FEBRUARY 2020 VOL. 3, NO. 2

## **Denton County Master Gardener Association**

# THE ROOT



**Grow With Us** 



Hellebores Flowers in Early Spring

## **Buds From The Board**

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy February, friends! This short transitional month from winter to spring is filled with sweet things. First and foremost, we celebrate and welcome our newest Master Gardeners—36 members of the 2019 intern class graduated and were officially recognized at our January 15th Graduation & Awards Banquet held at Robson Ranch. Congratulations, y'all!

Additionally, 18 veteran and rookie members were recognized with awards for outstanding achievements including Janie Farler (2003), installed as a Lifetime Honorary Member, and Sue Hudiburgh (2008), honored with the John Cooper Educator Award. Please be sure to see the article which recognizes all of our much-deserving award recipients on page 13.

We also were pleased to honor two community partners, Flower Mound Public Library and Upper Trinity Regional Water District, for their support and collaboration to educate and engage our community. Thanks to Beth Walter, FMPL's Adult Services Librarian, and Blake Alldredge, UTRWD's Water Education Coordinator, not only for attending our banquet but also for offering such a quality partnership throughout the years. We appreciate you!

And, our 2019 Board of Directors was collectively recognized for their service while our 2020 Board was

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

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

- 01 Buds From The Board
- 03 Spotlight: Water Conservation Project
- 05 2020 Garden Tour Sneak Peak - Wildflower Cottage
- 06 Texas MG Association 2020 State Conference
- 07 Plant of the Month: Pine Muhly Grass
- 10 February Rose Care
- 11 Feature: Let's Talk Birdie
- 12 Spring Gardening Season
- 13 Outstanding Volunteer Awards
- 15 Community Partner Awards
- 15 Membership Renewal
- 16 Volunteer Opportunity Fair
- 17 New Board of Directors
- 18 DCMGA Project News
- 20 Public Presentations
- 23 Help Desk Q&A: Seed Starting

## **Buds From The Board (Cont.)**

officially installed. With two directors from the 2019 class, two new director positions, three veteran directors, and three past presidents, we have wonderful continuity of seasoned leadership balanced by welcome perspectives from fresh leaders. Thanks to everyone—past, present, and future!—for volunteering your time and talent, and special thanks to immediate past president Pat Moyer for two years of selfless service.

With the sweet, there is some bitter. Our Association is a little less rich with the passing of Barbara Burgin (2007). Among her many contributions, Barbara was instrumental in initiating and maintaining projects such as Fairhaven and Fairoaks, and she invested countless hours to educate and engage residents of the two senior living communities. A common theme of remembrance is her kind nature and desire to help others—what a legacy! Knowing that Barbara loved animals as much as gardening, our Association made a donation to Denton Animal Support Foundation in her memory.

In the spirit of that volunteer heart, I look forward to seeing you at the Volunteer Opportunity Fair on February 19th at Global Spheres. We'll temper an abbreviated business meeting (during which we will vote on the proposed 2020 budget and bylaws—emailed on January 15th for membership review) by offering breakfast, so come hungry—ready to eat, to vote, and to volunteer!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents -- you are my favorites! May this month be filled with your very favorites, too.



## Water Conservation Project

Did you know that watering your lawn for thirty minutes is the equivalent of running sixty cycles on your dishwasher or taking a four-hour shower? Did you know that the population in the Denton County area is expected to nearly double by the year 2030?

That is eye-opening information provided by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD), so it c<mark>ouldn't be a better time</mark> for Master Gardener Ellen Diers to lead the DCMGA Water Conservation project for 2020. "As Master Gardeners, we are perfectly positioned to educate and inform people on best practices for this precious resource," says Ellen. As she takes on the leadership role for this project, Ellen will focus her team's efforts on educating, informing, and exciting people about proper management and use of water resources. They will also focus on proper lawn irrigation practices, the wonders and ease of proper drip irrigation, and the collection and redistribution of rainwater.

This project has a very strong foundation to build upon. Since the Water Conservation team was initiated back in 2013, they have set up booths at the Fall Garden Fest, Garden Tour, Plant Sale, and many local farmer/community markets and



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathy Rainey

## A Rainwater Garden Water University at Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Dallas

environmental fairs. The team has had speaking engagements with HOAs, garden clubs, and city environmental classes via the Speakers Bureau. They worked with other groups to establish rainwater harvesting, set up drip irrigation, and conduct a rain barrel-making workshop. The Water Conservation team purchased the Enviroscape that SWAt (Science With Attitude) uses for their educational outreach program. The team then set it up, wrote presentation scripts, and trained Master Gardeners on its use. Additionally, the Water Conservation team trained Master Gardeners on the Rainfall Simulator, which SWAt also uses, and organized field trips to what is now the Water University at Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center AgriLife in Dallas.

Based on her experience, Ellen wants to address some of the misconceptions about water conservation in 2020. For instance, public perception is that water is an inexpensive and endless resource, that having a green lawn year round is a sign of a good homeowner, that to conserve water requires a desert-like landscape, and that water conservation is hard and time consuming. She will initiate her focus on enlightening the DCMGA members on the opportunities to teach others using the awesome resources of Texas A&M AgriLife Water University. Another goal is to highlight the unique water management practices at each of the homes on the upcoming 2020 Garden Tour.

Page 3 https://dcmga.com

## Water Conservation Project (Cont.)

When asked what her top simple-to-implement water conservation techniques are, Ellen emphatically said, "Turn off your irrigation timers. Use the manual setting to water when the soil is dry three inches down." And, "Use rain barrels to water your beds."

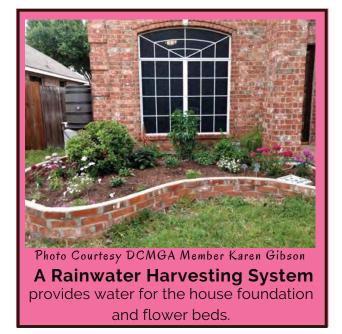
## For More Information On Water Conservation

Upper Trinity Regional Water District https://utrwd.com/

Water University at Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center

https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/

Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) https://dcmga.com/



To request a demo of Enviroscape, Rainfall Simulator, or other educational program for children through SWAt, click on "Request a Speaker or Activity for Youth."

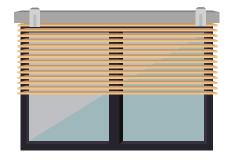
To request a Water Conservation or other presentation for adults through Speakers Bureau, click on "Request a Speaker for Adults."



## Mini-Blinds Wanted

Do you have some used mini-blinds that are destined for the trash? Did your neighbor set out mini-blinds for trash pick-up when they moved out?

The Plant Sale Committee can use any and all mini-blinds for Plant Sale ID stakes. They are also in need of trays and pots. If you have some to donate, contact Bob Bender through VMS.



## 2020 Garden Tour Sneak Peak

## Wildflower Cottage

Editor's Note: For the next few months, we will share a sneak peak of this year's Garden Tour locations.

Be prepared to see some colorful and creative gardens.

At the end of the cul-de-sac sits a large pie-shaped lot belonging to a wonderful family with both a Texas Master Gardener and a Texas Master Naturalist in it. They were initially attracted to the property more than twenty years ago because of the native flowers growing in the area. This couple intentionally left much of the property undisturbed, and each successive year they are rewarded with a lovely display of wildflowers.

A central theme of the property is water conservation. To achieve this goal, they prefer native and adapted plants. Most of the property is irrigated solely with water from three large rain barrels. Erosion and rainwater runoff are slowed considerably by the placement of large boulders in the drainage ditch as well as hugelkultur adaptations in several areas.



Mexican Hat Wildflowers (Ratibida columnifera)

Beds filled with vegetables and herbs provide food while an array of perennial flowers attract pollinators of all types. Evergreen and deciduous trees, including many varieties of oak, grow in the wooded region behind the house. American beautyberry and Canadian wild rye are also found in the deeply shaded area easily accessed via a winding dirt path. Nearby, frostweed thrives beneath a canopy of loblolly and long

leaf pines.



There is much to learn from this beautiful homestead. On a single property, zones ranging from full sun to deep shade have been meticulously planted and maintained. Problem areas are addressed and thoughtful solutions have been developed. Water, arguably one of our dearest natural resources, is conserved in unique ways. In addition to the fabulous gardening inspiration and knowledge, there will also be nature walks guided by volunteers from the Elm Fork chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. A visit to Wildflower Cottage will yield creative solutions as well as inspiration!

Page 5 https://dcmga.com/

# Texas Master Gardener Association 2020 State Conference



Blooming on the Brazos May 12th - 14th Waco, McLennan County

Registration is now open \$240 (through 2/29)

\$265 (from 3/1 to 4/22)

A one-day pass is available for \$80, including lunch

**Register online** 

https://txmg.org/conference/

For state information & to sign up for the monthly TMGA newsletter https://txmg.org

General Public is Welcome to Attend!

## DCMGA Members: It's Pass Along Time!

Need to thin out a high performing or self seeding plant? Consider passing it along to the plant sale.

Start marking plants and making notes on plant name, sun, and water needs.

Ask neighbors and friends for miniblinds they're discarding for use as plant markers.

2020 Plant Sale: May 2nd, 9 am to 2pm or sell out Trinity UMC, 633 Hobson Ln., Denton

TEXAS

MASTER & BARDENER

## Plant of the Month - Pine Muhly Grass

As I begin this article, it is POURING rain outside which made me question for a quick minute whether I should be promoting a plant that loves dry, dry soil and little water. However, the deluge will end and the drought will return at some point, and we all want plants that will thrive and look great in that weather also. So, I forge ahead with a second lesser-known plant that will be available at DCMGA's Spring Plant Sale – this time, say hello to Muhlenbergia dubia or Pine Muhly Grass. Using grasses in landscapes is increasingly popular in the United States and Europe and the Muhlenbergias lead the way!



Photo Courtesy Ray Mathews, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## **Pine Muhly Grass**

has a soft texture and upright, elegant leaves.

You may know of Heinrich (Henry) Muhlenberg, the German-trained scientist who became America's first great botanist and friend to Benjamin Franklin and John Bartram. He is recognized as having classified and named 150 species of plants, leading to prodigious advances in the field of botany. The small, green, two and one-half foot Pine Muhly Grass is one of the genera bearing his name.

## **Growing Conditions**

Pine Muhly is a perennial grass native to the Trans-Pecos area where it grows in mountainous rocky soil between 5000 and 7000 feet up. It looks like a smaller version of Lindheimer Muhly with the same soft texture and upright, elegant leaves. Will it grow in Denton County? Yes — remembering always "right plant, right place." Pine Muhly's growing requirements include sun to part shade, soil on the dry side, and not much water after the plant is established. Pine Muhly is deer resistant, cold tolerant, AND heat tolerant! Generally, it is disease and pest free. Good heavens, this may be the perfect plant! Don't plant it in a damp spot, though, as it needs really good drainage — a dry almost—neglected corner or top of a berm would be a good home for these small, but graceful plants. Sandy soil, any soil that is very well—drained, or soil that has low fertility are all good choices for Pine Muhly. It has white flowers that appear in summer at the end of long stalks which turn to tan by autumn as the seed heads form.

Because all your friends will want at least one once they see yours, Pine Muhly can be propagated by seeds collected in late fall and winter. You should start the seeds in cool weather, and you must persevere with this one because they have a pretty low germination rate. The upside is that this keeps Pine Muhly from overrunning its intended placements in your landscape. Plant new Pine Muhlys no later than mid-October as they need a good head start before the first frost — or wait to plant in the spring.

Page 7 https://dcmga.com/

## Pine Muhly Grass (Cont.)

## Maintenance

As far as maintenance is concerned, these beautiful bunches do not require much. Whether or not you trim Pine Muhly in the winter is pretty much a personal preference. If you think it needs a haircut, then whack back about a third of the height, but not necessarily every year. They will come back with gusto in spring after a heavy clipping. If you plant this lithe beauty in mass plantings, consider trimming alternate plants each year to maintain a graceful winter presence in your garden. On the other hand, cleaning up dead stalks inside and around the plant should be done every year to avoid providing havens for pests and disease and as a fire deterrent. Pine Muhly provides a safe place for birds to rest, hide, or nest. Another plus is that this wonderful small grass does not "seed out" – it doesn't throw its seeds all over your landscape, being a nuisance.

## **Visual Possibilities**

Pine Muhlys are a wonderful choice for mass plantings to fill a space, to screen an unsightly spot in your garden, as a backdrop to companion plants in a bed, or in narrow planting areas with limited space like the "hell strip" by the street! Pair it with other plants with contrasting leaf textures or color that don't mind drier conditions to really show off the partners. Some ideas include agaves or aloes, hummingbird mint or anise hyssop (*Agastaches*), alliums, butterfly weed (*Asclepias*), grey-green sedums or other succulents, coral bells (*Heucharas*), or perhaps the woolly stemodia from last month's newsletter - the choices are almost endless.

As I end, the rain has ceased, a surprise snow arrived and has mostly gone, and the sun is shining again. Winter is still with us, but spring is not too far off. Start planning your garden additions and creating your list for the DCMGA Plant Sale in May! Consider finding a place for pretty Pine Muhly – and stay tuned next month to be further enlightened on lesser–known plants. Happy dreaming, stay warm, and enjoy the sunshine ... and the rain!

#### Resources

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

https://www.wildflower.org/

"Muhlenbergia dubia"

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=MUDU

Ask Mr. Smarty Plants

https://www.wildflower.org/expert/show.php?id=2022

**TexasSmartScape** 

http://www.txsmartscape.com/index.php

"Pine Muhly Details"

http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/plant-details.php?id=985

Page 8

## February → Valentine's Day → Rose Care Month

From DCMGA "FAQs Flowering Perennials"

https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/faqs-2/#FloweringPerennials

Roses should be fertilized around the middle of February—Valentine's Day is a good reminder. Begin spring fertilization right after you prune them. Roses are heavy feeders, so continue to feed them every month during the growing season using a balanced fertilizer, e.g.10-10-10. (NOTE: Since our Denton County soil tends to retain phosphorus and potassium, it is recommended that you perform a soil test annually or every second year before adding more of those minerals.)

## Resources On Rose Pruning, Diseases, And General Care

Denton County Master Gardener Association - DCMGA

https://dcmga.com/

"Rose Rosette Virus"

https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/insectspests/rose-rosette-virus/

Texas A&M AgriLife
East Texas Gardening - "Rose Care"
https://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/2014/07/06/rose-care/

Aggie Horticulture - "Pruning Methods" https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/roses/prune.html

AgriLife Today - "Pruning Roses Promotes Growth, Adds Vigor To Plants" https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2019/02/27/pruning-roses-promotes-growth-adds-vigor-to-plants/



### **Beautiful Roses**

graced the
Rocks n Roses Garden,
one of the featured gardens
included on the
2018 DCMGA Garden Tour.

This Year's Garden Tour promises to inform and delight all who attend. Early-Bird tickets are available Feb. 19 - March 31 at www.dcmga.com

Page 9

## Let's Talk Birdie Creating a Feather-Friendly Habitat

BY KATHRYN WELLS

Winter seems to be a garden's pregnant pause. The land remembers spring's growth, summer's fullness, and autumn's harvest while the promise of fresh renewal hovers just beyond. And, although the land rests in this season (as does its steward), many backyard residents and migrating visitors are literally enjoying the fruits of its (and our) labor.

In the stillness of a winter day, attuned ears will hear the rich ensemble of bird calls. More mellow than the bold and brassy mating songs of spring, winter calls seem to communicate, "Oh, look; here's a nice berry-laden Yaupon Holly tree. No; this one's mine. You go over to the American Beautyberry. Wait; here's Possumhaw—my favorite! Better load up before the Cedar Waxwings arrive."



Carolina Wrens

(Thryothorus ludovicianus) eat mostly insects and spiders, but in the winter months they also seek small fruits & seeds.



## **Eastern Bluebirds**

(Sialia sialis) sometimes lay up to three clutches each spring. The adult insectivores supplement their diet with fruits and berries throughout the winter.

Even resident insectivores such as Eastern Bluebirds, Carolina Chickadees, and Northern Mockingbirds modify their diets to include berries in the winter. And seed eaters such as Northern Cardinals (a backyard birder's favorite!) really appreciate the bounty from dried flower heads left standing in the stark seasonal landscape.

To help your feathered friends survive and thrive throughout the winter, consider these practices:

## Appreciate The Seedy Side Of Life

Leaving dried seed heads may make a cultivated gardener twitch, but try to discipline yourself to leave at least some seed-bearing plants ungroomed throughout the winter. Many sparrow species including Chipping, White-Crowned, and White-Throated morph into ground-level seed eaters in the winter. Besides the multitude of seed-bearing

Page 10 https://dcmga.com/

## Let's Talk Birdie (Cont.)

flowers, native seed-producing grasses to grace your garden and satisfy your feathered foragers include Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and Side-Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*—our Texas state grass). Even the Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum offinale*) left to seed provides a welcome bounty for little birdies. (I've learned to love them; you can, too!)

## Be Berry Diversified

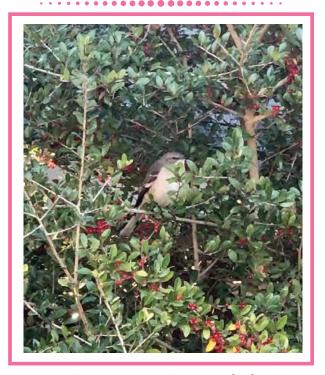
Include as many native berry producers as your landscape will hold, and think vertically from the ground up. Beneficial berry-producing shrubs include American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*), and Common Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*). Mid-level trees include Carolina Cherry Laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*), Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*), Southern Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera* – a favorite of migrating Yellow-Rumped Warblers), and Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). Vines such as Carolina Snailseed (*Cocculus carolinus*) and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) can serve as ground covers or be trained upright.

## Go Nuts

For tall tree canopies, nothing beats Texas nut producers. Oaks including Blackjack (Quercus marilandica), Bur (Q. macrocarpa), Escarpment Live (Q. fusiformis), Post (Q. stellata), and Shumard's Red

(Q. shumardii) provide food diversity for larger avian species such as blue jays, crows, and woodpeckers, as does our state tree—the Pecan (Carya illinoinensis). Besides the nuts (which is actually fruit), trees offer cover and shelter and serve as lookout points and gathering spots. Additionally, native oak trees host a significant number of caterpillars—more than 500 species. As more than 96% of terrestrial birds feed insects—including caterpillars—to their young, that's definitely a welcome benefit. For reference, a Carolina Chickadee may gather up to a whopping 9,000 caterpillars to feed one brood of five nestlings, but that's a topic for another day.

So, this winter as you plan your spring garden additions, just wing it by adding some indigenous fruit-producing plants to your list. Our Denton County Master Gardener Association Plant Sale is always a prime and popular plant source; this year, it's May 2nd at Trinity United Methodist Church (633 Hobson Lane, Denton). A little birdie told me you're sure to find some welcome tweets ... for you and for your feathered friends.



Our Texas State Bird, the Northern Mockingbird (Mimus polyglottos), is an easy-to-please omnivorous generalist, but they subsist mainly on fruit in the fall and winter. Native Yaupon Holly is a favorite.

## Let's Talk Birdie (Cont.)

## **Recommended Resources:**

Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks Chapter
"Lists of Native Plants"
https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/lists-of-local-native-plants/

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathryn Wells.

Spring Cardening Season has begun!
Got a yummy fruit, prized vegetable,
specialty herb, or flawless flower in
your garden?

As you begin your spring seed sowing, consider choosing a variety to grow and enter in our 2020 Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show!

Bring your free entry on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 9 am to the Front Lawn of the Historic Bayless–Selby House in Denton.

Cash prizes will be awarded for both Youth and Adults in several categories including Best in Show.

Happy Cardening!





2019
Fruit,
Vegetable,
Herb &
Flower
Show
Entries



## DCMGA Thanks Our Outstanding Volunteers

DCMGA is an all-volunteer force of dedicated gardeners anxious to educate and engage Denton County residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices to create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities. We are truly a team on a mission and it takes leadership and dedication for us deliver.

We are very happy to recognize the following outstanding volunteers for their work in 2019. These individuals represent the best in each of us and we are grateful for their efforts.

## Sue Hudiburgh

The John Cooper Education Award for her work developing and managing the DCMGA website and other information gathering and sharing systems.

## **Patty Cooke**

Special Merit Award for helping get The Grove back on track, helping with the website, and just being a great all-around "go-to" person.

## Janie & Tom Cindric

Special Merit Award for managing Cool Shade for 3rd Grade and mentoring its new project manager.



Sue Hudiburgh

#### **Barbara Prins**

Special Merit Award for being an outstanding program and field trip coordinator.

### **Steve Simpson**

Special Merit Award for taking on the role of DCMGA videographer/ photographer/drone pilot for all DCMGA activities and providing Google Drive support to the organization.

#### **Steve Spurgin**

Special Merit Award for doing a great job with our Resource Room and all his work as part of the set-up/take-down crew for the Plant Sale and the Fall Garden Fest.

#### **Sonny Smith**

Special Merit Award for his work as Class Administrator of the Intern Class and his work at the Plant Sale and Fall Garden Fest.

#### Joe Beckett

Intern Special Merit Award for his work on so many different projects in his intern year, always engaged, always helpful.

## DCMGA Thanks Outstanding Volunteers (Cont.)

#### **Debbie Smith**

Intern Special Merit Award for her work on many different projects and her reputation as a lady who gets things done.

#### Tom O'Brien

Intern Special Merit Award for his work on our tech support team and many other projects.

#### Carol Noble and David Huffman

Project Manager Award for their outstanding work at the Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden.

#### **Barbie Dane**

Intern Project Manager Award for her work as project manager for Cool Shade for 3rd Grade.

## Linda Harvey and Carol Arment

Educator Award - Lynda and Carol have been key DCMGA coordinators for the Flower Mound Public Library Series. Individually, Carol has also been a key member of the Plan Your Yard program. Lynda has been instrumental in providing classes at the Flower Mound Senior Center, working with the Denton County Youth Fair, and the Blue Ribbon Scholarship Program.

#### **Bob Bender**

Educator Award - Intern - for his work initiating and managing the Native Bee Interest.

#### **Ianie Farler**

Lifetime Member - Over the years:

- Help desk (founder, formalized training, recruited interns, kept organized and responsive for several years)
- Tree team (home visits, classes for help desk volunteers, various presentations, work with CEA)
- · Administrator for the DCMGA public and private FB pages
- Writing and editing for State Master Gardener award nominations
- · Cool Shade for the 3rd Grade
- Writing articles for North Texas Gardening DCMGA website
- Nominating Committee team (2012)
- Social media guidelines team (2014)



Janie Farler

### Over the years Janie was:

- Nominated for the Outstanding Individual State Master Gardener of the Year in 2009. Awarded 2nd place.
- Special Merit Award from DCMGA in 2015
- John Cooper Educator Award in 2018

Thank you to each and every award winner and member for an outstanding 2019.

Onward to more exciting projects and opportunities in 2020!

## DCMGA Thanks Our Community Partners

DCMGA works in many communities in Denton County, and we are so grateful to our partners who help us spread the word about sustainable horticulture. We couldn't do the work we do without them.

This year's winners of our Community Partner Award are:



## The Upper Trinity Regional Water District

In association with the Denton County Soil and Water Conservation

District, UTRWD has provided the funding for the trees DCMGA provides to support our Cool Shade for the Third Grade.



## The Flower Mound Public Library

PUBLIC LIBRARY

A second time award winner, FMPL originally

received a Community Partner Award in 2012.

This award recognizes their support of the DCMGA mission through their annual Gardening series. The DCMGA partnership in the series just celebrated their 10th Anniversary.

## It's time to renew your annual DCMGA membership!

- Annual dues paid after January 31, 2020 will be \$25.
- All service hours and AT hours must be entered in VMS no later than January 31, 2020.
- Any member not in good standing as of March 31, 2020 will be inactivated, unless granted an exception by the CEA-Hort.

To remain a member in good standing, the following conditions must be met:

- Required annual service hours and AT hours have been earned and entered into VMS.
- The annual renewal form AND annual volunteer service agreement have been completed.
- Annual dues have been paid.

For a review of the annual membership renewal requirements, please visit the Member's Info section of our website or this direct link:

https://dcmga.com/members-info/annual-dcmga-membership-renewal/

Please contact President Kathryn Wells or Member-at-Large Tammie Gurley with any questions or concerns.

Page 15 https://dcmga.com/

## **Volunteer Opportunity Fair**



Wednesday, February 19 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Global Spheres, Corinth



Plans are underway for the annual Volunteer Opportunity Fair to be held on Wednesday, February 19th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Global Spheres. This event allows project managers to interact one-on-one with new interns and veteran members about the many volunteer opportunities, skill sets, and time commitments of our 45 active projects and administrative committees.

During this event, attendees are given the change to sign up for further notification and involvement in the projects. This is a great opportunity to not only become involved in being a part of DCMGA's community education projects, but also a great way to build lasting relationships with other DCMGA members.

A brief General Meeting will also take place and a light breakfast will be served.

Veteran member attendance (eligible for 1.5 hours of AT) is encouraged; 2020 Intern Class attendance (eligible for 1.5 hours of VS) is required.



## DCMGA YouTube Channel

We need your help!

When we reach 100 subscribers to our new DCMGA YouTube Channel, we can apply for a "named" channel, rather than the current crazy long unreadable one.

So, go check it out and while there, please subscribe.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNnUyi2A

Page 16 htt

## DCMGA Welcomes Our New Board of Directors

Every organization needs strong leadership to move forward, and DCMGA with about 300 members is no exception. At our Awards Banquet, we installed our 2020 Board of Directors. We appreciate these individuals for assuming the mantle of leadership and look forward to their wise guidance over the coming year.

Please thank these members for their investment in the Denton County Master Gardeners Association:

President

**Vice President - Projects** 

Vice-President - Outreach

**Secretary** 

**Treasurer** 

Communications Director - Systems

**Communications Director - Promotions** 

**Education Director** 

Member-at-Large

Past President

**Kathryn Wells** 

Joanne Spurgin

**Kathy Rainey** 

**Katherine Woodward** 

**Joe Beckett** 

Liz Moyer

Treva McFadden

Barbara Brown

**Tammie Gurley** 

Pat Moyer



2020 DCMGA Board of Directors



## DCMGA Project News What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



Our Project Managers and their support teams have been busy as you can see from the many items already on the DCMGA calendar! Please make it a weekly task to read the calendar and the "Plan Your Week" email sent out every Friday. To help with management of events, two on-line tools are utilized.

## Sign Up Genius

Some projects have events scheduled on the calendar and have an open door for anyone to volunteer. But some projects have specific needs at specific times. DCMGA utilizes "Sign Up Genius," a powerful online sign up application, when a project has specific needs. Project Managers or the Support Team Leader should contact Kaye Gross if Sign Up Genius needs to be utilized for their event.

#### <u>Evite</u>

DCMGA also utilizes "Evite," an online invitation application. Please respond to Evite notices as quickly as possible because attendance is needed to meet deadlines for food orders, supplies, and table/seating arrangements.

## Attendance Reporting - "Event Summary Report"

Project Managers or Event Leaders are reminded to use the Sign-in sheets to complete the new online Event Summary Report after each event. The online form was designed to collect meeting, event, and speaking engagement information in a format that allows easier monthly reporting to the AgriLife office, which then reports to the State. The use of this form eliminates the need for sign-in sheets to be submitted to the AgriLife Office. On our website, under "Member Info" select "Member Forms"; under "Attendance Recording" is a link to the "Event Summary Report" online form. The form should be submitted for all DCMGA Continuing Education (CE) and Volunteer Service Hours (VS) with the following exceptions:

- SWAt activities will not use this form. They will continue using their current form.
- Individual CE and VS hour activities are not reported on this form.

NOTE: Using this form does not eliminate the need for individuals to record their CE and VS hours in VMS.

#### **Plant Sale**

Planning for our biggest fundraiser is already underway. A recent meeting was held to determine what plants to order for resale, and preparing for pass-along plants has begun. The new Succulent Team is assisting with selection of succulents to be ordered. Again, mini blinds, decorative pots, plant trays, and nursery pots are needed and may be donated at the February Volunteer Opportunity Fair, the March and April DCMGA general meetings, or to any of the other Plant Sale planning meetings.

Page 18 https://dcmga.com/

# DCMGA Project News (Cont.) What's Growing On

## Fairoaks Senior Independent Living Center and Children's Garden

This year Project Manager Dale Powell will experiment with several offsite training sessions and then bring those methods back to use at Fairoaks. These workdays are on the calendar, but do not specifically list these topics or where the training will take place. That information will be available to our members when the dates gets closer. The training scheduled includes:

2/17 - Rose Care, Don & Pat Edwards

3/16 - Tree Care, Pat Moyer

4/6 - Drip Irrigation, Dale Powell & David Petty

4/TBD - Tool Care & Sharpening, Nick Barrows

6/1 - Succulents, Carolyn Tinner

Also, March 19th is the first workday at The Children's Garden located at Fairoaks. There are only three Monday workdays to get the vegetable gardens ready for the kids. Fairoaks is one of DCMGA's beautification projects, and volunteers enjoy not only working together every Monday morning but following up by going to lunch together, usually at Metzlers BBQ.

## Member Rose Sale (open to veterans and interns)

This year the MRS (Member Rose Sale) process will be managed differently than has been done in the past. Because of availability issues, a BLOCK (commitment that DCMGA will purchase) of preferred roses, best sellers, and new roses has been submitted to Antique Rose Emporium (ARE) to pull from their current inventory and hold for delivery at the Plant Sale in May. This BLOCK list will be published shortly, providing varieties and quantities for members and interns to choose from. If more or different roses are preferred, a SECOND list will be submitted to ARE, but will also be based on their then current inventory. Details and the BLOCK list will be forthcoming from Project Managers Susan Novak and Shirley Manfredi.

#### **Garden Tours**

Planning is well underway for this year's garden tours. Project Manager Karen Roberts has a great team put together and they are running full steam ahead! Beginning on February 18th, one garden per week will be highlighted at the beginning of Tuesday intern classes at Global Spheres. Again this year, an intern will be selected for each garden to be mentored as a co-captain. Intern involvement is important for exposure to the various activities involved in preparing the gardens for tour and to help promote ticket sales. Workdays are scheduled on the calendar, and Sign Up Genius notices will go out in late February. Also, ticket sales will begin in February.

Volunteer involvement from both veteran master gardeners and interns is vital to the success of all our programs and strengthens our ability to continue being the best chapter in Texas!





# MGer Advanced Training and also DCMGA Public Presentations

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



## Flower Mound Spring Library Series

February 3, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Weeders' Digest

Know thy enemy! Is it friend or foe? Call each by its name and know its habits to manage these renegades. Free. To register, please call 972.874.6165 or email fmpl@flower-mound.com to reserve seating.

Location: Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound.





## **Garden Secrets Series**

February 6, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Spring Vegetable Gardening** 

The Garden Secrets series is sponsored by Keep Lewisville Beautiful. Free, but pre-registration is required by emailing info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org or calling 972-538-5949.

Location: MCL Grand, 100 N Charles St., Lewisville.



## **Flower Mound Spring Library Series**

February 10, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The Ease of Effective Hardscaping!

It's hard to go wrong when you consider the possibilities in hardscaping your landscape. This class will explore the many hardscape materials and their effective uses. Demonstration and sample elements will be included as you discover how easy hardscaping can be! Free. To register, please call 972.874.6165 or email fmpl@flower-mound.com to reserve seating.

Location: Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound.



## **Highland Village Senior Center**

February 11, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Starting Your Spring Vegetable Garden** 

Location: Highland Village Senior Center, 948B Highland Village Road, Highland Village.

# MGer Advanced Training and also DCMGA Public Presentations (Cont.)



February 13, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

**Native Bees for Your Landscape** 

Less well known than European Honeybees, Texas' native bees are nevertheless vital components of a healthy environment and can provide a new dimension of enjoyment in your home garden. This program will cover basic information on the current challenges all bee species are facing, why they are important to all of us, facts about gentle solitary native bees and their lifestyles, and photo examples of the many beautiful forms and colors of native bees. It will include tips on what to plant and provide to attract them to your home landscape, and basic identification hints. We'll discuss simple homemade native bee nest sites, with real examples and slides, and find out how to participate in nationwide citizen science tracking efforts. Handouts provided.

Location: AgriLife Extenstion Office, 401 W. Hickory St. Denton, TX, Room 115



## Flower Mound Spring Library Series

February 17, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Growing Grapes in North Texas - The Challenges & New Opportunities

Learn about the history of viticulture (grape growing) in Texas and the steps involved in planting your own vineyard in the backyard with an emphasis on adapted cultivars for ornamental, table, jelly, and wine production. Free. To register, please call 972.874.6165 or email fmpl@flower-mound.com to reserve seating.

Location: Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound.



## Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series

February 20, 6:00 pm

**Texas Plants** 

Location: Aubrey Area Library, 226 Countryside Dr., Aubrey.



Denton Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center and City of Denton Sustainability

February 22, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Keyhole Gardening** 

Clear Creek welcomes you to an introductory workshop on how to start a Keyhole Garden. This class will provide you the basics of keyhole gardening, as well as some best practices. It will be taught by Master Gardener Brigid Corbett. Classes are free and open to the public! Please message us on Facebook or call 940-349-8152 if you have any questions.

Location: Denton Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, 3310 Collins Rd, Denton.

Page 21

# MGer Advanced Training and also DCMGA Public Presentations (Cont.)



DCMGA Herbal Branch

February 24, 10:00 am - 11:00 am Celeriac

Karen Stubbs will present a program on celeriac.

Location: AgriLife Extensiion Office, 401 W. Hickory St. Denton, TX, Room 115.



Flower Mound Spring Library Series

February 24, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**Gardens Gone Wild** 

Learn how (and why!) to wildscape your garden. No space is too small; every size is the right size to make a big difference in the stewardship of our natural resources, native flora, indigenous fauna, and migratory friends. Free. To register, please call 972.874.6165 or email fmpl@flower-mound.com to reserve seating.

Location: Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound.



Henbit (Lamium aplexicaule)
is one of the first flowering
spring "weeds."
Considered invasive – it
is a member of the Mint family! – it
is also one of the few early-spring
sources of nectar and pollen for
honeybees and bumblebees.
So, while you may not appreciate
a whole yard of henbit,
the pollinators will appreciate
you leaving them
some plants here and there.
Let's keep our pollinators happy!

Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Sharrie Ely

**Henbit in Snow** 

# DCMGA ——HELP DESK— Question of the Month







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

#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

Q: I've seen so many wonderful plants in the seed catalogs this winter and would like to get a head start on my garden by starting plants from seeds. I haven't had much success in the past. Can you give me some tips?

A: Starting transplants from seeds is a terrific way to jump-start the growing season by as much as 4 to 8 weeks. It's also one of the most economical ways to start a vegetable garden or to add color to your landscape. Not to mention the huge varieties of plants available from seed houses that are likely not available from local retail nurseries. Here are some tips for starting transplants from seeds:

#### **Getting Ready**

- Purchase or prepare a disease-free (pasteurized) soil-less germinating mix. Instructions for making your own seed-starting mix can be found at this link from Texas A&M Earth-Kind® Landscaping: Timely Tips on Starting Seedlings at Home https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/starting-seedlings-at-home/
- Containers should be at least 3" deep, cleaned and sanitized with a weak solution of bleach and water.
   Peat pots, milk cartons, and egg cartons work well

- too. Just be sure to punch holes in the bottom of the containers to allow water to drain.
- Plastic bags or plastic wrap will be used to enclose or cover the containers until the seedlings sprout.
- Your newly sprouted seedlings will need 6 to 8
  hours of light daily. Locate a sunny window to
  place your containers, usually with southern
  exposure. Exposure to a grow light is a good
  substitute.
- Continued on our Facebook page (see link below)

Due to the wonderfully detailed information provided, this answer couldn't be printed in its entirety here, but please link to our Facebook post for the rest of the steps, including getting ready, sowing seeds, caring for seeds, readying transplants, and additional resources:

https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA/posts/3712180545489249?\_\_tn\_\_=K-R

And, as always, please explore our website for a wealth of gardening education, information, and upcoming events: www.dcmga.com.



Stock Photo Courtesy of Canva

If you have questions about starting plants from seed 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.

https://dcmga.com



## 2020 GREATER AUBREY AREA GARDENING SERIES

Jump start your 2020 gardening with this free educational series.



JANUARY 16 Veggie Gardening 101





FEBRUARY 20
Texas Plants

AgriLife TBD



Roses
Pat & Don Edwards



MARCH 19 Texas Trees Pat Moyer



## AUBREY AREA LIBRARY

226 Countryside Drive Aubrey, TX 76227

Register via email to kab@KeepAubreyBeautiful.org or via phone at 940-343-1313. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Third Thursday: Jan, Feb, & March and August, September & October



https://dcmga.com

# The Denton County Master Gardener Association's

## 2020 Spring Gardening Series

in partnership with The Flower Mound Public Library

February 3: Weeders' Digest

Presented by Lynda Harvey, Denton County Master Gardener, Certified in Native Landscape Maintenance by

The Native Plant Society of Texas

February 10: The Ease of Effective Hardscaping

Presented by Carol Arment, Denton County Master Gardener, Certified in Texas Native Plants by The Native Plant Society of Texas

February 17: Growing Grapes in North Texas:

The Challenges and New Opportunities

Presented by Michael Cook, Viticulture Program Specialist for North Texas, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

February 24: Gardens Gone Wild: Putting Out the

Welcome Mat for a Wildlife Habitat

Presented by Kathryn Wells, Denton County Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, Member Native Plant Society of North Texas, Town of Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commissioner

To learn more about the Association, visit http://dcmga.com.





All programs start at 7 p.m.

To register, please call 972.874.6165 or email fmpl@flower-mound.com.

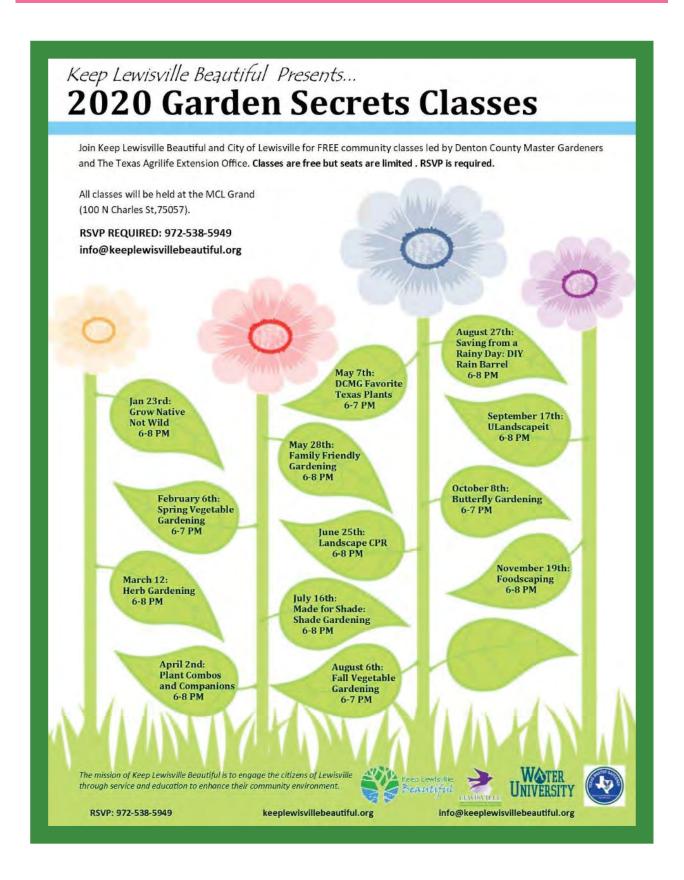
















## TREE SEEDLING SALE

Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District

#### Plant A Conservation Tree!

The Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering tree seedlings for sale. Thirteen species are available for purchase. Plant a conservation tree and add beauty and shade to your property as well as many other benefits. Trees provide oxygen, windbreaks, soil protection, and wildlife habitat. All proceeds will benefit the Cool Shade for Third Grade program in the Denton County schools.



Bur Oak

Mexican White Oak



**A** .



Mexican Plum

Desert Willow



Pecan



Redbud



Catalpa



Shumard Oak



Live Oak



Afghanistan Pine



Austrian Pin



Dienne Dies

Mail or submit orders to Denton County SWCD, 525 South Loop 288 Suite C-1, Denton, Texas 76205. If you have any questions, please phone 940-383-2691 Ext 3 or visit the USDA Service Center in Denton. Orders are reserved upon payment and quantities are limited, so please order soon.



(order form on back)

# 2020 TREE ORDER FORM DENTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT Phone: (940) 383-2691 Ext. 3 LIMITED QUANTITIES - ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

NAME:					DATE:	
ADDRESS:					STATE:	
CITY:				ZII	P CODE:	
E-MAIL:						
BARE ROOT: \$2.5	0 per tree (18-2-	inch t	op, bar	e root)		
	Quantity x	\$2.50	=			Cost
Pecan					j-	
CONTAINER: \$4.0	0 per tree (6-12	inch to	p, 10 c	ibic inch)		
	Quantity x	\$4.00	•			Cost
Afghanistan Pine					-	
Austrian Pine	-				-	
Pinyon Pine	-				1	
Red Bud					_	
Catalpa					_	
POTTED: \$9.50 per	tree (1-4 foot to	op, one	gallon)			
	Quantity x	\$9.50	=			Cost
Bur Oak	-				-	
Live Oak					_	
Mexican White Oak	_				-	
Shumard Oak	-				- 0-	
Desert Willow					_	
Mexican Plum					· ·	
Vitex					-	
Total No. of Trees				SUBT	OTAL:_	
				8.259	% TAX:	
	T TO UT OF OR	DED				
PAYMENT DUE A	I TIME OF OR	DEK		Casii   Ci	CCK	

<u>Make checks payable to Denton County SWCD</u>. Mail or submit orders to Denton County SWCD, 525 South Loop 288 Suite C-1, Denton, Texas 76205. Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis, so place your order early. Trees must be picked up on <u>Friday</u>, <u>February 28, 2020</u> at the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **DENTON COUNTY**

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2020 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020 9 AM TO 4 PM

# Four Delightful Denton County Gardens

A favorite family-friendly event you don't want to miss! Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique North Denton County private properties with Master Gardeners onsite to provide education and information.

Two properties include an optional Nature Walk guided by volunteers from the Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter.

Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Vendors of unique garden-related items at one location!

Early-Bird tickets are available Feb. 19th thru March 31st for \$10. Regular ticket price of \$15 is effective April 1st thru May 8th. At-Door tickets will be available on May 9th for \$20.

Go to www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents for tickets as well as property information and locations.



#GrowWithUs









@DentonCountyMGA

# DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2020 Events

Denton County Speaker Series:

Aubrey: Jan. 16 - Oct. 15

Flower Mound: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Lewisville: Jan. - Nov.

Children's Garden: March - June

Design Your Yard Class: Jan. 23-25

Plant Sale: May 2

Garden Tour: May 9

Junior Master Gardener Camp:

June 8-12

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and

Flower Show: June 20

Design Your Yard Class: Aug. 27-29

Fall Garden Fest: Oct. 3

DCMGA New Member Round Up: Oct. 13



DCMGA.COM



#### **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.

#### 2020 Board of Directors

Kathryn Wells President Vice-President - Projects Joanne Spurgin Vice-President - Outreach **Kathy Rainey Katherine Woodward** Secretary **Treasurer** Joe Beckett **Communications Dir. - Systems** Liz Moyer Communications Dir. - Promotions Treva McFadden Barbara Brown **Education Director** Member-at-Large **Tammie Gurley** Past President Pat Moyer

#### 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

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNnUyi2A

#### Save the Date

February 19

Volunteer Opportunity Fair

May 2

**Plant Sale** 

May 9

Garden Tour

May 12 - 14

TMGA Annual Conference, Waco

#### **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 March edition of The Root is Saturday, February 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.

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA Media Team unless otherwise attributed.