas. In 1999, when Myrna was in the first Elm Fork Master Naturalist trainee class, the organization's bird banding was actually held at her home. Referred to as "The Bird Lady," Myrna was an active birder for at least ten years, and she especially enjoyed birding at Lake Ray Roberts.

In addition to birds, Myrna has always been interested in snakes. Once, after finding a snake, she convinced her young son to play a practical joke on his father. Myrna hid the reptile in her son's shirt and when Bob came home from work, their son said, "Daddy, I've got something in my shirt. Will you



Photo courtesy of DCMGA Member Myrna Engle

**A Cooper's Hawk family**  
resides in a tree just off Myrna's back porch and a Post Oak in her front yard is one of the largest in Texas.

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## Myrna Engle (Cont.)

get it out?" Myrna grins as she recalls Bob's reaction after discovering the Eastern Hognose in his son's clothing. With Myrna's sense of humor, I'm guessing that life was rarely dull in the Engle household. Myrna remarks that she seldom sees snakes anymore, and it's her belief that she must have inadvertently sterilized her property of them.



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member  
Myrna Engle

### With Shovel In Hand

Myrna happily shares an assortment of Pass-a-long plants with The Root's "Meet A Member" writer Gay Campbell.

Myrna spent her early years in the community as an "instant protestor," often protesting loss of habitat, among other things. "If you needed a protest, I were right there." Asked how she learned about DCMGA, Myrna says that she read an ad in the local newspaper. During those first several years, she greatly appreciated the leadership of John Cooper. "John was a beautiful, kind, and patient man. A joy to be around," Myrna declares.

"Communication was an issue when we were a young organization," Myrna continues. "Nothing was easy. We had to do a lot of things the old-fashioned way by phone. Handing off a project to another person was especially difficult. Our organization only started to work smoothly when we got better technology." Myrna goes on to say, "DCMGA grew into something that works well and educates so many."

As I toured Myrna's property, it quickly became obvious that Myrna has learned a great deal in the past twenty-six years and has retained the enthusiasm and passion for gardening that started her on this journey in the first place. True to

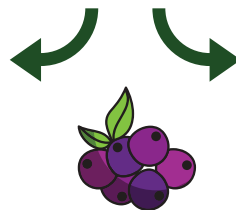
DCMGA's mission statement, Myrna graciously educated me on several of the unusual plants she's collected through the years. As I drove away with an assortment of pass-a-long plants peeking out from every nook and cranny of my car, I began to contemplate where to plant the rose bush that Myrna and I will surely rustle when we get together for our Great Adventure.



### Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show

June 15, 2019, 9 am to Noon  
Denton County Historical Park &  
Community Market  
317 W. Mulberry Street, Denton

## Save The Dates!



### DCMGA Fall Garden Fest

October 12, 2019, 9 am to 3 pm  
First United Methodist Church of  
Denton  
201 S. Locust Street, Denton



## DCMGA Receives State Awards

BY LIZ MOYER



*DCMGA was honored by the Texas Master Gardener Association with seven awards at the state conference this past April 26!*

The association as a whole received five awards:

- 1st Place – Outstanding Extra-Large Association
- The Root Newsletter – 2nd Place – Written Education in an Extra-Large Association
- SPLASH/Help Desk – 2nd Place – Research in an Extra-Large Association
- Fall Garden Festival – 2nd Place – Project in an Extra-Large Association
- Speakers Bureau – 2nd Place – Educational Program in an Extra-Large Association

And two members received individual awards:

- Tammie Gurley – Outstanding Individual in an Extra-Large Association – 3rd Place
- Beth Sharum – Marva E. Beck Junior Master Gardener Leader Award



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### Members who attended the state conference in Victoria

Back Row: Russell Bafford, Janie Cindric, Denton County CEA Janet Laminack, DCMGA President Pat Moyer, TMGA President Duddy Hargrove, Tom Cindric, Tammie Gurley

Front Row: Lisa Lebsack, Gay Campbell, Kathryn Wells, Gresha Leamon, Liz Moyer

*Special congratulations to  
Beth Sharum.*

*The Marva E. Beck Award  
means Beth is the best  
Junior Master Gardener Leader  
in the entire state!*



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Liz Moyer



## Plant of the Month – Water-Wise Plants

BY LEE ANN YATES

In a previous life, I survived a year in southern New Mexico, experiencing first-hand the dry gardening techniques of old-style Xeriscaping. In the desert of 1980, if you wanted a garden, your landscape consisted of various cacti and rocks (called xeriscaping) – lots of rocks, often spray painted green once a year to emulate a "lawn." I longed for lushness and relished sparse trips to North Central Texas.

Fast forward a few years and dry landscaping choices are no longer limited to a variety of cacti and lots of rocks. Xeriscaping has changed so dramatically that the term is rarely used now. Today, adding plants that require less water is considered "water-wise," emphasizing the conservation of our most precious natural resource. We have recently had enough rain to last a long while. Sooner than we think, though, the rain will stop and drought will raise its desiccated, crusty head and we need to be prepared. Being water-wise doesn't mean you have to give up your lawn. Earth-Kind® practices recommend having no more than one-third of your landscape in turf, so convert shady turf areas to a ground cover or sunny areas to a rock garden or a pollinator haven.

### Water-Wise Plants

Whether you have a well-drained, but super sunny place, or an empty shady spot just out of reach of the irrigation, choosing the right plant is key! Grouping together plants with similar water needs will allow you to specialize your watering or irrigation zones, thereby saving more water. Changing some or all of your irrigation to drip emitters, using timers to "cycle and soak" in zoned areas, and mulching to keep soil and roots cool will save water as well. So let's look at some "water-wise" plants.

**Bird of Paradise (*Caesalpinia gilliesii*)** is an unusual, beautiful, small ornamental tree that grows about ten feet tall by six feet wide. It is a favorite of pollinators and hummingbirds, loving full sun and low water. With lacy foliage, the bright yellow flowers and showy red stamens really show off from spring through summer. 'Pride of Barbados' is a shrubbier variety with red and orange flowers. Under normal winters it is hardy with mulch protection, but in winters with lots of ice, long periods of low temps, and/or lots of snow, the 'Pride of Barbados' is not winter hardy.

**Brazilian Rock Rose (*Pavonia brazillensis*)** is a Texas SmartScape perennial that grows in partial shade to full sun and works well in a container or a rock garden. Its white flowers with bright pink to dark red centers are deer resistant, attract pollinators, and bloom from spring through fall. It will reach three foot by three foot but can be pruned to keep it more compact. It will also spread, but is easily pulled up to plant elsewhere or to share with friends!



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Joyce Yarnall Smith

### Yellow Bird of Paradise

(*Caesalpinia gilliesii*), a small ornamental tree, is a favorite of pollinators and hummingbirds.

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## Water-Wise Plants (Cont.)

Is there anything more cheerful than a daisy? We are so fortunate to have several xeric daisies to choose from! **Blackfoot Daisy** (*Melampodium leucanthum*) is a native, perennial, heat- and drought-tolerant gem. Growing in partial shade to full blasting sun, it stays low (six inches to one foot) and will thrive in containers, rock gardens, and hell strips. It provides nectar for pollinators and is deer resistant. A Blackfoot Daisy has little white flowers with yellow centers and it is seriously unhappy if watered too much. It must have good drainage to keep its feet dry or it will rot. It blooms from spring through fall in a rounded, spreading fashion and actually prefers rocky, gravelly soil. Cut back halfway in late winter.

A hell strip is that forlorn strip between the sidewalk and the street. Usually, the narrow area consists of a few trees and a poorly kept grass at best, and is all too frequently nothing but a weed patch.

Read more at  
*Gardening Know How*

"Perennials For Hell Strips: Choosing Perennial Plants For Hell Strip Planting"  
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/urban/perennials-for-hell-strips.htm>

**Dahlberg Daisy** (*Thermophylla tenuilobais*), sometimes referred to as Golden Fleece, is another tough, but tiny plant – it pops up in my driveway every year! It attracts butterflies and is quite showy for its size. Flowers are only about one inch across and the plant rarely gets more than six inches tall but will get up twelve inches with more water. Each plant spreads to six to eight inches. Dahlberg daisies will naturalize but are also suitable for hanging baskets due to their size. The leaves are thin and airy and it has a fragrance, but not a truly pleasant one. Dahlberg daisies bloom all summer long and will survive in the ground on whatever rain falls.

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**Cutleaf Daisy** (*Engelmannia peristenia*) is similar to the Dahlberg Daisy but taller and with yellow flowers. **Four Nerve Daisy** (*Tetraneris scaposa*) is another native that is evergreen and similar to the other two daisies mentioned here.

**Red Hot Poker** (*Kniphofia uvaria*), also known as Torch Lily, is a late-spring to early-summer bloomer, shooting up its creamy yellow, bright orange, and red bottlebrush-shaped flowers to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. They bloom for about a month. Red Hot Poker likes full sun to partial shade and good drainage, it is taller than it is wide (three feet by two feet), and it is deer resistant. Planting Red Hot Pokers in heavy soil with poor drainage leads to root rot. Older clumps can be divided in early spring just before new growth starts. New plants can be started from seed from flowers on two-year-old plants.



Photo Courtesy of Toby Hudson [CC BY 2.0  
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>)]

### Red Hot Poker

blooms for about a month and attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

## Water-Wise Plants (Cont.)

Many plants with "Mexican" in their common names are heat and drought tolerant, doing well in full sun with low water: Mexican Feathergrass (*Nassella tenuissima*), Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnifera*), Mexican Mint Marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), Mexican Oregano (*Poliomintha longiflora*), Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*) and its dwarf form (*Ruellia brittoniana* 'Katie'), and Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicanus*) among others.

If you are looking for a unique, small, native tree with a rounded crown which blooms in the spring, check out Toothache Tree (*Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*), also known as Prickly Ash or Hercules Club. It gets twenty feet tall, fifteen feet wide, and likes partial shade to full sun. It has small, yellowish-green flowers in the spring and reddish-brown fruit that many birds enjoy. The branches have small, sharp spines. It is reported as one of the best larval food sources for Giant Swallowtail butterflies. The bark is the really interesting thing on this tree – light gray with a heavily knobby appearance that might resemble teeth if you squint. The leaves and bark can be used to ease a toothache, hence the name! It likes sandy and loamy soil with good drainage – dry soil makes it happy.

The Texas SmartScape website is set up to educate the public about efficient and effective water use. This includes education about the benefits of planting drought-tolerant plants in those tricky hot, dry places we all have. Their Plant Search feature is a great place to start your inquiries.

The Native Plant Society of Texas website is an excellent source for information on native plants (select "Resources" on the top navigation dropdown, then "Finding native plants").

The Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center website is also an great source for native plants that do well in our area (select "Native Plants" on the top navigation bar, then under "States" select "Texas" — "Texas-North Central").

### Resources

Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas

"Plant of the Week: Red Hot Poker"

<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/resource-library/plant-week/redhot-poker-9-19-08.aspx>

The National Gardening Association Plants Database

"Dahlberg Daisy (*Thymophylla tenuiloba*)"

<https://garden.org/plants/view/79235/Dahlberg-Daisy-Thymophylla-tenuiloba/>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Database

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

Native Plant Society of Texas

<https://npsot.org/wp/>

Texas SmartScape

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/>





# Congratulations

## Beth Sharum

Marva E. Beck Award  
Very Best JMG Leader in Texas !

## Tammie Gurley

Outstanding Individual Award  
3rd Most Outstanding Individual MG in an  
Extra-Large Association!



## Did You Know?

### *DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Facts*

DCMGA has a long history of leadership in the Junior Master Gardener program.  
We introduced the Junior Master Gardener program to area schools in 2000,  
and Prosper Elementary School housed the first chapter.

We soon began receiving honors at the state level:

- 2007 - DCMGA's Jr MG program won Best Program of the Year
- 2007 - Jr MG Leader Jenny Estes won the Marva E. Beck JMG Leader of the Year award
- 2007 - Shelby Kilpatrick won Jr MG of the year
- 2008 - Riding the Rails won County Program of the Year
- 2010 - County JMG Program of the Year (Science With Attitude (SWAt) Program
- 2011 - 2nd Outstanding Educational Program
- 2017 - 2nd Youth Jr Master Gardener Program
- 2018 - Jr MG Leader Beth Sharum won the Marva E. Beck JMG Leader of the Year award  
~ Best JMG Leader in the Entire State!

## Think Like A Raindrop

BY LIZ MOYER

We love having containers of colorful plants around the patio for almost ten months of the year and bringing the more tender succulents inside for the winter. One challenge faced with all gardening, but perhaps most critical with containerized plants, is providing water in the right amounts, in the right way.

### *Plants Need Oxygen*

Smaller containers will dry out faster than larger ones. Hanging baskets will dry out faster than terra cotta or glazed pots. Mulch can be used in containers to reduce water loss, just as it does in our gardens. Not enough water and plants die, but excessive amounts of water can kill plants too. Plants require oxygen, which is absorbed from the soil through the roots. If there is too much water, all the little air pockets will be filled and the plant will drown.

So how do we assure our plants have just the right amount of water?

Before heading out to water, take a moment to think like a raindrop. If the soil in the pots is very dry or hard, the raindrop will just bounce off, providing no help to the poor thirsty plants. If the soil is already too wet, the raindrop will evaporate or just run off, possibly leaving salts behind (assuming our "raindrop" is coming from a water supply system).

### *When Do Plants Really Need Watering?*

Check to see if plants really need watering. Plants that look tired and wilted in the late afternoon and evening do not necessarily need water. Plants close their stomata (tiny openings between the surface cells that allow water to escape to cool the leaf surface) in the heat of the day to conserve water, and that results in a wilted look. If they look wilted first thing in the morning, it's time to water!

If the soil is extremely dry, gently provide a little water to cover the surface and give it time to soak in before providing more. This wetting of the soil will soften it and make it more receptive to the deeper watering coming. It may be necessary to do this several times to soften the soil to a depth that water will be available to the roots. Watch to see if water is soaking in or just running off.



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

### **Containers of Plants**

add interest and color to our patios, porches, and yards. This grouping, which included a solar-powered water fountain in a metal bucket, attracted a great deal of attention on the DCMGA 2018 Garden Tour

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## Think Like A Raindrop (Cont.)

### How to Water

Be careful of leaving water standing on leaves. Some plants such as roses do not tolerate having wet leaves; fungus and disease are often triggered by standing water on the leaves. For these plants consider using a watering can with a long narrow spout that can reach in under the foliage to deliver water directly to the soil.



Canva Stock Photo

### A Watering Can

with a long narrow spot delivers water directly to the container soil.

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correct amount of water with these systems, as emitters can clog or the amount of water required may have changed due to weather or other conditions.

Containerized plants offer us a wonderful opportunity to bring a greater variety to our gardens, to fill in that one spot where nothing will grow, and just to have more of nature up close and personal in our outdoor living spaces. Watering them properly will keep them happy and healthy throughout the year, and in some cases, for years to come.

### Resources

Aggie Horticulture (Ornamental Production)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Irrigating Greenhouse Crops"

[https://aggie-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamental/greenhouse-management/irrigating-greenhouse-crops/)

[horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamental/greenhouse-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamental/greenhouse-management/irrigating-greenhouse-crops/)  
[management/irrigating-greenhouse-crops/](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamental/greenhouse-management/irrigating-greenhouse-crops/)

Aggie Horticulture (Vegetable Resources)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Vegetable Gardening in Containers"

[https://aggie-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/E-545_vegetable_gardening_containers.pdf)

[horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/E-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/E-545_vegetable_gardening_containers.pdf)  
[545\\_vegetable\\_gardening\\_containers.pdf](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/E-545_vegetable_gardening_containers.pdf)

Water gently. If using a hose-end sprayer, choose a setting that mimics a gentle rainfall. Give your plants a little head start with a light shower to soften the top of the soil before coming back around for the deep root watering. Try to picture the water soaking into the soil and estimate how deep it has gotten in the pot, or just gently water each container until water is coming out the hole in the bottom.

### Consider Drip Irrigation For Containers

If your containers are not moved often, a drip irrigation system is definitely the best way to keep plants adequately watered. With emitters in each container and a timer, plants can be maintained with minimum effort. It is good practice to check periodically and be sure each one is getting the



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

### Succulents on Display

in one of our member gardens from the 2018 DCMGA Garden Tour.



## DCMGA Receive Multiple Best Wishes

We had a good group to receive a congratulatory proclamation from the Denton County Commissioners Court.



*Photo Courtesy of Denton County Commissioners Court*

Back row - The Honorable Hugh Coleman, the Honorable Ron Marchant, the Honorable Judge Andy Eads, the Honorable Bobbie Mitchell, and the Honorable Dianne Edmondson  
 2nd row - Ray Roberts, Kathryn Wells, Liz Moyer, Gay Campbell, Steve Spurgin, Nikki Johnson, Barbara Prins, Jerry Alexander, Debby Ishee, and Dianne Randolph  
 3rd row - Janet Laminack, Pam Spooner, Pat Moyer, Kim Wooton, Gloria Alexander, Pat Edwards, Steve Simpson, Tammie Gurley, and Carolyn Stoy



We are so pleased that on March 26th  
 Aubrey honored  
 DCMGA's 30th anniversary.  
 Pictured are Mayor Janet Meyers and  
 DCMGA member Bernadette Gilbert.

## DCMGA Receive Multiple Best Wishes (Cont.)



Photo Courtesy of Frisco City Council

The Frisco City Council sent some love our way on May 21. Pictured are Mary Lehrer, Vidya Guruprasad, Lori Barr, Brian Byrwa, and Mayor Jeff Cheney.



Photo Courtesy of Pilot Point City Council

The Pilot Point City Council presented DCMGA with a proclamation on May 12 honoring our 30th anniversary. Pictured are Stephanie Porter, Past President Shirley Manfredi, Larry Purcell, and Mayor Shea Dane-Patterson.



## Five Fathers of Texas Horticulture

BY SHIRLEY MANFREDI

*Gilbert Onderdonk*

Gilbert Onderdonk got an early start in gardening. He was born in New York in 1829 and, by the age of eleven, had already won awards for his potato-breeding. For health reasons, he moved to Texas in 1851. Onderdonk established the Mission Valley Nursery near Victoria in 1858, which specialized in fruit crops and native trees and shrubs. In 1872, his nursery published its first catalog. For several years his nursery supplied most people in Texas and Louisiana with their fruit trees. Onderdonk worked extensively with peaches and plums, and introduced many new varieties of each. He did botanical work in classifying the lesser-known plants of mild-winter areas of the state, as well as parts of Mexico. His descriptions and classifications of peaches are still used throughout the world today. Some of Onderdonk's research laid the foundation for the future work of world-renowned botanist Luther Burbank.

*Segment three of five. Originally published in the May 2000 Roto-Teller (DCMGA newsletter).*

### Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

DCMGA evaluated plant selections and assisted with the installation of a low-water-use demonstration garden for Denton North Branch Library (2003).

## Garden Tour Recap

BY MELINDA BUTLER-WOOLLEY, TAMMIE GURLEY, AND LIZ MOYER

This year's installment of the annual Denton County Master Gardener Association's Spring Garden Tour was held on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Five of our members opened their yards to the public, and the entire Garden Tour team put in countless hours of hard work to prepare for the big day.

Even though weather conditions were less than ideal, a total of 1285 garden tour visits, averaging 257 per garden. As heavy rains moved into the area during the early morning hours, volunteers were still busy making last minute preparations to ensure all five of the tour stops were set up and ready to greet guests by 9 a.m.

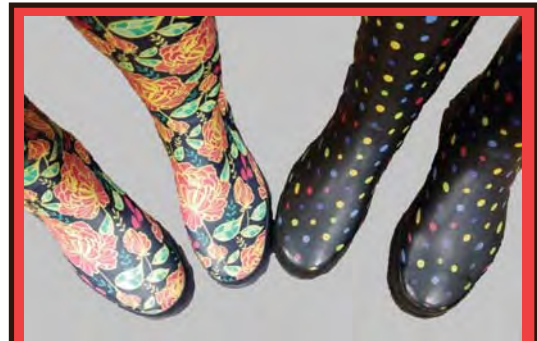


Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### Rain Boots

were a fashion necessity for this year's Garden Tour.



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

### Sanctuary on Red Bluff Drive

docents Cathie Rod and Gretchen Niendorff await garden tour visitors.

Despite getting off to a bit of a soggy, chilly start with just a few brave souls trickling in, things had started to dry out by late morning, and each garden tour home had a nice steady stream of visitors right up until the end of the day.

In typical fashion, DCMGA members remained in good spirits, making the best of a rainy day and putting all manner of rain gear to good use. Educational displays on dry river beds, drip irrigation of container plantings, herbs, and making worm compost and worm tea were enjoyed by all. Many visitors were thrilled that most of our plants were labeled and that there was such a variety.

Docents in each garden pointed out areas or plants of particular interest and offered growing tips to visitors. Comments included, "The natives were great!" and "Seeing plants that are NOT at the big box stores" and "This tour has the best docents of any of the tours that I have been on ... so friendly and so knowledgeable!"

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to come out and visit each of our gardens. Seeing so many smiling faces helped to warm up each of our volunteers and they made all our efforts feel worthwhile.

We can't wait to see all of you in the garden next spring! Watch our website and Facebook page for next year's garden tour date, and plan to enjoy another day in beautiful gardens! And if you have any ideas to improve the tour, please pass those along to us at [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com).



## Plant Sale Recap

BY LIZ MOYER

### *The DCMGA Plant Sale was THE Place to Be on May 4th!*

Under beautiful blue skies our customers were thrilled to find plants not commonly found in popular shopping venues. Many Texas natives, perennials, annuals, herbs/edibles, trees, bulbs, rhizomes, and other plants well suited to our area flew off the tables and went home with their lucky new owners. In addition to the 2400 pass-along plants from our own Master Gardener's gardens, approximately 3000 nursery plants from eight different nurseries were sold.

After opening at 9:00 a.m. sharp, our 115 volunteers were busy helping each customer find just the right plants for their needs/environment. Roses from the Antique Rose Emporium sold out at 10:23 a.m., over half of the plants in the Sun section sold by 10:00 a.m., and the sale was finished by 1:30 p.m. Experienced shoppers arrived early with their own carts, and many customers enjoyed the negotiations at the Make an Offer table.

A big attraction to customers is that many of the Master Gardeners present have successfully grown the plants that are in the sale and are more than happy to provide guidance. Our Ask a Master Gardener booth was also kept busy with questions about general gardening, rainwater collection, and garden design.

Our Holding Area was popular as customers found more and more plants to their liking, and with cash, check, or credit card acceptance and volunteers to help load cars, there were no reasons not to buy more plants!



Photo Courtesy of DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

### **Plant Sale Customers**

fill their wagons with natives, perennials, roses, Master Gardener pass-alongs, and other plants well suited to growing in North Texas.

Thank you to each and every shopper who came to the sale. Funds raised are used in our educational and outreach programs throughout the year. Not only is your garden better with these plants, your purchases help educate Denton County residents on sustainable horticultural practice.

Watch our website and Facebook page for next year's plant sale date. Plan to arrive early and bring your wagon or cart! And if you have a particular plant you would like to see us carry next year, or any other ideas to improve the sale, please pass those along to us at [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com).

## Meet Your AgriLife Staff Robin Hill

### *Administrative Specialist, Agriculture & Natural Resources Department*

Robin Hill is the Administrative Specialist for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. She has worked for the Denton County Extension office since 2015.

The majority of her time at the office is spent helping to plan and organize a variety of classes and workshops for the public, and assisting the agent, The Denton County Ag Committee, and the Denton County Equine Committee in reaching their goals.

Robin is a graduate of the University of North Texas. In her free time, she enjoys taking photos, watching sports, reading, and spending time with her husband and two-year-old son.



Photo Courtesy of Robin Hill

**Robin Hill**



## Advanced Training DCMGA Public Presentations

Our members share their science-based knowledge and experience on a variety of topics.

June 4, 9:00 a.m. – Noon. First hour class (AT), remaining time hands-on outside (VS)

**Grapevine training, green pruning of trees, fruit thinning, and relevant disease and insect management**

Free Workshop for Hobby Fruit Growers

AT and VS for Master Gardeners

Meet in the Community Room inside the Government Building at 9 a.m. Then work in The Grove from 10 until about noon training grapevines and performing any necessary green pruning of trees and crop thinning. Bring work gloves, water, and hand tools, including spades, hoes, rakes, hand trowels, hand pruning shears, lopping shears, and pruning saws.

**Location:** Denton County Community Grove, 1029 W. Rosemeade Pkwy, Carrollton.





**BY BARBARA RIDGE**

*Q: My peach tree is three years old and producing fruit. Recently, unripe peaches have been falling from the tree. When I cut the fallen fruit, I see white bugs inside. What is this, and how can I treat it?*

**A:** Your peaches may have been infested by plum curculio larvae. A common problem in north Texas peaches, plum curculio beetles also target plums, nectarines, pears, and cherries.

These beetle-like flying pests are about one-quarter inch long with a curved snout. Their legless larvae are white or yellow and about one-half inch long. The adults overwinter in wooded locations and move into fruit trees in spring. The adults feed on the developing fruit, wherein females lay their eggs. The resulting larvae feed inside the peach and later emerge as adults, poised to infest fruit later in the spring and summer.

Affected fruit sometimes falls from the tree but can also remain attached, often appearing deformed or misshapen (cat-faced). All fallen

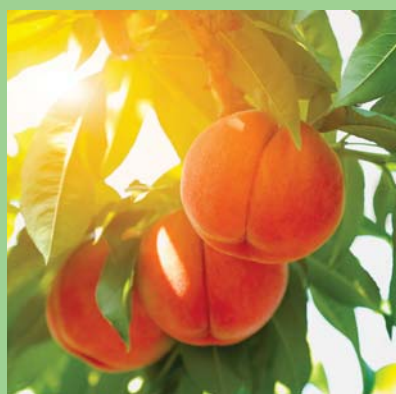
fruit should be collected, and fruit showing cat-facing or damage should be removed from the tree. These affected peaches should be discarded so the larvae inside do not have a chance to emerge.

If you have positively identified plum curculio in your orchard, begin control by using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques. IPM uses a variety of non-chemical measures to combat the pest, while also employing chemical controls, if conditions are severe enough. If using insecticide, treat with the recommended product at shuck-split. Second and third applications should be made at ten- to fourteen-day intervals thereafter, concluding thirty days prior to estimated harvest.

For more information, check out these additional resources:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/your-garden/help-for-the-home-gardener/advice-tips-resources/pests-and-problems/insects/beetles/plum-curculio.aspx>

<https://agrillife.org/extensionento/publications/plum-curculio/>



Canva Stock Photo

Vigilant care of your peach tree will help protect it from pests so that it will bear good fruit.



*If you have questions about fruit trees or any other horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.com.*

*It's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.*



*Keep Lewisville Beautiful Presents...*

## 2019 Garden Secrets Classes

Join Keep Lewisville Beautiful and City of Lewisville for FREE community classes led by Denton County Master Gardeners and The Texas Agrilife Extension Office. **Classes are free but seats are limited to first 40 participants to RSVP.**

All classes will be held either in Classroom 1 or Recital Hall at the MCL Grand (100 N Charles St, 75057).

**RSVP REQUIRED: 972-538-5949**  
**info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org**



The mission of Keep Lewisville Beautiful is to engage the citizens of Lewisville through service and education to enhance their community environment.



Keep Lewisville  
Beautiful



WATER  
UNIVERSITY



RSVP: 972-538-5949

keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org



## 2019 CHILDREN'S GARDEN AT FAIROAKS

### An Opportunity for Families to Learn Gardening Together

The children's garden invites parents & their children to learn about gardening through planting, maintaining, & harvesting vegetables & herbs. Our children's garden is unique since we share the garden with Fair Oaks, a senior independent living community. We will be planting in the vegetable garden at the back of Fair Oaks with the residents--a wonderful opportunity for children and seniors to experience a growing garden together.

### WHERE

Fairoaks  
1950 Lattimore St., Denton

### WHEN

Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:00 starting March 21st until the Veggie Show on Saturday, June 15th

### WHO

Dana Bays  
Bill White

### DATE

### ACTIVITY

### DEMO/TOPIC

Thursday, March 21	Planting	The weather determines what we are able to plant each week, but our planting includes radishes, carrots, potatoes, spinach, lettuce, chard, squash, peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, onions, herbs, watermelon, and cantaloupe. We will also be harvesting throughout the season.	How to Plant 
Thursday, March 28	Planting		Tops and Bottoms
Thursday, April 4	Planting		Lady Bug Life 
Thursday, April 11	Planting		How to Compost
Thursday, April 18	Planting with the Residents		How to Grow Microgreens
Thursday, April 25	Planting		How to Grow in a Greenhouse
Thursday, May 2	Check on the Residents' Plants		
Thursday, May 9	Planting		Butterflies in the Garden 
Thursday, May 16	Vermicomposting		How to Compost with Worms 
Thursday, May 23	Trees		How to Maintain Trees 
Thursday, May 30	Planting		Suck-a-Bug 
Thursday, June 6	Field Trip to Shiloh Gardens (Weather Permitting)		
Thursday, June 13	Harvesting		
Saturday, June 15	Final harvest for Veggie, Flower, Herb, Fruit Show 9 am - 12 pm Denton County Historical Park, West Mulberry Street, Denton. See website for additional information: <a href="http://www.dcmga.com">www.dcmga.com</a>		

PLEASE PARK ON LATTIMORE STREET. IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN WILL NOT MEET.

For additional information, visit us on facebook: DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
or online: [www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com)



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.  
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating





The Denton County Master Gardener  
Association invites you to the 2019  
***Denton County  
Fruit, Vegetable, Herb  
& Flower Show!***

brought to you by



**Saturday, June 15, 2019 9am to 12pm**



Entries accepted between 9 & 10am.  
Judging begins at 10am. Winners announced  
at 12pm. Entries open to all Denton County  
Residents. Categories for Adults & Children.  
Cash Awards!

**Denton County Historical Park & Community Market  
317 W. Mulberry Street (at corner of Carroll Street)  
Denton, Texas 76201**

**Visit [www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com) for full details & rules**



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and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners  
Courts of Texas Cooperating*





Denton County Master Gardener Association  
presents



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

# FALL GARDEN FEST



## OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

DENTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
201 W. LOCUST ST., DENTON, TX

A NEW location on Locust St. south of Denton Courthouse.  
Free parking and indoor retail and education areas.



## Featuring Speakers -

Jay White - Editor and Owner,  
Texas Gardener Magazine

Stephen Chamblee  
Writer, Horticulturist for Chandor Gardenrr

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### Mission Statement

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

### Extension EO/EEO Statement

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

### 2019 Board of Directors

President	Pat Moyer
Vice President	Kathryn Wells
Director of Education	Kim Wootton
Secretary	Kimberlee Shaneyfelt
Treasurer	Katherine Woodward
Communications Director	Liz Moyer
Member-at-Large	Gay Campbell
Volunteer Coordinator	Kaye Gross
Past President	Tammie Gurley

### Social Media

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA>

#### Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/DentonCountyMGA>

#### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

#### Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/DentonCountyMGA>

### Save the Date



### Contact Information

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Denton TX 76201-9026

Office: 940.349.2883

#### Help Desk:

940.349.2892

[master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)

#### Webmaster:

[dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com)

#### Communications:

[dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com)

#### Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

Submission deadline for the July edition of *The Root* is Saturday, June 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson at [karenhoot19@gmail.com](mailto:karenhoot19@gmail.com) or Communications Director Liz Moyer at [lizmoyer@live.com](mailto:lizmoyer@live.com).