

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Bayless-Selby House Victorian Gardens, Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

As we ease into the month of May, it's decidedly low key. Our usually bustling activity is cautiously slowed and wisely sobered by the still unknown ramifications of COVID-19 and its mandatory national, state, and county protocols. As those protocols are amended and edited to phase our communities back into the freedoms we once liberally enjoyed, we continue to honor them. As a result, we've had the opportunity to rethink and refine the way DCMGA educates and engages our community.

Our public Plant Sale, scheduled for May 2nd, was necessarily canceled. However, program managers Pat and Don Edwards worked tirelessly to honor our vendor commitments. As a result, DCMGA members and interns had the opportunity for limited online ordering with curbside pickup. What a treat! Please be sure to thank the Edwards and their hard-working, super-adaptable team: Plant Procurer Extraordinaire Suzie Cook and her behind-the-scenes team including Susan Cosio, Laurel Wallace, and Brenda Wellenreiter; Member Rose Sale Chairs Susan Novak and Shirley Manfredi; and Pass-Along Team (now temporary but full-time caretakers of 650+ plants!) Lela Khan, Debbie Smith, and Bob Bender. Of course, we appreciate the many others who helped ... and purchased! Special thanks to Painted Flower Farm, Herrmann's, Antique Rose Emporium, and Global Spheres Center for helping

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<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

provide both product and pickup to ~~encourage~~ enable our plant ~~enthusiasm~~ addiction. 😊 Community friends, we really missed you this year!

Our May 9th Garden Tour has been rescheduled for October 10th (10/10/2020 – how's that for a great date?). Project Manager Karen Roberts and her team are working through the myriad of details that come with postponing such a multi-faced event. Many folks have asked about and hoped for a fall circuit, so this is a great opportunity to offer just that.

A few of our projects like FMFB Community Garden in Flower Mound and Friends of Shiloh Garden in Denton fall into the "essential services" category, as we sow, grow, and donate fresh produce to area food banks. Project Managers David Huffman, Carol Noble, and Cindy Helm have faithfully persevered despite the daunting circumstances, along with a handful of mask-wearing, glove-bearing, no-tool-sharing volunteers (all appropriately spaced!).

Our Help Desk continues to field a flurry of questions, and we're so grateful for the capable team, which provides unfailing education and information.

A couple of well-deserved kudos are also due to Treasurer Joe Beckett and Webmaster Sue Hudiburgh for shouldering more than their fair share of unanticipated responsibility. You both are technical treasures (pun intended!).

The number of folks who are working behind the scenes to keep the proverbial DCMGA wheels in motion is countless; I am so grateful for you all!

Last, but in no way least, congratulations to our interns who have completed their educational requirements, come COVID or high water! I know this experience was different than you expected; thanks for persisting through the twists and turns. The Class of 2020 will be remarkable in more ways than one!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you're as brilliant and resilient as the very best plants in your garden. May you continue to be safe and sound with every protection and provision. I hope to see you soon.

Kathryn

National Volunteer Week

April 19th – 25th was National Volunteer Week. Hort-CEA Janet Laminack and Denton County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension organized a super cute and creative "thank you" with this message and photo:

We love and miss our volunteers! In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, we would like to take a moment to recognize all of the volunteers who help us make an impact in our county. From providing educational programs for youth and adults, to working in community gardens and at local parks, our volunteers put in thousands of hours every year. We would not be able to do it all without them!

Thank you to our 4-H Club Managers, 4-H Project Leaders, Denton County Ag Committee, Denton County Equine Committee, Denton County Master Gardener Association, Elm Fork Chapter Texas Master Naturalist, Family Consumer Sciences Committee, Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors, Horticulture Advisory Board, Leadership Advisory Board, Master Wellness Volunteers, Parents Leaders Association, and everyone else who helps make Denton County AgriLife great!



Friends of Shiloh Garden

BY KATHY RAINEY

It's definitely the time of year for growing food, whether you're interested in growing it in your own yards or looking to volunteer at community gardens. This year Covid-19 has catapulted a significant increase in the sales of seeds, potting soils, bare roots, and other nursery supplies as social distancing and stay-at-home orders have kept us home. Starting and tending a garden is a safe way to enjoy the outdoors while staying at home and once those orders are lifted, a rewarding and revitalizing activity in the outdoors.

For those readers looking for a community garden to help support, Shiloh Field, located at 1650 Nottingham Drive in Denton, is a recently added project for Denton County Master Gardeners. Shiloh Field has 14 acres, including 152 individual plots, fruit trees, blackberries, chickens, honey bees, a vineyard, composting area, and more. Cindy Helm has proudly led this project for DCMGA since April 2019. She first visited Shiloh Field in the spring of 2018 and met Mr. Gene Gumfory, the founder of the garden. Cindy learned that Friends of Shiloh Garden is a non-profit agency serving the Denton community since 2009. It is open year round because there are always gardening tasks to accomplish in every season.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member
Cindy Helm

Shilo Field Sunflower

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As the class administrator for the 2019 intern class, Cindy became inspired to contact Mr. Gumfory after participating in the propagation class. She asked if he needed our help and, upon getting an enthusiastic response, she received the support she needed from then president Pat Moyer and County Agent Janet Laminack. Cindy says her church is the garden at Shiloh Field, and she feels her late grandmother Jewel alongside her while she is working. Cindy describes herself as a "worker." Give her a shovel or a hoe and she's happy!

Currently growing in the garden are lettuces, onions, carrots, chives, cabbages, potatoes, grapes, asparagus, blackberries, peaches, and plums. As the weather warms, they will have okra, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. There are currently hundreds of transplants in the greenhouse ready to plant as weather permits.

Covid-19 has presented many challenges for tending the garden. Only 10 people are permitted to perform volunteer work at a time as they practice social distancing rules. Some volunteers also wear masks. The garden has been able to manage the reduction in volunteers that resulted when DCMGA, TWU, and UNT had to cancel their workdays. Nevertheless, they have been able to get the produce harvested. As more produce becomes ready, she predicts getting it all harvested with limited help will be a challenge.

Friends of Shiloh Garden (Cont.)

When Cindy first became involved in the gardens at Shiloh Field, she described weeds as a huge problem. To help solve this problem and to demonstrate best practices to Mr. Gumfory and community volunteers, Master Gardeners dug out the weeds and burmuda from the round bed at the entrance to the gardens, put down cardboard, backfilled the bed with 18 inches of dyno dirt, and planted it with native drought-tolerant perennials and annuals, which Master Gardeners will maintain. Master Gardeners also introduced and implemented the use of raised bed gardening to keep weeds under control. Last summer they used solarization in the tunnel greenhouses to kill weeds with high heat and then tilled in dyno dirt and wood chip walkways, making for easier navigation and harvest.

Wood Chip Walkways

Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer



In addition, Master Gardeners relocated the blackberry patch, added trellises, and mulched with wood chips for weed control. Cindy explains the nature of the work to interns and veterans alike – their efforts are intended to transform the garden ratios from 80% weeds/20% garden to 20% weeds/80% garden.

The techniques of weed control and raised beds implemented by Master Gardeners have resulted in great success. The total harvest in 2018 was 13,259 pounds of produce; harvest in 2019 was 23,781 pounds. Unbelievable! Amazing! Astounding!



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Cindy Helm

Master Gardeners

working in one of the hoop greenhouses.

The harvest in January – March 2019 was 762 pounds; the same period in 2020 was 5,224 pounds just before social distancing went into effect. Even with the challenges of Covid-19, the project goals are 34,000 pounds of produce and maintenance of the weed-free areas completed last year. Other goals include moving the vineyard to a new area and planting it with table grape varieties instead of wine grapes, moving the orchard to an area with better drainage, adding more raised beds, and introducing new learning opportunities for interns and veteran Master Gardeners.

DCMGA volunteer workdays are Mondays from 7 to 10 a.m. The work consists of harvesting and weed maintenance. Shiloh Field welcomes volunteers Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Harvest days are Monday, Thursday, and Saturday.



Grow It To Show It

Save The Date: June 20, 2020



The Denton County Annual Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

Each year residents of Denton County are invited to bring their prized produce to compete for prizes in adult and children categories. You can do this and you will be glad you did!



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>

2020 Garden Tour Sneak Peak

Flip Side Garden

BY GAY CAMPBELL

*The DCMGA Garden tour has been rescheduled to October 10th!
Plan now to see these beautiful properties during Texas' "Second Spring."
Pre-purchased tickets will be honored and accepted for the October 10th tour.*

Enjoy the country in this natural Cross Timbers area of Denton County. Flip Side Garden features five acres of wildflowers, post oaks, cacti, and a stock tank teeming with catfish for the grandchildren. Overhead, Bald Eagles, red-tailed hawks, and horned owls soar while families of Eastern Bluebirds occupy the three birdhouses below.

Meander along the rustic paths and discover a variety of gardens, as well as natural areas to sit and meditate. The large vegetable garden boasts four raised beds, and nearby a keyhole garden is bursting with herbs. Examples of straw bale and vertical gardening coexist alongside mason and honey bee hives. Additional areas of the property include shade and iris gardens, as well as dry river beds and a black-berry patch. Visit the natural oasis we call Flip Side and discover minimalistic gardening at its finest.



Plant of the Month - Cantaloupe

AKA Muskmelon (*Cucumis melo* var. *cantalupensis*)

BY LEE ANN YATES

I have to admit, one of my favorite foods – besides whipped cream and chocolate – is cantaloupe! I know! Who doesn't love cantaloupe? My Michigander grandpa used to call them muskmelons, and I thought that was just a Michigan thing until I researched this article. All of what we call cantaloupes are actually muskmelons because true cantaloupes are smaller, warty, and not grown in the US, but can be found in Europe. Who'd a thunk it?!

Let's plant some muskmelons – or cantaloupe, whichever you prefer! Mid-June to July 1 is prime time to plant seeds or transplants for a fall harvest. Recommended cultivars for Denton County include some hybrids – Magnum 45, Ambrosia, Mission, Explorer, Caravelle, and even a bush-type that is good for containers called Minnesota Midget. Yes, patio and balcony gardeners, you too can grow muskmelons!! Non-hybrids that thrive in North Central Texas include TAM Uvalde and Perlita. Aggie Horticulture chose these varieties for their productivity, resistance to common diseases, and their adaptability to our unique conditions here in North Central Texas. They are not listed in any particular preference order.

Plant Placement

Any melon requires a lot of space, but if you don't have a large area for these globes of deliciousness, you can trellis muskmelons as long as you support the melons. They grow best with full sun in well-drained sandy or sandy loam soil amended with plenty of organic matter. Heavy clay soils often cause the plants to be smaller and weaker, thus producing fewer melons. But fewer is better than none, right? And if your clay soil has been amended to increase its friability, all the better! So dig in lots of well-composted organic matter deep (ten to twelve inches deep) before planting muskmelon seeds or transplants. Cantaloupes prefer a neutral pH of 6 or 7, so if the soil is too acidic, the plant will drop blossoms and you won't have any fruit.

To increase the drainage capability of your soil, plant in hills (for individual plants) or ridges (if you are planting rows of muskmelons) four to eight inches high and twelve to fourteen inches wide. The heavier the soil, the higher the hill or ridge needs to be. If you are planting in rows, make them six to eight feet apart – yes, feet. These babies like to spread out! If you are planting seeds, place six to eight seeds in each hill one to one and one-half inches deep. Keep two to three feet between hills. Planting transplants gives you a ten to twelve day head start on harvesting.



Canva Stock Photo

Most Cantaloupes Require Space
but bush-type varieties are good for
containers!

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Cantaloupe (Cont.)

Fertilization – When & How Often

One source said to fertilize at planting with a general fertilizer, but with a slightly higher phosphorous number (the second number) and then again when the vines begin to run with a higher nitrogen fertilizer (the first number). Fertilize along the side of the row or hill when the vines begin to run. Another source said to fertilize every two to three weeks with an all-purpose fertilizer like a 5-5-5 and use lots of compost in the hills/rows.

Thin plants to three or four per hill after they are up, then again to two plants per hill once they each have two or three leaves. Muskmelons have male and female flowers on each plant, so they need bees and other pollinators to cross-pollinate the flowers. You can help this along by hand pollinating with a small paintbrush, but it's a tedious job. The male flowers appear first, bearing the pollen. You can distinguish the female flowers as they have a little bulb at the base of the flower that becomes the melon when the flower is pollinated. If the female flower never gets pollinated, then it will eventually fall off the vine.

Thirsty Plants!

Muskmelons are thirsty plants – they need a minimum of one inch of water a week, two inches is better, especially in our summer heat. Water in the morning and try not to get the leaves wet to reduce fungal diseases. Drip irrigation can definitely help with this. Plenty of water is critical when the fruit starts to set and as it matures. Mulching around the plants on the hills/rows will help dramatically with water retention and with weed control. Cut back on watering so heavily about three weeks prior to harvesting. This helps the melons to sweeten up in the heat.

Between 80 and 100 days after planting, depending on your variety, it's time to harvest ... and EAT! Be sure to let muskmelons mature until the rind changes from light green to a yellowish-orange color and the stem begins to separate, or slip, from the fruit. The smell of the melon at peak ripeness will make your mouth water – mine is right now just thinking about it! If the melon completely separates from the stem, eat that sweetie within 36 to 48 hours or it will spoil on you – and that is just a tragedy! If you harvest early, the sugar content does not increase even though the flavor may continue to improve over a few days. This is because the flesh of the melon mellows. When it's time to harvest, take a knife with you and cut into that juicy orb of sweetness right there in the garden and let it just run down your chin – that's summer, baby!



Canva Stock Photo

Cantaloupe (Cont.)

"Sweet" Melon History

In my other life, I am a history professor, so when I found some "sweet" melon history I had to include it! Researchers believe that melons originated in Southwest Asia – Iran and India, specifically – and that people have been eating them for at least 4000 years. Melons have never been found growing in the wild, unless they escaped from a garden, but they are a member of the cucurbit, or gourd, family, so maybe melons made a cultivated leap! American records show that early settlers grew cultivars of honeydew and casaba melons in the 1600s after Africans brought seeds with them.

Muskmelons are about 94% water, but the other 6% really packs a nutritional punch. A 100 gram or one-cup serving of muskmelon gives you more than 100% of your daily Vitamin A and 95% of your daily Vitamin C and it's only 55 calories. There's some fiber, some lycopene antioxidant, and less than 25 grams of carbs in half of a medium-sized cantaloupe. Oh my goodness, yummy and good for you. I'll bet your kids will love them too! Cantaloupe just may be the perfect food!

I've got to go make a hill! I have a cantaloupe – uh, muskmelon (sorry Grandpa!) – waiting to be planted and the sooner I get it in, the sooner I will have the sweet ambrosia of melon in my mouth bringing back so many Michigan summer memories! Happy Gardening, folks! Be well!

Resources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Recommended Vegetable Cultivars For North Central Texas"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/NCVEGLIST.html>

"Recommended Planting Dates for North Texas"

<https://agrilifecdn.tamu.edu/urbantarranthorticulture/files/2010/06/A-4.7-Recommended-Planting-Dates-for-North-Texas.pdf>

"Melons" - Planting info for melons, including how to support melons on a trellis

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/melons/>

"Horticulture Update" - melon history and nutritional info

[https://aggie-](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/apr05/Melons.html)

[horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/apr05/Melons.html](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2005/apr05/Melons.html)

"Texas Home Vegetable Gardening Guide"

<http://counties.agrilife.org/cottle/files/2011/06/homegardening.pdf>

Mayo Clinic Health System

"Melons Pack a Nutritional Punch" - includes Smoothie Recipe

<https://www.mayoclinichealthsystem.org/hometown-health/speaking-of-health/melons-pack-a-nutritional-punch>

Cultivating A Champion

BY TREVA MCFADDEN

There are many reasons for gardening, and one important one is providing really fresh food for your family and flowers for your enjoyment. Why keep all that beauty to yourself? How about entering in a show this summer?

Growing plants for show need not be a difficult task. With careful planning, preparation, and proper nurturing, you could be bringing home the next "Best in Show" ribbon for your efforts.

Free To Enter

Every year, DCMGA and the City of Denton sponsor the Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show in June. This is a free-to-enter, community event which allows home gardeners from all over the county to bring their prize specimen for judging and a chance to walk away with a monetary prize and bragging rights. There are entry categories for adults and children, so this would be a great spring/summer project for your children.

What makes a prize entry? Every entry is judged on the following criteria: maturity, uniformity, appearance, color, size, fragrance, and freedom from pest damage and disease. Some other things considered in the judging process are each fruit/vegetable entry must be large enough to fill a dinner plate and will be judged on flavor. You don't have to grow one tomato large enough to fill a plate – a group of small ones will do fine, and probably score better! Herb/flower entries are restricted to an arrangement of one single species (an arrangement of roses is acceptable, roses and daisies are not), and potted entries are acceptable. It is very important to plan for a pretty presentation of flowers – select a nice planter or vase that will stand up to our Texas heat and make sure your entry stays well watered. Wilting flowers are not winning flowers.

Judge David Huffman, who has judged in the categories of fruit and vegetable, says he looks for good size, texture, color and ultimately taste when judging. He also is intrigued when someone has success with a difficult-to-grow variety for our area.



Bringing Home The Bragging Rights

2019 Denton County Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

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Cultivating A Champion (Cont.)

Choosing Your Prized Entry

When making plans to grow and submit an entry to this year's show, planned for June 20, think about these considerations when choosing what your prized entry might be. As it starts to produce, look for those star fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Is it of adequate size and does the texture and color exceed standard expectations? How hard is this variety to grow in our area? What does it taste like? And lastly, how much fun was it growing this specimen? In the end, win, lose, or draw, the goal of the show is to allow growers to learn, extend themselves, and produce quality plants to showcase for our area. If you can come away having learned a bit more about North Texas horticulture, you, indeed, are a winner.

So, as you plan your Spring garden and entry into show, consider plants maturation time for optimal appearance, prepare soil for healthy growth and minimal pest/disease influence, and give that extra dose of plant love when you tend your garden. Who knows, you could be growing our next "Best in Show"!

Some other things to not forget are water, a hat, and sunscreen, as this event is held outside at the historic Bayless – Selby House Community Marketplace. We'll see you there!

Check our website for details on the show at <https://dcmga.com/upcomingevents/>.



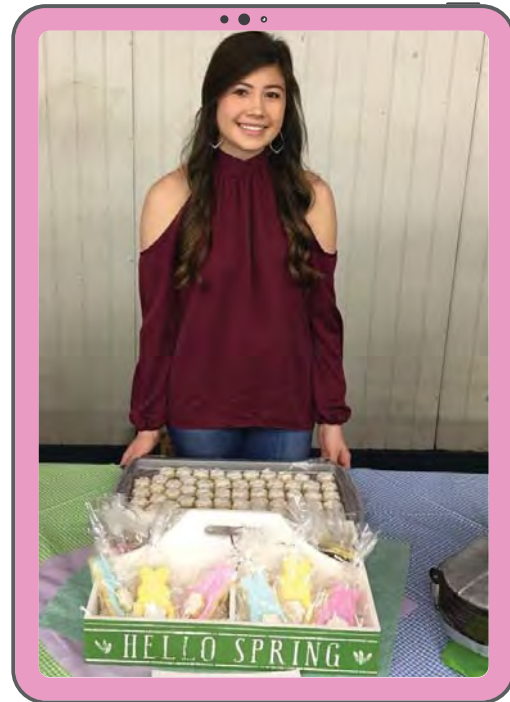
**2019 Denton County Fruit, Vegetable,
Herb and Flower Show**

Scholarship Winners

DCMGA is proud to recognize our two scholarship winners for 2020!



Macy Archer was awarded the \$1000 Tom Harpool Horticultural Scholarship and will be a senior at Texas State University. She is studying Business Management and Human Resources. She has a 4.0 GPA. Macy is serving as an intern at Wimberly ISD this semester. She plans to attend the University of North Texas for a Masters degree in Human Resources Management and Organizational Behavior. Macy Archer entered the Horticulture Division at the Youth Fair in 2015, 2016, and 2017. She was Reserve Champion in 2015 and 2017.



Hadley Brooks was awarded the \$500 DCMGA Scholarship and will be a sophomore at Texas Tech University where her major is Ag Economics and Business. She has a 3.77 GPA. Hadley is a new member of President Select, the official ambassadors for Texas Tech representing many facets of the campus. She plans to attend Law School with an Agriculture Law specialization.

*Photos Courtesy
DCMGA Member Lynda Harvey*

TMGA Texas Superstar® Advanced Training

The May 26th-28th advanced training has been canceled. It may be rescheduled; stay tuned!
In the meantime, check out three new "P" additions to the Texas Superstar® List:

[Pentas](#)

[Petunias](#)

[Purslane](#)

The above are all clickable links.

Garden Visits

Leaf Peeping in New England

BY DEE PAYNE

Editor's Note: When Master Gardeners travel, they like to visit other gardens. This column gives you the opportunity to "visit" a garden you might not otherwise see. While this month's isn't your usual garden, we know you will appreciate the beauty of this much larger scale "garden" and we thank Dee for sharing her trip with The Root.

I'm betting after this treacherous virus and long hot Texas summer comes to an end, you will be longing for a getaway that offers you crisp clean mountain air, cooler day and evening temps, with the bright colors of fall. Let me give you just a small glimpse of our early October 2019 trip to the New England area where we found all of this and so much more.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Dee Payne

We have taken multiple trips to New England in the fall, but I must say our last was the best thus far. We were greatly blessed with successive days of clear skies, warm days of sunshine, and brisk cool mountain air. Seeking out covered bridges, tall church steeples, pumpkin fields, and apple orchards was fairly easy, as they seem to be just around every corner. We enjoyed long drives through the mountainsides of tall green pines, interspersed with shades of red, yellow and gold maples, and streams and waterfalls. We stopped often to visit the local markets along the roadside, tasting samples of chocolates, cheeses, fruits, and freshly squeezed apple cider.

Garden Visits (Cont.)

Honestly, almost anywhere you travel in New England in the fall is going to be breathtaking. The bounty of colorful gourds, pumpkins, cornstalks, and brightly colored displays of mums, asters, and ornamental cabbages displayed everywhere makes it so magical.

Traveling through New England on Route 100 in late September and early October, you will come upon the many farmers markets with some of the finest local produce, baked goods, and cheeses. We not only picked a peck of the best tasting honey crisp apples to snack on, but bought fresh apple strudel as well. One evening back at our mountainside village, we cracked open a bottle of wine and began gathering maple leaves. We gathered leaves of every color in the forest around us, which I later dried and packed between magazines to bring back home. My Thanksgiving table last November was adorned with colorful leaves that I preserved with simple Mod Podge.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Dee Payne

Just an hour's drive from our village was the town of Shelburne, located along the shore of Lake Champlain. You don't take a trip to Lake Champlain without a visit to one of the local vineyards to enjoy a tasting and tour the great outdoors and vineyard.

One of the most magnificent places we toured was the Trapp Family Lodge. This resort is managed by the Von Trapp family that inspired the musical *The Sound of Music*. The gardens and grounds were filled with such beautiful fall flowers and were so well maintained and manicured. Upon entering the lodge, we again found all of these beautiful colorful flowers in abundance throughout the entire lodge. I could not believe my eyes seeing all the cut flowers in the arrangements as we continued our tour of the library, tea room, and balconies. Pictures of scenic New England cannot do the area justice. You must see it for yourself.



DCMGA Project News

What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



All for one and one for all

All the members of a group support each of the individual members, and the individual members pledge to support the group. ~ Dictionary.com

Popular catchphrase that means one person represents all, and that all must do everything for one. Put simply, means true "brotherhood." ~ Urbandictionary.com

Because of DCMGA's "brotherhood," over the years the fundraising projects have supported the expenditures of all projects. And since we've been a very proactive group of Master Gardeners, we're very fortunate to have built up a very healthy fund balance reserve.

This year that reserve is more important than ever because the Plant Sale, our biggest fund raiser, was cancelled and the Garden Tour was tentatively rescheduled for October. Project Managers are working to honor DCMGA's commitments within the social distancing requirements placed upon us because we still have a mission to educate the public.

As the year progresses, the Board will continue to monitor our activities so we can prepare for the 2021 budget. In the meantime, please follow the social distancing directives and take advantage of the online trainings and meetings.

Community Gardens are "essential services"

We have several projects that serve as educational and demonstration resources to Denton County residents. Friends of Shiloh Garden and Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden both plant and harvest fresh produce for donation to multiple local organizations. While this temporarily may limit our opportunities to teach others, our work has been deemed "essential services" because these community gardens provide fresh food to people who need it now more than ever. Also, Dana Bays is harvesting produce at the Children's Garden at Fair Oaks Senior Independent Living Center and sharing with the residents.

Gardens continue to grow, so if you decide to volunteer, please know that both community garden locations are practicing social distancing and encouraging the wearing of masks and gloves. Please contact Project Managers David Huffman or Carol Noble (FMFB Community Garden) or Cindy Helm (Shiloh Field) if you are not in their project group emails for specifics on volunteering. Bring your own tools (no sharing), masks, and gloves. You are in no way obligated to go, but if you do, please take precautions to protect your health and the health of others. Please remember that only 10 people are allowed in the gardens at one time, so be prepared that if too many people are there, someone might have to rotate (or leave).

In nature one receives far more than he seeks. ~ John Muir



Online Education Opportunities

For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve

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Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics in an innovative and interactive virtual format.

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Web-Based Classes

AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Plants-and-Garden>

AgriLife Online Pest & Weed Control Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Some are free, some are inexpensive, some are pricey.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Pest-and-Weed-Control>

Earth-Kind® Online Master Gardener Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

Introduction to Plant Identification

UDSA NRCS Science & Technology

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>

Social Media Events

Gardening 101 Series

Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Wednesdays & Fridays, 1 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Topics may be viewed at:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/>

Virtual Learning Series

Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Upcoming class schedule and archived class selection may be viewed at:

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu>

DCMGA Members

See our Member Handbook for approved CE sources and guidelines.

Note that members may claim up to three hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to six.

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: Recently furloughed, I have plenty of time, but no money for buying plants. Can I propagate the homestead verbena that's already in my garden? Where do I begin?

A: You begin with a pocket knife, duct tape and a little bit of knowledge. Stay with me ... An 80s TV show had as its main character a fictional "secret agent" named Angus MacGyver who employed common items like duct tape and a pocket knife to tackle his professional challenges. Eventually, the name "MacGyver" became descriptive of using ordinary objects to solve extraordinary problems. No one would argue that these aren't extraordinary times, so let's "MacGyver" our way into propagating verbena on a shoestring.

First, gather your "common items":

- Sharp tool for taking cuttings
- Rubbing alcohol to clean the blade between each cut
- Dark, water-resistant bag and wet paper towels to keep your cuttings moist until you "stick" them
- Clear, plastic containers for growing the cuttings. A clear, plastic bag if your container has no lid. (Empty two-liter bottles or produce containers work well, or even small pots you have lying around)

- A tool to cut the 2-liter bottle and puncture the plastic (pocket or utility knife)
- Dibbler to create a hole in the soil (disposable skewer or chopstick)
- Bucket
- Water
- Old tray for a drip pan
- You don't really need duct tape. It just made for a good story.

Then, add one or two "uncommon" items:

- Required: Propagation media (...)

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 additional information and resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA/posts/4041807162526584?>

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 plant propagation 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...

2020 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 . RSVP is required.**

All classes will be held at the MCL Grand
(100 N Charles St, 75057).

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

The May 7th class has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the May 28th class is Tentative. Please check with KeepLewisvilleBeautiful.org for the status of all classes.



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



Keep Lewisville
Beautiful



WATER
UNIVERSITY



RSVP: 972-538-5949

keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org



DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION
AND THE CITY OF DENTON
INVITE YOU TO THE

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

SATURDAY
JUNE 20, 2020
9 TO NOON

317 E. MULBERRY ST
BAYLESS-SELBY HOUSE LAWN

Registration open to all Denton County Residents. Youth and Adult Divisions.

Cash prizes awarded to Best in Show, 1st and 2nd Runners Up.

Registration begins promptly at 9.





A New Date!

DENTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2020 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, OCT 10, 2020
9 AM TO 4 PM

Four Delightful Denton County Gardens

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED!
All previously bought tickets will be honored for this date change.
Now experience Texas gardening in the Fall!
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 now until event for \$10.
At-Door tickets will be available on Oct. 10th for \$15.

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

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Denton County

#GrowWithUs

   
@DentonCountyMGA

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2020 Events

Denton County Speaker Series:

Aubrey: Coming Soon!

Flower Mound: Coming Soon!

Lewisville: June - Nov.

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and

Flower Show: June 20

Design Your Yard Class: Aug. 27-29

Fall Garden Fest: Oct. 3

Garden Tour: Oct. 10

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

President	Kathryn Wells
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Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
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Treasurer	Joe Beckett
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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

May 20	General Meeting
June 17	Dallas Arboretum Field Trip (DCMGA Members)
June 20	Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show

Contact Information

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Communications:

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Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the June edition of *The Root is Friday*, May 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 or Communications Director Liz Moyer at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA's Creative Visual Arts (CVA) Team unless otherwise attributed.