



Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY PAT MOYER, PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow MGers and Interns,

Surprise! August is here and it's undoubtedly living up to its reputation as part of the Dog Days of Summer. It's that wonderful time of year when all the local meteorologists put their daily predictions on a loop and play the same broadcast day after day until Halloween.

Unfortunately, I have to write this column in mid-July in order to meet our *Root* deadline, so I won't have much insight into the details of the success of the AT Summit. Knowing how well Kim Wootton prepares for everything, though, I'm sure it was a total success. This was our second annual training session set up to provide members with the opportunity to get AT hours as well as provide them with presentations on a wide variety of subjects. I hope all of you took advantage of this annual opportunity.

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

WHAT'S GROWING ON

- 03 Project Spotlight: Grants Program
- 05 What Do Master Gardeners Really Do?
- 07 AgriLife Staff Spotlight: Colleen Carpenter
- 10 Plant of the Month: Celeriac
- 11 DCMGA Projects Branch Out
- 12 Feature Article: Nature In Your Landscape
- 17 Watershed Lawn Care
- 18 Fall Garden Fest
- 21 Help Desk Q & A: Bagworms

Buds from the Board (Cont.)

Our next event of note on the calendar is the 30th Anniversary Celebration. This will be held at the Global Spheres Center on 14 August in lieu of our August monthly meeting. By now all DCMGA members should have responded to an Evite to secure your reservation for this once in a decade event. Shirley Manfredi and Liz Moyer, assisted by Dee Payne, have put together a fabulous event which includes guest speakers, great displays, and a free barbecue lunch. Remember, it starts at 10 AM and runs to 2 PM. I hope to see you there.

On the DCMGA horizon in September, we have the Annual Plant Swap. It will once again be hosted by Sharrie Ely. It's held in conjunction with our September General Meeting, which is an evening event. The Swap will be from 5:30 to 6:30 in the parking lot adjacent to the Bayless-Selby House. Bring your spare plants/bulbs/seeds to swap for new opportunities. The Swap will be followed by the September meeting with a Social Half-Hour from 6:30 to 7:00. This, in turn, will be followed by a General Meeting and a presentation on "Perennials." A great way to spend an evening.

Happy Gardening,
Pat Moyer

Did You Know?

DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Fact Firsts

- 1996 - Speaker's Bureau Established
- 1997 - Round-Up
- 1997 - Annual Christmas Party
- 1998 - Training Class had 9 members
- 1999 - Project Day (now Volunteer Fair)
- 2001 - DCMGA Garden Tour
- 2004 - DCMGA's 501(c)3 Status Established
- 2005 - DCMGA Hosted State Conference



The Grants Program

BY KATHY RAINEY

Master Gardeners dedicate countless hours sharing knowledge about sustainable gardening practices through our projects and classes. Master Gardeners are horticultural problem solvers often thinking of new and creative ways to educate and engage the citizens of Denton County. We find inspiration for potential projects by taking advanced training classes, by talking with friends and colleagues, and by pursuing our special gardening interests.

How to fund all of our sustainable gardening ideas might seem like a difficult challenge, especially when the Association's budget from fundraising and dues does not stretch to cover everything we may want to do. That's why this month's spotlight is on our Grant Program. We want to make you aware of alternate sources of funds and where a grant could make the difference between a good idea and a great project.

Applying for and winning a grant might seem like a daunting task, but when you learn that fellow Master Gardener Barbara Brown is our grant writing consultant, you will gain the confidence to give the process a try. Barbara worked many years in advanced technology and defense contracting and, though she did not write grants, she helped write numerous proposals to win funding from the government and private sector businesses. There is a lot of similarity between writing proposals and writing grants. Barbara was fortunate to have many managers and reviewers who critiqued her proposal writing and offered insight into the process and the minds of proposal reviewers and funding sources.

Barbara says, when a member has an idea for a project and wants to make it happen, the first step is to prepare an overview of the project goals, objectives, and cost, which is then presented to the Board and County Extension Agent for review and approval. The Board and CEA consider any proposed project in terms of its ability to meet the Association's mission and its doability. The DCMGA Grant Program is available to the project instigator to help identify potential outside funding sources and to develop a winning strategy. Depending on the complexity of the required grant application, a team can be put together to assist in writing, editing, and reviewing a grant application.

Based on Barbara's experience she advises, "... for small projects, think local." Many corporations and non-profit organizations have programs to provide \$500 to \$1000 grants in their area of operation, such as Home Depot, Lowe's, supermarket chains, Keep Lewisville Beautiful, Keep Denton Beautiful, and CoServ.

As an example, The Native Plant Society of Texas awards small grants to nature centers, schools, educational groups, and others to help fund development of Monarch Demonstration Gardens or Monarch Waystations using native plants on public sites in Texas. The purpose of this program is to educate members of the Society and the public about Monarch conservation and to encourage restoration of Monarch habitats throughout



DCMGA Grant Program (Cont.)

the Texas migration flyway. More information about the grant can be found at The Native Plant Society of Texas website: <https://npsot.org/wp/monarchs/>. There you will find the grant funds available, the sources of the funds, how the funds can and cannot be used, the deadline for the application, evaluation criteria for winning a grant, and more.

Seed companies, nursery chains, and national and local organizations that support gardening and horticulture education often have grant opportunities for small- to medium-sized requests. For large projects, check government and foundation grant opportunities. The larger the grant requested, the greater the competition and the more requirements placed on the applying organization. Barbara maintains a listing of sources for grants related to gardening and horticulture.

Hopefully, you'll be inspired to give the grant application process a try. To date, DCMGA has not submitted many grant applications. Shirley Singer and John Williams received a grant from the Good Samaritan Society to replace dead roses. We have also been fortunate to receive a few non-competitive grants available to employees and retirees from local corporations. Shirley Manfredi, Sue Hudiburgh, and Linda Harvey have each taken advantage of these types of grant programs.

Sue and Shirley are both retirees from IBM and have been awarded an IBM Community Service grant to support DCMGA programs in six separate years, starting in 2008, for a total of \$9000 between them. The grant program provides cash to eligible community organizations and schools where IBM employees and retirees are actively volunteering and in support of eligible projects. The first grant purchase was the Enviroscope that is still used to teach about sources of water pollution. Other purchases include a tool shed for the DCMGA demonstration garden, computers, projectors, portable sound systems and microphones, presentation pointers, and other accessories for the Speakers Bureau and classes.



Lynda is a retiree from Intel, which provides a program that awards funds to non-profits when an employee or retiree performs volunteer services for that organization. Intel pays \$10 per hour for volunteer services, and in 2018 the award to DCMGA was \$2750 for Lynda's service hours. She requested the funds be allocated to five \$500 scholarships to 4H and FFA college students that have participated in the Denton Youth Fair, a DCMGA project she manages. Lynda says that Intel also matches monetary contributions that she makes to non-profits, such as Native Plant Society and Blue Ribbon Club. Lynda, Sue and Shirley all suggest that both working and retired master gardeners check to see if their companies offer these types of programs. Though it may take some paperwork or online submissions, the benefit to DCMGA is worth the time.

Hopefully, you have gained insight as to how you can help fund your creative ideas for projects and now know that help is available to guide you through the process.

What Do Master Gardeners Really Do?

BY LIZ MOYER, CLASS OF 2009, DCMGA COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Master Gardeners have a ton of fun and serve Denton County in so many ways. We become great friends with so many people we would not meet otherwise as we learn, work, and teach together. Here's a little sample of what we do:

Master Gardeners start with learning:

- Training on a regular basis by the best instructors the State has to offer;
- Learning from each other at a variety of events and activities, including our special interest groups on roses, herbs, succulents, and native bees;
- Researching answers to questions or developing presentations.

Master Gardeners work together:

- Setting up and operating our plant sale, generally selling over 5000 plants in under five hours;
- Helping fellow Master Gardeners get ready for our annual Garden Tour;
- Caring for the gardens at Fair Oaks Senior Independent Living Center;
- Mentoring the Community Gardens at Flower Mound First Baptist Church, Shiloh Fields, The Grove in Carrollton, the Monarch Waystation in Tribute, and more;
- Caring for the Texas Our Heritage Garden at LISD Heritage Elementary School;
- Managing the Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

Interns Receive Hands-On Training



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

Working Together at Fair Oaks

Master Gardeners teach:

- Providing over 80 presentations each year through our Speakers Bureau;
- Leading science classes and teacher training in hands-on science through our Science With Attitude project (SWAt);
- Providing an "Ask A Master Gardener" booth at numerous fairs and events across Denton County;
- Conducting workshops at the Children's Garden;
- Assisting with Junior Master Gardener Camp;
- Providing the horticultural workshop at the Denton County Youth Fair;
- Providing the Design Your Yard Landscaping Design classes for all Denton County residents to improve their home landscapes using EarthKind principles;
- Providing booths and speakers at the annual Fall Garden Fest;
- Answering hundreds of questions each year as they are submitted to our Help desk.

What Do Master Gardeners Really Do? (Cont.)

Master Gardeners shape the future:

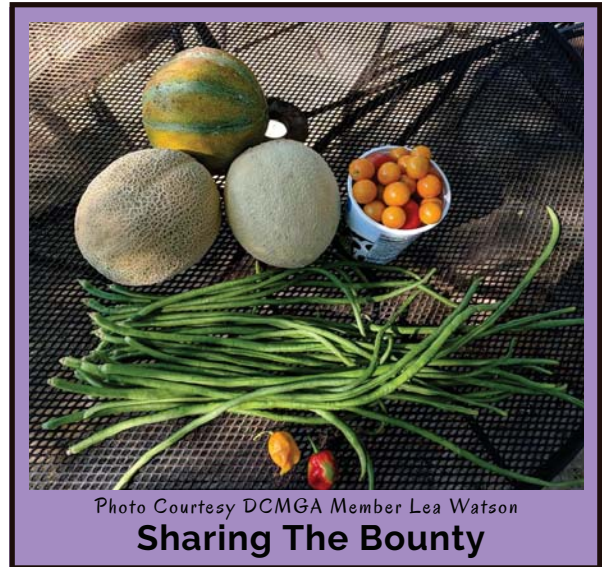
- With scholarships to budding horticulturalists;
- Assisting the Denton Main Library Seed Library;
- Distributing trees to third graders throughout Lewisville ISD through the Cool Shade for Third Grade program and trees to all Denton County residents through the Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District annual tree sale.

Master Gardeners have fun:

- Sharing the bounty of our gardens;
- Working together;
- Playing together;
- Sometimes traveling together to conferences, garden shows, new nurseries – anywhere there might be that one special plant or speaker;
- And the occasional ugly sweater contest.

All of these activities and more enable Denton County Master Gardeners to stand tall, and lean on each other, as they fulfill their mission to educate and engage county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Does this sound fun and engaging to you? You could be a Master Gardener! Registration for the 2020 class opens on our website at dcmga.com on August 15. Follow our Facebook page for more information, and don't miss the September issue of *The Root* for a timeline and more program details.



Plant Exchange

Dig, divide, or seed your plants now for September's DCMGA Members' Plant Exchange. On Wednesday, September 11, DCMGA members will meet before that evening's general meeting (there are two evening meetings during the year) and exchange plants. The Exchange will take place from 5:30 – 6:30 PM, ending in time for you to have a break before the DCMGA General Meeting.

Bring up to 10 plants to exchange. We often have extra plants, so come visit and see what is growing in DCMGA member gardens. It's a great learning experience as well as a social time to learn and share plants. We will share any extra plants after the exchange so that they can go to a good home. We hope to see you and your plants there!

Meet Your AgriLife Staff

Colleen Carpenter

4-H Program Coordinator

Hello! My name is Colleen Carpenter and I am the Denton County 4-H Program Coordinator. I started working with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in October 2014 as the 4-H administrative assistant. A year later, I took on a new role as the program coordinator, where I work directly with the schools in Denton County. My primary goal is to introduce and implement 4-H programs and activities in our local schools. In addition to working in the local school districts, I am also involved in our Denton County 4-H club activities and contests.

I didn't grow up in 4-H, but I sure wish I had. Every single day these kids find new ways to inspire and teach me; they make me want to be the best 4-H program coordinator I can possibly be. Getting to know the kids and working with them is by far the best part of my job. I'm excited knowing they are our future leaders. I do have the best job in the office!



Photo Courtesy Colleen Carpenter

Colleen Carpenter

Five Fathers of Texas Horticulture

BY SHIRLEY MANFREDI

Thomas Volney Munson

Munson was considered the premier grape expert of his time. Born in Illinois in 1843, he moved to Denison in 1876 after marrying the daughter of a nurseryman. In Denison, Munson developed test and production vineyards. In 1909 he published a book called *Foundation of American Grape Culture*. He also produced more than 300 varieties of grapes adapted to Texas. However, what Munson is best remembered for is his saving the French Grape industry through the introduction of grapes resistant to phylloxera. For this work, Munson won the French Legion of Honor award.

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

Remembering Our Roots 30th Anniversary

In 1996, there were 3,500 Master Gardeners in the state of Texas.

In 2016, there were over 7,600!

Plant of the Month – Celeriac

BY LEE ANN YATES

Can we think about fall yet? Cool breezes, bright days, fire pits ... and fall vegetable gardening! The time to plant that fall garden is upon us, and if you might be looking for something new, different, or unexpected, consider Celeriac, or Celery Root (*Apium graveolens* var. *Rapaceum*). It's quite a popular vegetable in Europe, but is only just beginning to catch on here. You can bake it, mash it, shred it, roast it, or eat it raw! It's the best winter vegetable you've never heard of. Our autumn and winter weather is good for growing celeriac. Sadly, celeriac is thought of as one of the uglier root crops, but texture and flavor are where you can find beauty here. It tastes rather like celery, to which it is closely related, but is considered by many to be easier to grow. The big, round root is valued for being very crispy if eaten raw in salads and holds up well in soups and stews, imparting a tangy flavor.

How to Grow Celeriac

Celeriac, a biennial treated as an annual, grows in part shade but is partial to full sun locations with good drainage. It has medium to dark green foliage with a mounding form. Aggie Horticulture recommends two varieties – 'Large Smooth Prague' or 'Marble Ball'.

Celery Root prefers rich, highly organic soil with pH 6.0 to 7.0 and plentiful, consistent moisture. One source said celeriac will tolerate less than ideal conditions, while another said that the soil should never be allowed to dry out. I think consistent moisture is the way to go and mulching will help, as always. Celeriac is also more frost-tolerant than celery and is actually more flavorful if harvested after a light frost.

How does one grow this ugly little beauty? If propagating by seed, germination needs temperatures of 70 F to 75 F and takes two to three weeks. Start your seeds ten to twelve weeks before first average frost date, which is about 15 November in Denton County, and plant several seeds in each cell. Press the seed lightly into the soil, but don't completely cover, because celeriac needs light to germinate. A 50% germination rate is considered good for celeriac. It takes 90 to 120 days until harvest. Keep the soil moist and warm until germination, then thin to one plant per cell. When it's time to set out your transplants, space them six to eight inches apart in rows eighteen inches apart. This should be about two weeks before the average last frost. Celeriac can withstand light to moderate frosts with little problem – that enhances the flavor! Keep the root's shoulders covered by mulching or hilling soil around them. As the root grows, continually remove all but three to five stalks to encourage bulb growth. As the bulb gets larger, it's alright to expose the crown to allow it to develop and just cover



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

Celeriac, or Celery Root,
is a vegetable that grows well in our
autumn and winter weather.

.....

Celeriac (Cont.)

with mulch if a freeze is expected. You can leave celeriac in the ground until you need it. Celeriac must be harvested before a hard freeze though. A knife or sharp spade is helpful in harvesting celeriac due to its mass of fleshy roots that needs to be cut to lift each bulb out of the ground. To store celeriac through the winter after harvesting, leave about two inches of the stalk on the root, don't brush too much soil off of the bulb to keep it from drying out, and store at near freezing temperatures and high humidity.



Canva Stock Photo

When Harvesting Celeriac,

a knife or sharp spade is helpful. The mass of fleshy roots needs to be cut to lift the bulb out of the ground.

Potential Issues

Celeriac suffers from only a few problems. Celery leaf spot - brown spots that appear first on older leaves before spreading to younger leaves - can be avoided by using treated seeds and by practicing good cleanliness and rotating crops. This is a bacteria, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Apii*, that overwinters in seeds and the refuse of dead plants. The most common problem may be slugs and snails that feed on young seedlings. You can put out beer traps near your plants or place sawdust or eggshell barriers around each transplant. Placing copper tape around the plants is another alternative and there are biocontrols available also. The larvae of celery leaf miner tunnel through the leaves, leaving brown blisters. If attacks are severe, they can slow growth drastically. Pinch out the

affected leaves and do not plant seedlings with affected leaves. Growing seedlings under horticultural mesh will help prevent celery leaf miner infestations.

Once you have harvested these knobbly lovelies, trim the stem end to create a flat surface, and then vertically cut the bulb in half. Lay the root flat on its side and use a knife to trim away all the roots. Peel the skin off with vegetable peeler like parsnips or carrots. There are several recipes using celeriac, raw or cooked, on the internet. I've included a link in the *Resources* to an apple and celeriac salad recipe from the inimitable Martha Stewart.

Celeriac is low-carb, low-calorie, low-fat, high in vitamins C and K and in potassium and phosphorus, especially when eaten raw. It is also a high-fiber food. Is this magic? Maybe! You really should give it a try.

I haven't seen seeds for celeriac locally, but that doesn't mean they don't exist. They can always be ordered online. Be adventurous - try something ugly, try something new, try celeriac! It's the crunchiest best new veg around!

Celeriac (Cont.)

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife

Vegetable Variety Selector – Celeriac info is found in Regions A or C.

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/veg_variety/

Home Gardening, Cornell University

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scene810e.html#growinginfo>

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/vegetables/celeriac>

Healthline

"What is Celeriac? A Root Vegetable With Surprising Benefits"

<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/celeriac#benefits>

Martha Stewart

"Celery Root and Apple Slaw"

<https://www.marthastewart.com/314078/celery-root-and-apple-slaw>



Save the Date!



Denton County Master Gardener Association
presents



FALL GARDEN FEST

SATURDAY 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Featuring Speakers -

Jay White - Editor and Owner,
Texas Gardener Magazine

Steven Chamblee -
Writer, Horticulturist of Chandor Gardens



DCMGA Projects Branch Out

BY KATHRYN WELLS, DCMGA VICE PRESIDENT

'Tis the season for garden multiplication, and Denton County MGA is following suit with several new projects recently approved and added to our impressive list of Programs and Committees. With so many projects spanning so much of the county, there's sure to be something of interest for everyone.

We welcome the following to our fertile ground:

- Argyle Unity Park Beautification (Managed by John Ankeny)
- Friends of Shiloh Garden (Managed by Cindy Helm)
- Gardens on the Go (Managed by Tammie Gurley and Gay Campbell)
- Green Acres (Managed by Sue Stell)
- Native Bee Group (Managed by Bob Bender; Mentored by Sonny Smith)
- Succulent Group (Managed by Carolyn Tinner)



In other project news, Barbie Dane has assumed leadership for our Cool Shade for the Third Grade program under the mentorship of former Cool Shade managers Janie and Tom Cindric. Thanks to last year's Cool Shade manager, Susan Loos, for her work on the project, and thanks to Barbie, Janie, and Tom for continuing this program. You're all tree-mendous, and we appreciate you!

For more information on these projects and all of DCMGA's programs and committees, visit our dedicated website page: <https://dcmga.com/projects-2/>. Our educational and engaging events and activities will really grow on you!



Design Your Yard With Earth-Kind Landscaping

BY SHIRLEE SINGER

The upcoming Design Your Yard class has a new format. Here are just a few of our exciting changes:

- Friday night will be devoted to Earth-Kind lecture / Saturday will be group format.
- Students will receive a thumb drive instead of a printed book plus the Water University plant card packet.
- The thumb drive will include plant graphics to match the Water University card packet.
- This next class will be a combination of computer-aided design and drawing over a photograph.
- Students with computers or tablets will be asked to bring their devices to use in class.
- There will be fewer lectures and more hands-on discussion with the teaching team in small groups.
- Groups will be formed on the basis:
 - yard size or design requirements
 - student experience
 - ways of working (computer or drawing over a photograph)

Watch for more details on these changes in the September newsletter. For class times, dates, fees, etc., please refer to the Flyer on page 27. Registration opens August 14.

Nature In Your Landscape

BY LIZ MOYER

July and August can be challenging months for gardeners in North Central Texas, but they can also be some of the most fulfilling. Our social media has been filled with pictures from our members of anoles (those cute little lizards that hide out in the shade and show up in the evening), and caterpillars and their chrysalis and the beautiful butterflies emerging to dry their wings. It's been a real life lesson as some disappear when a flock of birds is spotted or don't make it past the chrysalis stage, but nature is nature and what better place to watch it than your own backyard?!

One thing all these members have in common is that they have planted an assortment of native plants that will support our local wildlife. Of course, we all try to have some milkweeds to help the monarch butterfly migration continue north, but there are so many other plants that will also make our landscapes a haven for nature and provide real life learning opportunities for our children, grandchildren, and neighborhoods.

Cultivating a wildlife habitat is not hard, and doesn't mean that your landscape has to look like it belongs in a park somewhere. Natives can be planted in conventional landscapes very nicely. The secret is to select natives just as you would any other plant for a particular location, plant them in defined beds, and keep them controlled with prudent pruning and thinning.

Here are a few easy replacements you can make this fall for wildlife attraction in the spring.

If a vine covering a trellis is needed to block a view or add interest to your landscape, consider:

- **Carolina Jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*.** This beautiful vine is evergreen! And is one of the first things to bloom in the spring, so it provides a good nectar source before many other sources are available. Additionally, it can be kept neat and tidy with your kitchen shears – no special tools required; or
- **Coral Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*.** This beauty is also evergreen and can be controlled with minimal effort with your kitchen shears. Coral honeysuckle is a hummingbird magnet, so consider planting it near a window so you can see the show; or
- **Passionflower Vine, *Passiflora incarnata*.** This is a deciduous vine that dies to the ground each winter, but grows like crazy when warm weather hits. Our members are thrilled when the first Gulf Fritillary butterflies appear in early spring.



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

Coral Honeysuckle,
Lonicera sempervirens, is a
hummingbird magnet.

Nature In Your Landscape (Cont.)

If there is a space in your landscape in need of groundcover, consider:

- **Frogfruit, *Phyla nodiflora*.** This sweet little groundcover is both a larval host and a source of nectar for the Common Buckeye, a far from common-looking butterfly with beautiful buckeye markings on both his forewings and two on each hindwing. The little white flowers are a real bonus in the groundcover world.
- **Pigeonberry, *Rivina humilis*.** This groundcover lives up to its name by producing lovely little red berries for foraging wildlife and birds. What's really unexpected is that it often produces berries on one stem while flowers are still very beautiful on the next!

Looking for some great blooming flowers?

There are almost too many to choose from, so we recommend the Native Plant Butterfly Garden list compiled by the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, or the Native Plant Database at the Lady Bird Johnson National Wildflower Center. Take it with you to nurseries and plant sales, and before you know it, you'll have a real wildlife haven. Fall bloomers are in demand by butterflies, bees, and other pollinators, and they don't necessarily get as much attention as the riot of spring color greeting us every year, so here's three that will make your yard come alive:

- **Blue Mistflower, *Eupatorium coelestinum*.** This plant spreads nicely and blooms later in the summer and into fall, so it is an excellent nectar source for all those monarchs headed to Mexico for the winter as well as other butterflies just looking for a reliable meal; or

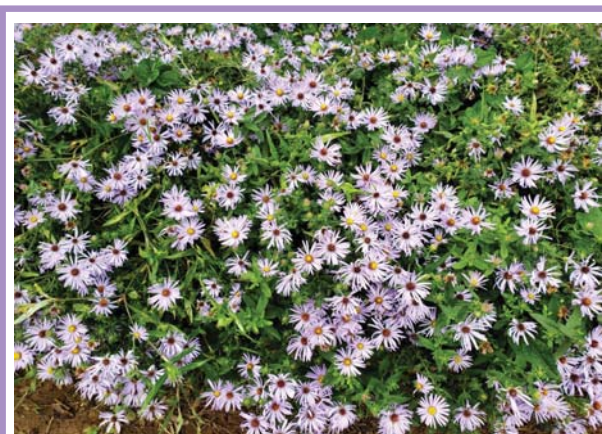


Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

Cut Back Fall Aster Regularly
to create a compact show of flowers.



Photo Courtesy Alan Cressler,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Pigeonberry,

Rivina humilis, often produces berries on one stem while there are still beautiful flowers on the next stem!

- **Gregg's Mistflower, *Conoclinium greggii*.** This is a beautiful plant that blooms through most of the summer and provides many species a nectar source through the dry months. Another plus is that the foliage is really pretty – almost lime green with deep lobes in the leaves; or
- **Fall Aster, *Symphyotrichum oblongifolius*.** This fabulous plant blooms bright purple at the end of October, so it is the perfect energy source for monarchs and other butterflies. Cut it back when it reaches about 10 inches tall in the spring, then every three weeks until August 1 to get a nice compact, dense showing of flowers.

Nature In Your Landscape (Cont.)

If you have lost your roses to rose-rosette, or your shrubs are looking sad, it's time to replace them. Like all living things, plants have a life-expectancy, and too often we refuse to admit our shrubs have exceeded theirs. Here are a few suggestions to help you get over the loss:

- **Autumn Sage, *Salvia greggii*.** The new darling of the landscaping industry is almost indestructible. It blooms from early spring until late in the winter providing a nectar source for all our pollinators, and wonderful shelter for tiny wildlife. It dies back when cold weather hits, but don't prune those dead plants – there are beneficial insects overwintering in there! Let them sleep until early-mid-March; or
- **Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*.** This little shrub will bring a new texture to your garden with its small leaves and arching growth habit. The magenta berries in the winter are a good food source for birds and other wildlife, and their dense foliage and branching provide habitat year-round. While considered deciduous, in our area, it is evergreen most winters; or
- **Cenizo, Texas Sage, *Leucophyllum frutescens*.** This gorgeous shrub comes in both green- and silver-foliaged varieties and blooms almost anytime we have heavy humidity or rain. It provides cover for birds and creatures as well as nectar when blooming. This shrub is very easy to contain and requires minimal attention once established.



Photo Courtesy Eric Beckers,
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Coralberry's Magenta Berries
are a good food source for birds and other wildlife during the winter months.

Now that we are ready to add some natives to our landscapes, there are a few things to keep in mind:

Just because they are native doesn't mean they'll grow anywhere:

- Each plant still needs to be planted in the right spot to meet its sun/shade/water needs.
- Each plant still needs good sandy loam soil in which to grow, so we may need to amend our soil. Most conventional landscapes are on lots that were scraped clean of our rich prairie top soils during construction, and it may or may not have been replaced to the depths needed.
- Natives require less water over their lifetime than other plants, but they still need regular watering during their first year while their roots are developing (two years for shrubs, three years for trees).
- Natives require less maintenance over time, but to keep our landscape clean and tidy, and our neighbors happy, it is still important to prune correctly occasionally and to clean up the edges where these happy natives are spreading. This is your opportunity to share some plants with your friends and neighbors!

Enjoy your landscape and share it with wildlife. We can all have a real peek at the natural world right outside our door with just a few thoughtful plant selections and a little attention.

Nature In Your Landscape (Cont.)

Resources:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

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

Special Collections - Cross Timbers

<https://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=er29>

Earth-Kind Landscaping, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Native Habitat"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/wildscapes.pdf>

Wildscapes, Texas Parks and Wildlife

https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/wildscapes/

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas

<https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/lists-of-local-native-plants/>

Butterflies and Moths of North America

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

Wauer, Roland H.; Weber, Jim; and Weber, Lynne (2018). *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies, A Field Guide*. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press



MGer Advanced Training and also DCMGA Public Presentations

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

August 22, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Texas Nature Tracker, Dr. Tania Homayoun, Ph.D. from Texas
Parks and Wildlife

Location: Ann Stuart Science Complex, TWU Campus, Denton

Contact for more information: Liz Moyer (via VMS)

or npsot.org/trinityforks.

August 27, 11:00 a.m.

Fall Vegetable Gardening sponsored by City of Highland Village.

Location: 948B Highland Village Road, Highland Village



Master Gardeners Contribute Nationwide

We always knew we are making a difference in Denton County. Our organization contributed over 21,000 volunteer hours last year for a value of over a half million dollars.

We always knew that we are part of a larger organization within the state as the Texas Master Gardener Association boasts over 7600 members.

But, we are especially proud to know that Master Gardeners across the country have really made an impact. Here is the national report:



Did You Know?

DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Facts

- DCMGA members collected data on birds and flowers of the Isle Du Bois State Park at Lake Ray Roberts to create a field check list for visitors (1998, 1999, 2000)
- DCMGA introduced the Junior Master Gardener program to area schools. Prosper Elementary School housed the first chapter (2000)
- DCMGA designed and installed the low-water-use demonstration garden for the Town of Flower Mound Library (2002)

Watershed Lawn Care

BY JANET LAMINACK

As a county extension agent, I am tasked with providing research-based education to the citizens of Texas. Sometimes this means that I have an unpopular answer for people. It has been interesting throughout my career to see the shift in public perception and the framing of questions specifically when it comes to pesticide use.

A pesticide is a substance intended to control insects or other pests of cultivated plants (herbicides kill weeds, insecticides kill insects, fungicide kills fungus, etc.). In my earlier days, I would receive phone calls describing an insect attack on a tree with the question being "what do I spray on it?" However, my role is to provide more complete information so that consumers are informed to make a decision that they are comfortable with and that is horticulturally sound. Although the consumer might just want a chemical name of something they could go purchase, typically, they are also going to get a bit of an education in integrated pest management, or IPM.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Lea Watson

Organic Pesticides

tend to be derived from natural sources rather than manmade, but are still considered pesticides.

IPM is an approach to controlling pests by using many methods with the "last resort" being the use of a substance or chemical. These substances can be synthetic or organic but are all considered pesticides. Organic pesticides tend to be derived from natural sources rather than manmade.

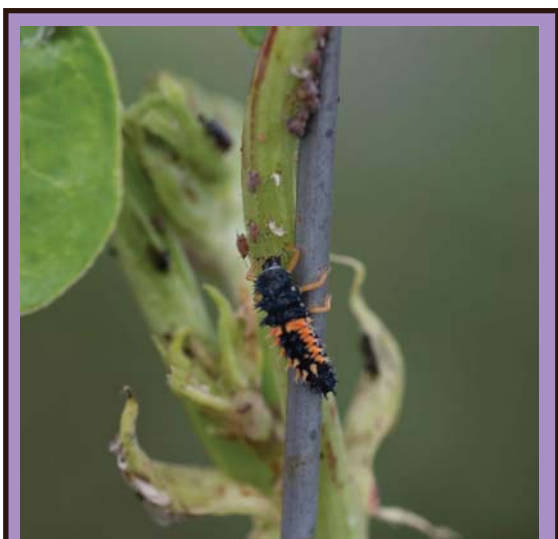


Photo Courtesy Extension Program Specialist (IPM)
Erfan Vafaie

Ladybug Larva Find Aphids
to be a yummy treat.

Basically, IPM is best management practices to improve the health of the plants and limit the impact by pests. Here are some specific methods with examples:

- Cultural control is the manipulation of the environment to make it less favorable for pests. Examples are crop rotation or using disease resistant plants.
- Biological control is the suppression of pest damage by purposeful manipulation of beneficial organisms. This can mean buying ladybugs or other predators to release in your garden. But it can include waiting to spray aphids in the spring so that the neighborhood ladybugs have time to find the yummy treat.
- Mechanical control is using physical barriers or methods and works better in smaller gardens. Examples include using sticky traps for insects or even netting or cloth.

Watershed Lawn Care (Cont.)

And that leaves us with chemical control, which is becoming less and less popular among consumers. It is a common myth that agriculture causes much of the pesticide pollution in our water and environment. However, when deciding to use a pesticide, agricultural producers consider the economic benefit. How many insects can be tolerated before the crop declines so much that it is worth the cost of a pesticide? Households tend to be less judicious. How many cockroaches can be tolerated? Usually less than one.

Problems occur when households use more pesticides or even products like weed'n'feed than needed on their yards. When we get a big rain, the excess floats away down into our waterways and streams. Another common problem is not correctly identifying the pest and therefore not correctly picking the correct pesticide. For example, Take-all Root Rot is a common disease in turf grass. Using an insecticide is not going to help control this because it is a fungus. Not only are we contributing to pollution and possibly destroying beneficial organisms, we might be wasting a lot of money. Before spraying or hiring someone to spray your house or lawn, identify the problem first. We can all do our part to protect pollinators, our watershed and other natural resources. If you need help figuring out what the problem is, contact us at master.gardener@dentoncounty.com or 940-349-2892.



Fall Garden Fest

BY SHARRIE ELY

Join our volunteers at the Denton County Master Gardener Association Fall Garden Fest, where you can learn about "Smart Plants for Smart Gardeners" and plan for success in your North Texas Garden.

Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019

Place: Denton First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Locust St., in Denton, Texas

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Guest Speakers: Jay White, Editor and Owner of *Texas Gardener* magazine

Steven Chamblee, Writer & Horticulturist of Chandor Gardens, Weatherford, Texas

Visit our educational Master Gardener booths featuring such topics as:

- Turf's Not Tuff
- Herbs
- Fall Vegetable Gardening
- Fairy Gardens
- Arranging Fall's Bounty

Bring your gardening questions to our "Ask A Master Gardener" booth. Learn how to become a Master Gardener. Several new topics will make an appearance in Master Gardener booths. We look forward to those and many more for this fun event.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

Fall Decor And More!

The Fall Garden Fest is THE place for fall gardening and yard decor ideas.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Simpson

Frame Your Day With Flowers
at the Fall Garden Festival.

The SWAt Team will host kid's activities in an indoor area this year, plus our vendor and education booths will be located throughout the event.

*Come shop, play, and learn
as we celebrate fall
in North Texas.*

**** Master Gardeners - one hour of AT has been approved for each talk, for a total of four hours.****

Did You Know?

DCMGA 30th Anniversary Fun Facts

DCMGA has provided service at the following schools:

Argyle High School	Heritage Elementary School, Highland Village
Argyle Hilltop Elementary School	Highland Village Elementary School
Argyle School	Lakeland Elementary School, Lewisville
B.B. Owen Elementary, The Colony	Lewisville High School
Borman Elementary School, Denton	LISD Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA)
Calhoun Middle School, Denton	Little Elm Primary School
Central Elementary, Lewisville	Marcus High School, Flower Mound
Cheryl Phillips Discovery Habitat	Mary Immaculate School
Corinth Elementary School	McAuliffe Elementary School, Highland Village
Corinth Montessori School	Morningside Elementary, The Colony
Corinth Primary School	Newton Razor Elementary, Denton
Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home	Old Settlers Elementary School, Flower Mound
Denton Community School	Pilot Point Intermediate
Denton State School	Ponder High School
Downing Middle School, Flower Mound	Prairie Trail Elementary School, Flower Mound
Durham School, Southlake	Prosper Elementary School
Environmental Learning Center, The Colony	Rosemeade Elementary, Carrollton
Etheridge Elementary School, The Colony	Sam Houston Elementary School, Denton
Eugenia Razor Elementary School	St. Mark's School
Evers Park Elementary School	Strickland Middle School, Denton
Flower Mound Elementary	Texas Woman's University
Forest Vista Elementary School, Flower Mound	Tomas Rivera Elementary School, Denton
Gennings Elementary School, Denton	University of North Texas
Hedrick Elementary, Lewisville	Wellington Elementary, Flower Mound



Some of the many projects include:

- Refurbished the Heritage Elementary School Outdoor Learning Area to demonstrate the ten ecoregions of Texas
- Partnered with TWU in the design, planning, and construction of a demo garden to showcase Earth-Kind roses, Texas natives and perennials, and to collect research data and incorporate principles of barrier-free gardens
- Taught hay-bale gardening to second graders at Flower Mound Elementary
- Taught fourth and fifth graders to vermicompost at B.B. Owens Elementary

DCMGA
HELP DESK
Question of the Month



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

BY BARBARA RIDGE

Q: Tons of ornament-like growths are "decorating" my dying red cedars. What are the growths, how do I treat them, and is there any hope for my trees?

A: Bagworms have claimed your trees as their home. And their nursery. And their all-you-can-eat buffet. Fortunately, both Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and chemical controls are effective this time of year.

Usually, the first sign of infestation is the distinctive, oblong "bags," encrusted with plant debris, hanging from stems. The bags hold hundreds of eggs, which overwinter from the previous fall. Sometime between April and June, tiny larvae emerge, spin a single silk thread, and attach themselves to nearby leaves where they begin feeding. The caterpillars use their silk and your plant debris to weave the case, which they carry and live in throughout the season, enlarging it to accommodate their growth.

Male bagworms complete development as small moths, which emerge from the bags ready to mate. The female adult's final stage is more maggot-like, without functional eyes, legs, or antennae. She protrudes halfway out of her case and exudes pheromones to attract a mate. Once mated, she deposits her eggs into the case and dies. The eggs remain sheltered in the case until they hatch in spring, when the cycle begins anew.

To control the infestation, hand-pick all cases from the tree AND the ground; bag and discard. If your tree is large or infestation is severe, consider recommended chemical controls, even using a professional service for large trees. Timing insecticide usage to caterpillar lifecycle is critical. Insecticide is ONLY effective when bagworms are actively feeding in the larval or caterpillar stage. April to August is your insecticide window, but any chemical control can impact beneficial organisms, so use as a last resort.

Recommended insecticides for early-season use include *Bacillus thuringiensis*, spinosad, and any of the pyrethroid insecticides. Infestations noticed in late summer will require pyrethroid sprays for effective control. Before purchasing any insecticide, read the label fully to make sure the product is suitable for bagworms. Purchase any recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) you do not already own. Getting home without PPE may tempt you to use the product without the proper protection, and that is a risky action with any chemical.

Refer to the links below for detailed information from Texas A&M entomologists:

- <https://landscapeipm.tamu.edu/ipm-for-ornamentals/bagworms/>
- <https://citybugs.tamu.edu/bagworms-in-the-fall/>
- <https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/lepidoptera/bagworm/>



Photo Courtesy Kathryn Wells

If you have questions about garden pests 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

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

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

info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

Keep Lewisville Beautiful

WATER UNIVERSITY

TEXAS MASTER GARDENERS



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER

**Want to Be a
Master
Gardener?**

DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
Now Recruiting for Our
2020 Intern Class

Applications Accepted
August 15 - October 18, 2019

Informational Meeting
October 15, 2019 ~ 10 am to 12 pm
Joseph A. Carroll Building
401 W. Hickory Street, Room 115
Denton, TX 76201

Details available at
www.dcmga.com

 #GrowWithUs



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.

We seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this
program and ask that you notify the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office of the
auxiliary aid or service that will be required.



DCMGA Member

Plant EXCHANGE

September 11, 5:30 to 6:30 pm



*Bring 10 plants to Swap
Extra plants can be distributed after Swap
A fun event to see and talk about plants!
located at the Bayless Selby House Area
A Members only event*

DCMGA's September 11

Meeting is an Evening Event !

5:30-6:30pm - Members Only Plant Exchange
Bayless Selby House Parking Lot

6:30-7:00pm - Social Time
Joseph A. Carroll Building - Room 115

7:00-8:30pm - General Meeting & Program
Joseph A. Carroll Building - Room 115

Program: Perennials !

By Jackson Weston
of Weston Gardens



Denton County Master Gardener Association
presents



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



Denton County Master Gardener Association

Design Your Yard with Earth-Kind® Landscaping

*"Homeowner education focused on
Earth-Kind® practices conserving
time, money, and natural resources
to create beautiful, productive
yards or gardens."*

- 🕒 **Planning Preparation**
- 🕒 **Design Application**
- 🕒 **Hardscape Considerations**
- 🕒 **Plant Selection**

October 18 & 19, 2019
Friday 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Flower Mound United Methodist Church
3950 Bruton Orand Blvd.
Flower Mound, Texas 75028

The cost is \$100 per person or \$125 for two people in the same household
(Registrant duos will share tools and design one property)

For more information and to register, visit www.dcmga.com

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION





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

August 14	30th Anniversary Celebration
October 12	Fall Garden Festival
November 20	PM Summit

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

Webmaster:

dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com

Communications:

dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the September edition of *The Root* is Thursday, August 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 or Communications Director Liz Moyer at lizmoyer@live.com.