



Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT



Grow With Us



## Buds From The Board

BY PAT MOYER, PRESIDENT

Hello again fellow MGers and Interns,

It's been another exciting month for DCMGA. Debbie Ishee and her team put on another successful Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show (aka "The Fruit and Veggie Show").

Despite some worrisome skies early in the morning, we had great weather for the event. We had 26 youth entries and 20 adult entries for the event, which culminated in the awarding of \$600 total prize money. The Best of Show Award went to one of the youth entries, Bowen Kerestine (kin to DCMGA member Carolyn Stoy), for his garlic.

The youth entries included a number of children who participated in our Children's Garden Project at Fair Oaks.

CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB  
<https://dcmga.com>

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

- .....
- 03 Project Spotlight: FMFB Community Garden
  - 06 Veteran Member: Selena Schindler
  - 08 Veggie Show Recap
  - 09 AgriLife Staff Spotlight: Michelle Ellis
  - 10 Plant of the Month: Rain Garden Plants
  - 13 Jr MN Camp Recap
  - 14 Feature Article: Fall Vegetable Gardening
  - 17 Zucchini Bread
  - 20 Help Desk Q & A: Leaf Galls

## Buds from the Board (Cont.)

This project, which runs from mid-March to mid-June, gives young gardeners the opportunity to grow veggies for the show. This project is led by Dana Bays, Jacqueline Carney, and a great team of MGers.

So what's up next? The next big event is the "AT Summit" to be held Wednesday, 31 July, at the Carroll Building. This is the opportunity for MGers to work on their AT hour requirements for the year. Kim Wootton and her team are putting together an exciting array of speakers and topics that should pique the interest of all members. All MGers should have received an email from SignUpGenius last Wednesday. Remember, the course sign up is on a first-come, first-served basis.

And, of course, in August we will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary with a barbecue lunch at Global Spheres. Look for an eVite in the near future. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Happy Gardening,  
Pat Moyer

## Did You Know?

### *DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Facts*

*DCMGA has a long history of supporting LLELA and LISDOLA:*

- Assisted with tree planting (1997)
- Assisted with continued maintenance, expansion and funding of projects at LLELA (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008)
- Helped plan and conduct Wetlands Workshop 2000)
- Provided docents for tours of LISDOLA (2007)



## Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden

BY KATHY RAINEY

This month we are spotlighting the Flower Mound First Baptist Urban Farm & Community Garden (FMFB Community Garden). There are many benefits you can achieve by getting involved in a community garden. Community gardens provide a hub for residents of all ages to come together and create something that's useful and beneficial to the community. Those who volunteer gain a sense of pride by contributing to the success of their community by growing food that will feed its residents.

Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) Co-project managers of the FMFB Community

Garden are David Huffman and Carol Noble. I asked David to provide a little history on how the Community Garden got its start.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member David Huffman

### The FMFB Community Garden

is a success due to its active and dedicated group of volunteers.

The First Baptist Church was incorporated 34 years ago on March 4, 1985. It began as a mission church from Lakeland Baptist Church in Lewisville. There were two pastors in the first 29 years; however, five years ago, long-time pastor David Williams left to lead a missions endeavor in south Texas. After he left, there was a short period when the Church had no permanent pastor and hired an interim pastor.

During this interim period, a survey was conducted about the Church and the direction it was going. One question on the survey asked members what the community would do if the Church was not there. This highlighted the fact that there would not be that much of a loss to the community. After all, there were mega churches all around. However, there was large vacant lot next door to the church sanctuary that was originally set aside for future growth. That vacant plot of land inspired church members Lori Giesler and her husband, Dr. Brady Giesler, who had been members of the Church since 1992.

Lori had a vision of a community garden, and she led the way in seeking approval from the Church to use the land. Also, city officials wanted assurances that the produce grown on the land would not be sold. After obtaining the necessary approvals, Church members started preparing the land for a garden, designating half of the land for donations to Christian Community Action (CCA) and half of the land to resident neighbors who could grow their own crops.



## FMFB Community Garden (Cont.)

People donated their time and money and the garden has continued to grow. Improvements over the years include the addition of a 900-foot well to the Paluxy Aquafer, which provides irrigation water to the garden.

Carol Noble (DCMGA Class of 2016) was one of the neighbors who adopted a row. She and David Huffman (DCMGA class of 2017) joined forces to successfully propose the Community Garden as a DCMGA-approved project. Lori serves as garden supervisor, while Carol and David serve as co-project leaders. Cindy Helms (DCMGA Class of 2018) serves as unofficial project leader for the garden and provides countless hours of volunteer and leadership help.

Currently, the Community Garden focuses on three goals:

- raise fresh produce for donations to CCA
- provide the opportunity for nearby residents without yards to plant and grow their own garden
- serve as a demonstration and educational resource for the area, including an elementary school and scout troops

The garden operates year-round and produces 36 different veggies, herbs, and fruits. Crops yielding the most abundant harvests are beans, peas, cantaloupe, cucumbers, okra, watermelon, peppers, radishes, squash, blackberries, Swiss chard, and spinach. You'll find Master Gardeners (MGers) and church and neighbor volunteers tending the garden on Thursdays between 8:30 and 10:30 am. The workday usually starts with Carol Noble providing a weekly lesson on various garden topics prior to their work in the garden. MGers work side-by-side with MGer Interns and other volunteers, reinforcing the education by planting seeds, weeding, spreading mulch, fertilizing, harvesting, and cleaning the day's harvest.



The results of their hard work are amazing. David proudly keeps records of the annual pounds of fresh produce donated to CCA:

2,065 pounds (2016)  
2,337 pounds (2017)  
3,025 pounds (2018)

2019 is tracking with similar quantities. CCA in Lewisville has a food pantry that provides a variety of food items. It's like a grocery store where those in need select food items (various donated canned and fresh). Using script given to them based on their financial need and family size, customers are able to

## FMFB Community Garden (Cont.)

purchase their selections. The Community Garden's fresh produce is a popular addition to the offerings. Many times customers know what time the produce is normally delivered on Thursdays and are waiting to get their choice of fresh produce picked that morning.

Master Gardeners and other volunteers say they get so much fulfillment watching the garden mature from seed planting to harvest. In addition, knowing that the harvest is helping to feed the hungry right here in our local community is very rewarding. David says he feels like a celebrity when he makes the weekly delivery to CCA. The employees and customers have come to expect his deliveries and are excited to see what fresh produce is coming this week.

At the 2019 Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, & Flower Show held this past June, the FMFB Urban Farm & Community Garden won 4 blue ribbons (onions, leek, garlic, blackberries) and 1 red ribbon (cucumbers).



**FMFB  
Community  
Garden  
Garden  
Supervisor  
Lori Giesler**

displays  
award-  
winning  
garden  
produce.

Photo Courtesy  
DCMGA Member  
David Huffman

## Did You Know?

### DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Facts

Do you drive along Teasley between I-35 and Hobson?

DCMGA assisted with the development of the nature trails in South Lake Park on the west side of Teasley.

The project was awarded an Honorable mention at the state level in 1998 and again in 2001.

- Assisted with the opening of the park (1996)
- Provided much of the support for the clearing, installation and maintenance of Denton's South Lakes Park Nature Trail (1998-2002)
- Worked with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) to collect, press, identify, label and archive plant specimens to establish a herbarium at South Lakes Nature Park (1998, 2000, 2001, 2002)
- Published a self-guided nature trail booklet (1997)
- Assisted with pre-burn preparation prior to a prescribed burn at the park (1999)
- Planted tree seedlings and sowed native grass seed (2000)

## Celebrating 30 Years: DCMGA Thanks Its Most Veteran Gardeners *Selena Schindler, Class of 1992*

BY GAY CAMPBELL

DCMGA was in its infancy when Denton native Selena Schindler saw a newspaper article and decided to join the class of '92. Selena remembered spending a lot of time in the garden with her dad as she grew up. When she saw the article, Selena and Keith had just moved into their first home in Denton. She decided to enroll in classes to learn more about gardening. Her intern class was only the second one offered in Denton County. Classes were small and many of the interns were dropped from the program because they did not complete their required service hours. Projects were non-existent for the first several years. Members typically earned service hours working in the AgriLife office answering phones, filing, and assisting the public. Many members enjoyed helping the general public, but "it wasn't for everyone," recalls Selena. As the membership grew, projects were slowly added. "I learned as much, probably more, from working with other people as I did in class," Selena reminisces.



Photo courtesy DCMGA Member Selena Schindler

### SnK Wildlife Reserve

is a 408-acre wildlife sanctuary home to native Texas plants and animals, as well as a number of migratory species.

.....

Selena embraced life as a Master Gardener and was a great asset to the organization. She served as President of DCMGA just prior to Gene Gumfrey, whom she says was "always doing something to help others." Selena was also the editor of the *Roto-Teller*, DCMGA's newsletter. In addition, she became a Representative to the State Board of Directors and was on several state committees. In 1997, Selena went on to become President of the Texas Master Gardener Association. She was the third person to hold such a position. It required quite a bit of travel back and forth to Texas A&M, but it was a role that she thoroughly enjoyed. Through the years, Donna Wolfe has accompanied Selena on many of her Master Gardener trips. She's my "PIC," Selena explains. Aww ... "Partner in Crime!"

In 2006, Selena and her husband, Keith, moved south to Cuero, Texas, a small town in the vicinity of Victoria and San Antonio. It is there that they own and manage SnK Wildlife Reserve, a 408-acre wildlife sanctuary that is home to all manner of native Texas plants and animals, as well as a number of migratory species.

After obtaining a grant, the Parks and Recreation Department, along with Keith and Selena, completed a burn on their front 45-acre field that was originally a coastal Bermuda hayfield. This allowed them to plant milkweed to attract monarch butterflies. Selena recalls that the timing of the planting was less than optimum, as it was finished only two days before Hurricane Ike hit. They also received another grant and were able to clear a portion of the back field to attract even more pollinators.



## Selena Schindler (Cont.)

One of the conditions of maintaining their certification as a Texas Wildlife Management Area requires that they control the population of feral hogs, house sparrows, and blackbirds. To this end, they allow a small group of hunters on their land at specified times. Other birds, such as bluebirds, purple martins, chickadees, and wrens, are greatly encouraged. Selena estimates that SnK has 25-30 nest boxes and numerous hanging gourds that have been made into birdhouses. They also have two concrete ponds to attract dragonflies, a water basin, bird feeders, and a rain catchment system. "The wildflowers have been awesome this year," Selena states.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member  
Selena Schindler

**Dragonflies love**  
the two concrete ponds.

Selena is both a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, but these days she feels as if she spends more time in the naturalist area. She hopes to get back into fall gardening this autumn, but between the time and attention that she devotes to the ranch and the three days a week that she helps a friend dealing with lupus and diabetes, she has her hands full. During the first several years that Selena and Keith lived in Cuero, Selena made the six-hour drive back to Denton every year for the DCMGA Plant Sale. She enjoyed donating as many pass-a-long plants from the ranch as she could fit into her vehicle. While visiting Denton, Selena also attended the Spring Garden Tour. "I love the Garden Tour," Selena states. "It's a big learning experience for people." Selena also has another reason to return to Denton County. Her son and daughter-in-law live in Denton and her daughter and son-in-law live in Pilot Point.

Both the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist organizations are an important part of Selena's past, and it's evident that she cares a great deal about them. Since both groups meet in Cuero and attending meetings and activities would require significant driving, Selena no longer actively participates in them. However, it's easy to make the case that Selena puts into practice every day the things she's learned from these organizations. She also thinks there's plenty of overlap between the two groups. "Master Gardener gave me my start," she says. "After all the years of gardening, you become a nature person as much as anything. You become very concerned about the bees and the birds."



***Looking for ways to do your part to protect the environment?***

*Take Care of Texas* from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

<http://takecareoftexas.org/>

Don't miss their *Guide to Yard Care* with info on watering, tree planting, and more!

<http://takecareoftexas.org/in-the-yard>

## Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show Recap

BY DEBBY ISHEE

The Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show was a great success! Co-sponsored by the City of Denton, the Denton County Office of History and Culture and the Denton County Master Gardener Association, this Show has become one of the big events of the year for gardeners of all ages in Denton County.

In an atmosphere akin to a country fair on the lawn of the historic Bayless-Selby House, Youth registrants entered twenty-six items in the show, while adult registrants entered twenty. Everyone attending was so impressed with the quality of the entries, and we overheard more than one gardening tip being passed along.

Cash prizes totaling \$600, donated by our fine sponsors, were presented. Winners were:

### Youth Division:

Grand Champion – Ian Fellers for his Parsley

Reserve Champion – BiBi Arena Richieri for her  
Chocolate Sprinkles Tomatoes

First Runner-up – Maggie De la Gerda for her Gomphrena

### Adult Division:

Grand Champion – Caro Kauffman for her Lily

Reserve Champion – Tammie Gurley for her Lemon Boy Tomatoes

First Runner-up – Christina Onstott for her Lisianthus

**Best of Show:** Bowen Kerestine for his Garlic

Thank you to the City of Denton and the Denton County Office of History and Culture for co-sponsoring the Show. Thank you to everyone who entered and to everyone who attended and made this such a special day. Now, get busy planning your entries for 2020!



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

### Best of Show

Bowen Kerestine with his prize-winning garlic.



We appreciate the support of these sponsors:



Charlie Beck's Garage  
Gene's Paint & Body Shop  
Harold's Transmissions, Inc.  
Marvin's Automotive

The Florist, LTD.  
Tommy's Hi Tech Automotive  
Ultimutt Dog Grooming  
Zenith Dry Cleaners



## Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show Recap (Cont.)



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

**So Many Beautiful Flower**  
entries made the judges job  
extremely difficult.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

**Taste Testing**  
is one of the enjoyable duties of the  
many judges.



## Meet Your AgriLife Staff Michelle Ellis

*Administrative Specialist, Family and Community Health*

My name is Michelle Ellis, and I have the privilege of providing administrative support to the Family and Community Health agent, Courtney Davis.

Being a North Texas 380 Corridor native is a source of pride for me, and I've been able to witness the surge in growth and development of the area. It is very satisfying serving Denton County residents through the AgriLife Extension office.

Of the many interests I have, I enjoy the outdoors the most. Many times throughout the year you can find me either in the saddle, the kayak, or the hammock! I volunteer for the Lake Ray Roberts Equestrian Trails Association as their Vice President. I also assist with various other organizations to advocate for trails locally, regionally, statewide, and even in Oklahoma.



Photo Courtesy Michelle Ellis

**Michelle Ellis**

## Plant of the Month - Rain Garden Plants

BY LEE ANN YATES

The paving over of natural landscapes in suburban areas of Denton County is increasing exponentially, leading to increased stormwater runoff and "ponding" of water in yards, streets, and commercial landscapes. This is poor stewardship of our most valuable natural resource and creates needless problems. Building a rain garden is the perfect solution for wet areas in your landscape. How can a rain garden help your personal and local environment? It helps conserve water by capturing and holding rain, reducing the need for watering; it protects water quality by filtering pollutants from runoff; and the water soaks slowly into the soil, reducing flooding and erosion.

Like many of you, my yard was repeatedly inundated by ankle-deep water for many days at a time over the past several weeks. I got to thinking about which plants don't mind getting their feet wet for a while, then thrive in the dry, hot time I know is coming. Hopefully, the rain has moderated now, but it's a good time to think about planting in those wet areas in the landscape while it is dry enough.

### *Rain Garden Design*

A swale, or small depression, can easily blend in with your existing landscape. The Denton County Master Gardener website provides an information sheet about rain gardens (see Resources). It gives excellent information on the planning stage of creating a rain garden.

The City of Austin's website promoting sustainable landscape practices also provides a fact sheet giving easy to follow directions for creating a rain garden in your landscape (see Resources). Their plant selector listings are exclusive to the Blackland Prairie region, which could prove helpful to many of us, and the Edwards Plateau, which might not be as useful.

Here's the thing about rain garden plants — they must tolerate wet roots for at least 24 to 48 hours. As usual, preparing the soil, mulching, as well as fertilizing and irrigating only as necessary, will help the plants prosper. Native and adapted plants really thrive in rain garden conditions and many plants on the Top 100 Plants for North Texas list and several discussed in earlier articles here are appropriate choices. Here are a few, ranging from groundcovers to various heights and types of herbaceous plants to small trees.



Photo Courtesy Joseph A. Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### **Frogfruit**

(*Phyla nodiflora*), is a native wildflower that does well in a rain garden.

.....

## Rain Garden Plants (Cont.)

### Sunny – Partly Shade Areas

Try False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), Texas Columbine (*Aquilegia hinckleyana*), Canna (*Canna generalis*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*), or Day lilies (*Heemerocallis spp.*). Some appropriate small trees include Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*), and Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*). If you want to include a vine, try Cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) or Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*).



Photo Courtesy Sally & Andy Wasowski,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

### Eve's Necklace,

with wisteria-like flower clusters, is a small tree that can work well in a rain garden.

### Shade Areas

Consider Wood Fern (*Dryopteris normalis*), Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*), Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus aboreous var. drummondii*), Spiderwort (*Tradiscantia occidentalis*), Sedge (*Carex spp.*), or, for some height, Pawpaw tree (*Asimina triloba*).

### Native Plants

Native plants are of interest to an increasing number of people expressly because of their lower water requirements. Some of the plants listed above are natives or well-adapted plants for Denton County. A few more native plants which do well in rain garden situations include Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Palmetto (*Sabal minor*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and Texas Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*).

These are only a few randomly chosen from lists at the Aggie Horticulture and the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center websites — there are so many more! Check out these lists, and others, online. And don't forget the "three-year rule" with perennials: first year, they sleep, concentrating on growing a strong root system, but not much happens above ground; second year, they creep, growing a little bigger above ground due to that strong root system; third year, they leap, growing to their full mature height. Know that your perennials are gathering strength, even if you can't see it, and your patience will be rewarded with a grand show.



### Three-Year Perennial Rule

First year they Sleep  
Second year they Creep  
Third year they Leap

Your patience will be rewarded!





## Rain Garden Plants (Cont.)

Meteorologists predict that the rain events we have experienced the last couple of years will probably continue in the future, followed by long dry spells. The need to slow down rushing stormwater to control erosion and filter pollutants, as well as to hold water in our landscapes longer to allow it to soak in where we need it most, will be ongoing challenges in Denton County and across Texas. By incorporating a swale or two in your landscape and planting a rain garden, you can help conserve our most precious resource, water, not to mention retaining more top soil. As former Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, said, "Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man." We have a finite amount of water on this Earth ... please use, conserve, and preserve it carefully.

### Resources

Denton County Master Gardener Association

<https://dcmga.com/>

"Raingardens for North Texas Landscapes"

<http://txmg.org/denton/files/2010/07/Raingardens.pdf>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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

Texas A&M AgriLife

"Texas Rain Garden Plant List"

[https://agrifecdn.tamu.edu/rainwaterharvesting/files/2011/05/](https://agrifecdn.tamu.edu/rainwaterharvesting/files/2011/05/Rain-Garden-Plant-List-11-02-09.pdf)

Rain-Garden-Plant-List-11-02-09.pdf

"Top 100 Plants for North Texas"

<https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/top-100-plants-for-north-texas.pdf>

Grow Green, City of Austin

<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/grow-green>

"Earth-Wise Guide to Rain Gardens, Keeping Water on the Land"

[http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/factsheets/raingarden\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/factsheets/raingarden_factsheet.pdf)



### 30th Anniversary Celebration (by invitation only)

August 14, 2019, 10 am to 1:30 pm  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S. Stemmons Freeway (I-35E),  
Corinth

## 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

## 2019 Junior Master Naturalist Camp Recap

BY ERIN TRAN

The 2019 Junior Master Naturalist Camp was held June 3-7 at North Lakes Park in Denton. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists hosted the weeklong half-day camp for twenty children, ages 6 to 11, in collaboration with Denton Parks and Recreation. This year, the camp was organized around five habitats common to our North Texas landscape.

On Monday, the campers learned about urban wildlife. MN Rita Lokie shared her love of backyard birding with the children, and MG Sharon Coleman discussed her work with squirrel rehabilitation. Tuesday focused on wetlands. MN Scott Kiester taught the campers about local frogs, MG and MN Mary Morrow made a strong case for water conservation, and MN Chuck Swatske shared his passion for snakes.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Lea Watson  
**MN Chuck Swatske's Snakes**  
 are always a big hit with the campers.

.....

Wednesday, the young naturalists learned about forests in the Cross Timbers. Ranger Rick Torres from Texas Parks and Wildlife led a guided hike focusing on the forest ecosystem. Gwen Eishen from the Texas Wildlife Association discussed forest life cycles. Thursday's emphasis was on aquatic macroinvertebrates. MG and MN Theresa Page coordinated a benthic exploration program with instructors Adelaide Bodner (MN), Gale Bacon (MN), and Sue Hudibergh (MG and MN).

Friday, the children learned about the Blackland Prairie. MG Lee Ann Yates and MN Marilyn Blanton

.....

taught the campers about wildflowers and native plants. Elizabeth Carter from the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center closed the camp with a program on Night Flight.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Lea Watson

**MG Lee Ann Yates**  
 assists a camper in the gathering  
 of wildflowers to be pressed.

The camp was coordinated by a dedicated team of Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners. Erin Tran handled the overall coordination of the camp, and Patti Barry organized supplies and inventory. MN Claire Kamego organized crafts throughout the week; the children made a bird feeder, decorated a wooden snake, and pressed wildflowers. Six table buddies worked closely with small groups of campers: Toni Benjamin, Mary Cissell, Maggie Dodd, Claudia Duckworth, Bree Gray-Eskue, and Judy Riley. Karen Gibson and John Williams provided support during the planning process, and Lea Watson took photographs throughout the camp and posted them on Shutterfly for the parents, speakers, and volunteers.

## Fall Vegetable Gardening

BY BARBARA BROWN

### *Get Ready to Fall in Love With Vegetable Gardening Again*

If storms and insect hoards destroyed your spring garden and summer heat keeps you indoors, you may want to give up the idea of growing your own vegetables. But wait! Did you know that autumn is a great time to grow vegetables in North Texas? Although daytime temperatures are cooler, the temperature range is more consistent and less stressful for plants. There are fewer insect pests and the damaging hail and wind storms are infrequent. And here is more good news: many of your favorite vegetables can be grown successfully in the fall in North Texas.

### Here are five tips to help you succeed:

#### ***Tip 1: Plant at the right time and place***

Fruiting vegetables like tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers need 8 hours of direct sunlight each day. Vegetables grown for their leaves such as lettuce, spinach, and chard tolerate partial shade as long as they receive at least 5 to 6 hours daily of sunlight. Root crops are most productive when grown in full sun. However, they will tolerate some shade for part of the day.

Timing is key. The fruit-bearing crops should be planted earlier than the leaf and root crops. It may be hard to believe but the right time to plant tomatoes, the favorite crop of home gardeners in North Texas is July. Although tomatoes do not flower or produce fruit in the summer heat, the plants use that time to build up a strong root system. Providing some afternoon shade for the new plants and making sure they receive sufficient water helps keep them healthy.

Suggested planting dates for commonly grown fall vegetables are: early August for beans, carrots, peppers, and squash, September for crucifer crops such as broccoli, cabbage, and califlower and October for peas and spinach. See Resources below for a link to the recommended North Texas fall planting dates for most vegetable crops.

#### ***Tip 2: Make sure the soil provides the nutrients vegetable plants need***

A few weeks before planting, clean up the soil in your garden area by removing weeds and spent vegetable plants. If you have not had the soil tested for a couple years, now is a good time to do that so you can add any needed amendments before planting. The Soil Testing Lab at Texas A&M offers this



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

**Packed With Nutrition,**  
cauliflower is more than a pale broccoli relative. It is a flavorful roasted vegetable or riced with some cheese becomes a clever potato substitute.



## Fall Vegetable Gardening (Cont.)

service and will send you a report with recommendations to improve your garden soil. It is likely that your garden will need some nitrogen, as that dissipates quickly. Phosphorus and potassium remain longer in the soil.

Another diagnostic action you can take is to dig down about six to twelve inches and check for the presence of earthworms. No worms suggest that the soil does not have enough nutrients to support healthy plants. Integrating composted organic materials is always a good idea to feed the worms and then the new plants. Adding compost to your vegetable garden soil attracts earthworms that in turn help break up the soil and worm poo or vermicompost is a potent soil amendment.

### *Tip 3: Select varieties that grow successfully in North Texas*

Vegetable plants can be picky about what they need to be productive and not all varieties are equally happy in North Texas. You can increase your success rate by choosing types tested under our growing conditions. In the resources below there is a link to find suggested varieties by county. Just enter your county in the search box to see the list of recommended varieties for most types of vegetables.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

#### **Fall Lettuce**

can be planted either as seeds or transplants.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

#### **Fall Peas**

do best when planted from seed.

Fruiting plants do best when planted from seedlings while beans, peas, and carrots do best when planted from seed. Leafy greens, such as lettuce, spinach, and chard, can be planted either as seeds or transplants. However, keep in mind that it takes seeds a few weeks to catch up to the growth of transplants.

### *Tip 4: Take care of your plants*

Larry Stein and Joe Masabni of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension offer this advice, "The trick to establishing healthy transplants during late summer is to make sure they have plenty of water. Transplants in peat pots or cell packs with restricted root zones require at least 2 weeks for their root systems to enlarge enough to support active plant growth. Until that time, they may need to be watered every day."

## Fall Vegetable Gardening (Cont.)

### Tip 5: Extend the growing season

Texas weather can be a contrarian sometimes — 75 degrees on Monday and 30 degrees on Tuesday. So, North Texas fall vegetables growers need to be prepared to protect sensitive plants during a cold snap. Watering the soil first will help by replacing air pockets with water, which cools more slowly. Small plants can be covered with pots and larger areas can be protected with insulating row covers such as frost cloth. It is best to keep the cover from touching the plant leaves. A hoop house, covered with frost cloth is relatively easy to build and provides about 6 to 8 degrees of protection (see Resources). Do not use plastic to add protection to plants; it doesn't.

Follow these tips and you will not only fall in love with gardening again, you may very well find that fall vegetable gardening is your favorite time of the year.

### Resources to help you succeed

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas A&M Soil Testing Lab

<http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

"Vegetable Variety Sector (by County)"

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg\\_variety/](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/)

"Recommended Planting Dates for North Texas"

[http://agrilife.org/urbantarranthorticulture/files/2010/06/Recommended\\_Planting\\_Dates\\_for\\_North\\_Texas1.pdf](http://agrilife.org/urbantarranthorticulture/files/2010/06/Recommended_Planting_Dates_for_North_Texas1.pdf)

"Constructing a Cold Frame Hoop House For the Backyard Gardener"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/EAGF-2017-Cold-frame.pdf>



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

### A Protective Hoop House

house is easy to build by inserting 12- to 18-inch precut rebar into the ground, add PCV pipe over the rebar, then cover. Binder clips along the pipe help hold the cover in place and add bricks or stones along the edge.

## Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

DCMGA helped the Little Elm Garden Club create a garden  
at Beard Park. (2002)

## Zucchini Bread

BY CINDY HELM

*Have you grown more zucchini than your family can possibly consume? Are your neighbors closing the blinds and locking the doors when they see you coming? Consider making Zucchini Bread! It freezes well and is always a popular contribution at potlucks, etc.*

I'm not sure what is my most favorite thing about the copy of my Zucchini Bread recipe from my mom. Could it be the way she misspelled Zucchini by spelling it "Zucchanni," or the way it is written in her beautiful cursive handwriting? Or maybe it is the color of the paper now — a lovely faded yellow caused by all of the listed ingredients that I have spilled upon it. Either way, I love the recipe and have kept up with this handwritten recipe for 20+ years. If you have that extra over-sized squash, then this is the recipe to use. Enjoy!

### Zucchini Bread

Recipe source: My mama Joyce Witt

Makes: 2-9x5x3 Loaf Pans

Prep time: 20 minutes

Bake time: 1 Hour at 350 degrees

#### Ingredients:

- 3 whole eggs (beat until light and fluffy)
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups grated zucchini

Mix the above ingredients well and then add:

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- Chopped nuts as desired

Grease and flour your loaf pans and pour 1/2 mixture in one and 1/2 mixture in the other. Bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees

### Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

DCMGA members helped develop the arboretum landscape design at the  
Lewisville Senior Center (1996)



## *Our Second Annual DCMGA AT Summit is just around the corner!*

We are excited to present a day of topics that we hope will both inform and inspire our members. While the format of the day will remain the same with two morning sessions, two afternoon sessions, and a shorter lunch program, the planning team of Patty Cooke, Tammie Gurley, Kathryn Wells, and Kim Wootton is including a greater variety of topics based on Master Gardener responses to the surveys from last year's AT Day.

The AT Summit is a free event for DCMGA members and interns only and will take place at the Carroll Building at 401 W. Hickory in Denton again this year. Classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, and will be taught by experienced Master Gardeners. Although there is no fee to attend, participants are required to register as space is limited in all sessions. DCMGA members have the option of attending for a full or partial day, and can earn up to 6 hours of AT credit.

Attendees and speakers may also purchase box lunches catered by McAlister's Deli for \$8.50. Lunch will include a sandwich, chips, pickle, and bottled water. Registration and box lunch choices are available through a Sign-Up Genius link which will be emailed to members.

This day is offered to enable veteran members who are in need of AT hours for recertification to meet their requirements; therefore, we respectfully request interns to wait until the 2nd day after registration opens to sign up.



### *MGer Advanced Training*

*and also*

### *DCMGA Public Presentations*

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

July 25, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks Chapter

Speaker: Jan Hodson presents **"The Benefits of Bees."**

**Location:** Ann Stuart Science Complex, TWU Campus, Denton

The Trinity Forks Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas invites you to our upcoming program on The Benefit of Bees, provided by Jan Hodson. Jan will reveal the mysteries of the hive. We will look at the lives of one of our greatest pollinators. It is busy in a bee hive and everyone has a job to do. You will get to see some of the tools and equipment a beekeeper uses to take care of some of the smallest livestock in the world.

**Contact for more information:** Liz Moyer (via VMS) or [npsot.org/trinityforks](http://npsot.org/trinityforks).



## DCMGA Receives Best Wishes



Photo Courtesy Sanger City Council

Liz and Pat Moyer accepted a proclamation of congratulations for DCMGA's 30th anniversary from the Sanger City Council.



## Five Fathers of Texas Horticulture

BY SHIRLEY MANFREDI

### A. L. Bruce

Bruce was born in Grayson County in 1861 and lived his life devoted to the development of plums. In 1845, his father planted the first orchard in North Texas. A.L. learned enough from his surroundings that, at age 16, he was an established grower and hybridizer of native plums. By the beginning of the 20th Century, he had developed and released 20 plum varieties. Bruce moved to Donley County in the Panhandle in 1902. He opened a nursery and continued to develop plums, eventually introducing the

Bruce plum. More than 250,000 Bruce plums were planted in Texas during the next 25 years. A refrigerated rail car load of Bruce plums were shipped to New York and Chicago in 1927. They met with great success and the variety is still very important to plum production in Texas. Almost all popular varieties have bloodlines of Bruce Plum.

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

### Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

DCMGA assisted the City of Frisco with selection of native North Texas plants to be depicted on the Main Street mural and developed an actual landscape plan for the demonstration garden installation in collaboration with the Frisco Garden Club and the Frisco Visual Arts Guild (2007).

DCMGA  
— HELP DESK —  
Question of the Month



Help Desk Team Contact Information  
940-349-2892  
master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

**BY BARBARA RIDGE**

*Q: My grape leaves are covered with strange growths. Can you tell me what they are, if they're harmful, and if I should treat them with something?*

**A:** Especially fascinating and almost beautiful, these leaf galls form when a small insect called a midge (probably *Cecidomyia viticola*) lays its egg on the grape leaf. Genius move by the midge, as the leaf produces a protective "womb" for the developing larva, which is nourished by the protein-rich gall.

Usually, these galls won't harm your vine, but you could remove the most affected leaves if the infestation is severe (not too many, as some will be needed for photosynthesis). Disposing of the leaves before the young midges emerge should lessen future infestations.

No chemical controls are necessary or recommended. Instead, use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques that include pruning and quick disposal of leaf litter.



*If you have questions about leaf galls 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.*

Most of us have seen leaf galls from time to time, but you should know that they also appear on branches, twigs, and roots. They form in response to infection by bacterial, viral, or fungal pathogens, in addition to insect, mite, and nematode activity.

Usually, galls are just unsightly and will not harm the tree or plant. However, the galls on branches, twigs, and roots are often hard to detect or hidden from sight; these galls can weaken small trees and kill them over time, so it's good to inspect newer trees and plants to prevent fatal damage.

The links below offer more detailed information on galls:

<https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu>

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>



Photo Received by our Help Desk from a Concerned Citizen





**All DCMGA Members and Interns!**



# AT Summit

JULY 31ST

9 AM - 3:45 PM

**UP TO SIX HOURS OF AT CREDIT.  
MIX & MATCH, OR TAKE THEM ALL!**



JOSEPH A. CARROLL BUILDING  
401 W. HICKORY STREET, DENTON

*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](mailto:info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org)

**Jan 24th:**  
ULandscapeIT:  
Water Efficient  
Landscape Design  
6-8 PM

**February 7th:**  
How to Plant  
Vegetables  
6-7 PM

**Feb 28th:**  
Composting  
6-8 PM

**DCMG topic**  
to be announced

**DCMG topic**  
To be announced

**May 2nd:**  
Pots in Small  
Spots: Container  
Gardening  
6-7 PM

**June 13th:**  
Sensational  
Succulents  
6-7 PM

**July 18th:**  
Made for Shade:  
Shade Gardening  
6-8 PM

**August 1st:**  
Water U Doing  
Water Efficient  
Sprinklers  
6-8 PM

**August 15th:**  
Let's Ketchup on  
Tomatoes  
6-8 PM

**September 5th:**  
Grow your Own  
Vegetables  
6-8 PM

**September 19th:**  
Texan Plants  
6-7 PM

**October 24th:**  
Birds, Bees, and  
Butterflies: Gardening  
for Wildlife  
6-8 PM

**November 21st:**  
Texas Trees  
6-8 PM

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

**RSVP: 972-538-5949**

[keeplewisvillebeautiful.org](http://keeplewisvillebeautiful.org)

[info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org)

Keep Lewisville Beautiful

WATER UNIVERSITY

TEXAS MASTER GARDENERS





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

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 Court of Texas Cooperating.





### 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



July 31 AT Day  
August 14 30th Anniversary Celebration  
October 12 Fall Garden Festival

### Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Joseph A. Carroll Building  
401 W. Hickory Street  
Suite 112  
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 August edition of *The Root* is Monday, July 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).