

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



## Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

October—the golden month of the year! Is there any season so glorious?

This October, we celebrate tradition with a twist: our annual Fall Garden Fest is going virtual! Project Manager Sharrie Ely and the FGF team have planned a jam-packed event in cyberspace with four speakers sure to educate, entertain, and inspire. And you can't beat the 😊mmute! Please see detailed information in this issue of *The Root*, on our [dedicated FGF website page](#), and on our DCMGA social media accounts including [Facebook](#). Each presentation is separate and requires advance registration; sign up for one or more ... or all four! So, mark Saturday, October 3rd on your calendar, and we'll look forward to seeing you in cyberspace.

Speaking of educational and informative presentations, are you interested in all the latest developments at the Dallas Arboretum Plant Trials? If so, join us for our virtual October 14th General Meeting & Program; we're pleased to welcome Jim Apken and Nancy Nance, who will share what plants are hot ... and which are not. [Advance registration is required](#), and as always, our general meetings are free and open to the public.

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<https://dcmga.com>

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## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

And, applications are now being accepted for our 2021 intern class. A virtual Information Meeting will be held on October 20th—a great opportunity for you to learn more about who we are and what we do. We look forward to meeting you, too. So, come grow with us!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you're golden! May you have a glorious month, and may you continue to be safe and sound with every provision and protection.

*Kathryn*

### Shrubs!

Occasionally we dedicate an entire issue to one topic, and this time we chose the workhorse of landscaping – shrubs.

Fall / early winter is the best time to plant shrubs in North Texas.

We hope after reading this October issue of *The Root* you will want to add a shrub or two to your landscape this year.

### TOP GARDENING TIPS

## October

Continue sowing wildflower seeds. Press into the soil to facilitate germination; do not mulch.

Prepare tender plants to overwinter inside; check for insects.

Cut & freeze fresh herbs in oil for winter use in soups and stews.

Leave the leaves! Compost, or use as mulch.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



## Beulah Acres Agroforest

BY KATHY RAINEY

One of the wonderful things about being a Denton County Master Gardener is the opportunity to learn and educate others on a vast array of horticulture topics. This month we're exploring agroforestry. Agroforestry is the intentional integration of trees and shrubs into food crops and pastures to create environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Daniel Arenas leads the Beulah Acres Agroforest project. As part of the garden crew at the Global Spheres Center, he has devoted 9 years restoring desolate land into a beautiful and fruitful Prayer Garden, including a community garden, compost operation, tree nursery, farm yard with animals, beekeeping and native plants. He has been watching agroforestry land use principles used around the globe for many years, especially in Brazil where he was born and raised. It was Daniel's experience in the early days of Covid19 that inspired him to start working on a resilient living food forest system at Beulah Acres in Corinth, Texas. He says that he has always had a deep desire to learn how to grow his own food and show others that they can do the same. He completed his Certification in Permaculture Design while working the grounds at Global Spheres this year. Daniel emphasizes that this project is long term and will be completed in phases. He shares his love of the land through involvement with children ministry, Junior Master Gardeners, and his two beautiful children, and knows from these experiences that this project will benefit future generations.



**Project Manager Daniel Arenas**

instructing volunteers on the day's project at Beulah Acres Agroforest.

The purpose is to create a balanced ecosystem that integrates trees, crops, and livestock on the same piece of land. It is intended to promote beneficial plant communities that minimizes competition between plants and distributes resource demands, recycles nutrients, fertilizes the soil, and effectively grows together over time. For instance, some cover crops directly add nutrients to the soil by fixing nitrogen at their roots. Examples include winter field beans and peas, clover, and vetch. These are all types of legumes and are a great choice for sowing before nitrogen-hungry crops such as cabbage, kale, broccoli, and cauliflower.

In the seven months since the project began, many permaculture techniques have been explored, such as 7-Layers Food Forest, Tree Guilds, Sheet Mulching Soil Build, Hugelkultur Berms, Three Sisters Garden, conventional vertical garden trellis lines, and raised bed community gardens. A swale/pond/dam structure is also underway to increase the efficiency of the watershed. For the remainder of 2020

## Beulah Acres Agroforest (Cont.)

the goal is to keep building the soil and watershed, plant more perennials, maintain the existing species of plants, and prep the grounds for the next planting seasons. In 2021, the project participants will start exploring use of grazing for wildlife systems, supplemental water for wildlife, Linear Food Forest, Infinity Gardens, Keyhole Gardens, and more!

One of Daniel's favorite planting methods is Three Sisters Gardening. It is a companion planting scheme where one plant provides something that the "sister" next to it needs to prosper. The crops of corn, beans, and squash are an example of Three Sisters. For centuries these three crops have been the center of Native American agriculture and culinary traditions. Corn provides tall stalks for the beans to climb so that they are not out-competed by sprawling squash vines. Beans provide nitrogen to fertilize the soil while also stabilizing the tall corn during heavy winds. Beans are nitrogen-fixers, a much needed plant nutrient. The large leaves of squash plants shade the ground which helps retain soil moisture and prevent weeds.



### Three Sisters Gardening

is a companion planting scheme where one plant provides something that the "sister" next to it needs to prosper.

Volunteers who participate on workdays are provided an overview of the project, the progress to date, and next steps planned which, according to Daniel, generates great discussions and a hands-on learning experience. To date, 64 volunteers have participated in the project over the last 7 months, averaging about 8 volunteers each workday. Workdays are every Wednesday from 8 am to noon and volunteers can come and go at their convenience. Social distancing is easy to accommodate due to the size of the project. Workday tasks range from planting, weeding, harvesting, building soil health,



Aerial View of the Agroforest (August 2020)

composting, irrigating, learning how to provide wildlife habitats, how to attract beneficial insects, and designing the area. Daniel is particularly proud of the improvement in soil quality and the food harvested to date. The swale project is the biggest accomplishment this year because it will provide irrigation water throughout the Agroforest project.



## Meet Cindy Helm

BY GAY CAMPBELL

Cindy Helm owes her sister a favor or two. It was older sister Donna that introduced Cindy to the love of her life, Joe. A few years into their marriage, Cindy and Joe said goodbye to Lubbock and settled in Double Oak, Texas. Their eldest daughter, Alex, is currently 23 years old and graduated from UNT in just 3 years. Baby sister, Carly, who is twenty, will graduate from UNT in 2-1/2 years. Throughout her daughters' childhood, Cindy was a stay-at-home mom and deserves much of the credit for their success.

When Carly started kindergarten, Cindy decided to concentrate on her own health. Hoping to shed unwanted pounds, she enrolled in boot camp and Weight Watchers. Not only did she become healthier and accomplish the goals she set for herself, her success parlayed into a new career. In 2007, Cindy received her Personal Trainer certificate. For the past 13 years, she has passionately trained athletes, moms, and individuals of all ages in her home gym, helping them lead healthier and happier lives. Cindy hopes to further her commitment to health by eventually attending TWU and becoming a certified dietician. The only obstacle standing in her way is time. But if genetics count for anything, time might be on Cindy's side. Her 80-year-old father works as a ranch hand on a 1,500 acre ranch. Cindy's prospects for a long and healthy life with plenty of time to reach her goals just might be attainable after all.



**Cindy and Grandma**



**Cindy's Chicken Castle**

One of Cindy's hobbies is running, even though she's had multiple knee surgeries. Another hobby, of sorts, is raising chickens. Joe, a mechanical engineer, designed and built "not a mere chicken coop" but a "Chicken Castle," says Cindy. The Castle has allowed their nine free-range chickens to survive and thrive. Many of the Helm's friends and neighbors have lost chickens to predators but so far, the Chicken Castle has been an impenetrable fortress. Cindy's assortment of silkies, bantams and other varieties are not just resident egg-layers but true pets. When Cindy relaxes in the backyard, her friendly fowl often join her, lying underneath the patio table. One special white leghorn is very near and dear to Cindy's heart. "Grandma" is nine years old and "just the sweetest thing," exclaims Cindy.

## Cindy Helm (Cont.)

Cindy, who had "always wanted to become a Master Gardener," joined the 2018 intern class. In 2019, she assisted Kim Wooten and Sonny Smith in training new interns. Although she undoubtedly enjoyed volunteering in that capacity, Cindy kept her eyes open for a DCMGA role that would allow her to tap into her "worker bee" personality and perform physical garden tasks as well as hone her leadership skills. In 2018, Cindy met Gene Gumfory and realized that Shiloh Fields Community Garden was in need of ongoing assistance and expertise from local Master Gardeners. In 2019, after receiving approval from DCMGA's Board of Directors, Shiloh Fields was initiated as a new project and Cindy agreed to become Project Manager. (Shiloh Fields was also a DCMGA project many years ago.)



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Cindy Helm

### "The Gang" Hanging Out With Cindy

.....

it's a goal that can be reached. And it is certainly timely. "Since COVID, there has been a 300-500 percent increase in people needing food," says Cindy. "Judge Eads helped us get a grant for capital improvements. We need more raised beds, but our ultimate goal is to construct a 4,000 square foot building with a classroom to educate the public, as well as a kitchen, bathroom, and storage.

Currently, we are washing our produce in an old bathtub. We have no electricity and our only utility is water. We don't even have a restroom. We have a port-a-potty. Our water bill is approximately \$2,000 a month and it costs \$50,000 - \$100,000 a year just to run the garden."

"What we really need are volunteers," declares Cindy. "DCMGA interns have helped a lot but we are a 14-acre facility. We need both strong community volunteers as well as DCMGA members to take ownership of an area or section of the garden." Through Cindy's leadership and vision, Shiloh Fields has made great strides in a short amount of time. But with produce from the garden going to 14 different agencies and the current climate of need in the community, it will take many more volunteers to maximize the harvest and help the garden reach its full potential. With a little time and publicity, Cindy is optimistic that it will happen.

Just as she has in her personal life, Cindy has set big goals for Shiloh Fields. Much has already been written about the garden, but Cindy has a few points she would like to make as well as a plea for help from both DCMGA and community members alike.

Shiloh Fields became a nonprofit in May 2019. In 2020, it has already produced 33,000 pounds of produce. The Shiloh Board of Directors, of which Cindy is a member, hopes to increase production to 100,000 pounds of produce per year. Although it may seem lofty, Cindy believes



## Fall Garden Fest Giveaways

BY SHARRIE ELY

*Denton County Master Gardener Association presents Fall Garden Fest ONLINE!*

This annual event will be online, October 3.

**Fall is the best time to garden in North Texas!**

We have wonderful speakers and many great gardening giveaways.

Sign up for these free talks. Attend one to four talks to help you with your North Texas garden.

**Giveaways awarded only during the live event.**

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
**FALL GARDEN FEST ONLINE!**  
A FREE EVENT  
OCTOBER 3 SATURDAY  
SIGN UP AT [DCMGA.COM](http://DCMGA.COM) TODAY  
FREE GIVEAWAYS AT THE LIVE ONLINE EVENT

**Different Giveaways at each talk on October 3**  
See [DCMGA.com](http://DCMGA.com) for more details

Top 100 Plant Cards

Gardening Books

Magazine Subscriptions

Plant Gift Certificates

Gift Certificate Painted Flower Farm

*DCMGA is offering several wonderful giveaways for those that register and attend this garden education event.*

Five (5) one-year subscription of *Texas Gardener* magazine, awarded to five different attendees.  
Donated by *Texas Gardener* magazine, [texasgardener.com](http://texasgardener.com)

Three (3) copies of Dee Nash's book, *The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff* will be mailed to three different attendees of the Live Event.

One (1) copy of *Kitchen Garden Revival: A Modern Guide to Creating a Stylish, Small-Scale, Low-Maintenance Edible Garden* by Nicole Johnsey Burke to one Live Event attendee.

## FGF Giveaways (Cont.)



One (1) copy of *Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening: Rare Varieties – Unusual Options–Plant Lore & Guidance* by Matt Mattus to one Live Event attendee.

One (1) copy of *The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line* by Jeff Gillman to one Live Event attendee.

Ten (10) Texas A&M Water University Top 100 Plants for North Texas card decks.

Three (3) \$25 E-Gift cards (one per winner) from Painted Flower Farm. To be emailed to the winner. One of the three gift cards donated by Painted Flower Farm, [paintedflowerfarm.com](http://paintedflowerfarm.com).

Three (3) simulated wood grain rain barrels (with flat back and brass spigot) awarded one each to three (3) individuals attending the Live Event. This giveaway is limited to individuals living in Dallas, Denton, Collin, or Tarrant County.

**Learn more about each session and sign up at [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com) today!**

## DCMGA Members Are You Looking For A Way To Videoconference?

We are so very proud at how much work this organization has done this year, even without face-to-face meetings. You are all to be congratulated !

Our DCMGA Zoom account is getting a good work out with all our virtual meetings, but scheduling can be a bit of a challenge sometimes.

**There are other tools that might be better for some meetings.**

These tools put your meeting and your schedule in your hands: **Zoom and Google.**

You can use Zoom as an individual without an account or any expense.

You can use Google Meet without any expense if you have any kind of Google account.

To help you in this process, we have posted a tip document for using Google Meet under the **Project Manager's Information** section of our website.

Additional "How To's" are coming soon.





## Plant of the Month - Leatherleaf Mahonia

BY LEE ANN YATES

There once was a tall, tough, but quite attractive shrub named Mahonia who was misunderstood due to her leafy prickliness. Some thought she was too difficult to be around; however, she just liked to stand in the background and be viewed from afar so her shapeliness and fine berry clusters and little, fragrant flowers could be properly appreciated. Admired from a distance, her prickly leaves wouldn't hurt anyone!

What in the world am I on about?

Leatherleaf Mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*) is a shade-loving evergreen shrub, well adapted to North Texas. It has leaflets with dagger-like prickles at the ends that closely

resemble those of a holly. Why choose such a prickly shrub for your landscape? In late winter and very early spring, Leatherleaf Mahonia puts on clusters of small chartreuse-yellow flowers that are followed by bunches of blue berries. This shrub is a dramatic one with distinctive dark green to almost blue-green, leathery leaves which can provide textural significance planted in a group as a backdrop of softer plants. Additionally, birds like to use it for cover from predators while snacking on the blue berries.

### ***Earth-Kind Plant***

As we become more cognizant of the limitations of natural resources, especially water, in Texas and as many gardeners shy away from using high levels of pesticides and fertilizers, many turn to Earth-Kind® plants. These plants, including Leatherleaf Mahonia, gain distinction from having been tested over multiple years at lower than normal levels of water, fertilizer, pesticides, and chemical disease preventatives needed to allow the plant to thrive. Leatherleaf Mahonia has a rating of 7 on the Earth-Kind 1-10 scale. This means it is a relatively good "resource efficient" plant – generally heat and drought tolerant, with only moderate water and fertilizer needs, in addition to not having much in the way of pest or disease issues.

Leatherleaf Mahonias can be propagated by seed or by taking cuttings from a plant. They can be planted at any time of year in North Texas. Wrap some burlap or plastic around the plant to protect your hands and arms while planting or take care how you grab hold of this Mahonia. Prepare the planting hole and have everything ready ahead of time, so you can carefully plop it into place with a minimum of handling. Obviously, it is deer and rabbit resistant – we may call them "dumb" animals, but they know what to nibble – and what to stay away from!



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### **Leatherleaf Mahonia's Leaflets**

provide birds cover from predators while they snack on the blue berries.

## Leatherleaf Mahonia (Cont.)

### *Leatherleaf Mahonia Care*

Leatherleaf Mahonia may be a challenge to get planted, but once it's in the ground, it is easy to care for. It only needs supplemental water once a week, twice weekly in our driest times, grows well in soil amended with good quality compost and good drainage, and requires fertilizer only two or three times during a growing season. It prefers a shady spot in the landscape and will tolerate even moderately dense shade. If planted in too much sun, the plant will scorch yellow. No pests or diseases typically cause any trouble for Leatherleaf Mahonias. It grows from three feet up to eight feet, depending on how much water it gets. Several could be planted as a screen or a small grouping would make a nice focal point behind lighter colored plants such as hardy ferns or colorful perennials. These spiky babes have an upright growth structure and are reluctant to branch. This means each stalk grows individually and the plant enlarges outward by adding multiple suckers from the base (similarly to a nandina). Occasionally, an odd stalk will grow out of scale with the rest of the bush. When you prune Leatherleaf Mahonias to control these odd shoots or the basal suckers, make the cut flush with another stem or as close to the ground as possible – take out the entire stalk. Certainly do not trim with hedge clippers into a ball, square, or other unnatural shapes – that just won't work with Leatherleaf Mahonia – it's not a boxwood, for heaven's sake!

If grassfires are something you must be concerned about, or if your neighborhood consists of zero-lot lines with houses very close together, Leatherleaf Mahonia might be an excellent choice for your shady landscape. With proper care, these are generally considered a good firewise landscape plant with moderate resistance to heat-generated flames. If you're a numbers person, this translates to a 7 on a 1-10 scale, with 10 being the most fire resistant plants.

Consider bringing Leatherleaf Mahonia to the shady dance in your landscape if you are still struggling with that mid-level. She's prickly and a little stand-offish, but SO worth the careful handling. She will reward you with texture, unusual color, and pleasant bird friends dining on her berries in winter. You won't be sorry!  
Happy Gardening!



### **Leatherleaf Mahonia**

will reward you with texture, unusual color, and pleasant bird friends dining on her berries in winter.



## Leatherleaf Mahonia (Cont.)

### Resources

*Texas A&M AgriLife*

Aggie Horticulture

"Earth-Kind Landscaping"

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

"Firewise Index Explanation"

<http://ekps.tamu.edu/firewiseindex/explanation>

East Texas Gardening - "Leatherleaf Mahonia"

<https://easttexasgardening.tamu.edu/2014/05/06/leatherleaf-mahonia/>

*Texas SmartScape*

"Leatherleaf Mahonia Details"

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/plant-details.php?id=457>

*Neil Sperry's Gardens*

"From the Sperry Garden - April, 2010"

<https://neilsperry.com/2010/04/from-the-sperry-garden-april-2010/>



**Mahonia Grapes**



### Denton County Master Gardener Association



This year has brought a resurgence of interest in gardening and with it, an increase in Help Desk activity. With this in mind, the Help Desk page has been updated and streamlined. If you have a gardening/plant question, make the Help Desk page your first-stop resource. It's very likely you will quickly and easily find the answers you need.

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/help-desk/>

**DCMGA Members Only**

## Field Trip to Eden Hill Winery & Vineyards



**4910 Eden Hill Lane  
Celina, TX 75009  
Thursday, Nov 5, 2020  
Time: 10:45-1:00**

- Get yourself there - no bus
- Cost per person: \$10.62 includes tour and wine tasting- all payments in advance, non-refundable, Paypal or credit card only
- Educational Tour conducted by Clark Hornbaker, owner and vineyard manager.
- One hour CE
- No walk-ups are accepted - only prepaid reservations
- There's no set ending time. After the tour and tasting you may stay and enjoy at your leisure.
- Tasting is not required, but is included in the cost and cannot be separated.
- Limited to 50 attendees
- Seating is available; however, you may bring your own chair to insure social distancing needs.
- You may bring your own lunch, if desired.
- Cheese boards, additional wine and soft drinks are available for purchase.
- Social distancing and masks are required everywhere on the property.

**Click here to register:**

<https://form.jotform.com/dcmga/2020-eden-hill-winery-tour>

**Questions? Contact Beverly Duncan**





# Shrubs: Least Appreciated Of All Landscape Plants

BY LIZ MOYER

*Editor's Note: Fall/early Winter is THE time to plant shrubs. In this Feature Article, Liz Moyer fills us in on what to do, and equally important, what to avoid doing when choosing and planting shrubs. It is longer than our usual feature, but there is not an ounce of fluff to be found. Happy reading!*

How often do you think about your shrubs? We are all pretty good at keeping an eye on our trees for broken branches or other signs of distress. We love to walk in the garden and enjoy the flowering plants from early March through December. But somehow that level in between – shrubs – just doesn't get the same love and attention!

When we first landscaped our house, the best advice we got was to plant shrubs first. Shrubs form the backdrop, the foundation, for all the rest of the landscape. They also provide birds and other creatures the best food and shelter. And they can be real stunners on their own, if selected and placed with care.

Late mid-October-late January is the best time to plant trees and shrubs, so let's get busy and beautify our landscape!

## Site Planning

Shrubs are generally planted in an existing bed, but look carefully at that bed and where you want the shrubs to be. It's best to provide an 18-24" gap between any structures and the shrubs. This will provide room to get between them for maintenance. Another good practice is to look out the windows of your home and select plantings to give a pleasing view from the inside looking out. After all, how much time do you spend standing outside looking at your home vs. looking out from the inside?

Today's most attractive landscapes are a far cry from the lines of privets common with builder "landscapes." More often we strive for a sense of natural growth, so plant shrubs in odd number groups or drifts – not in a straight line around your foundation. Plant a variety of shrubs in each drift to avoid disease problems and provide biodiversity in your yard.

Shrubs are often seen as "fillers." With proper locations and plant selection, they can be much more than that. When thinking about installing a new shrub, consider the alternatives. Are you trying to fill a specific space, conceal an unappealing feature, or add more beauty? As a shrub alternative, could you use a large bunch grass or a vine on a trellis? How about a boulder with grasses planted around it? Your decisions can totally change the look and maintenance requirements of a landscape.

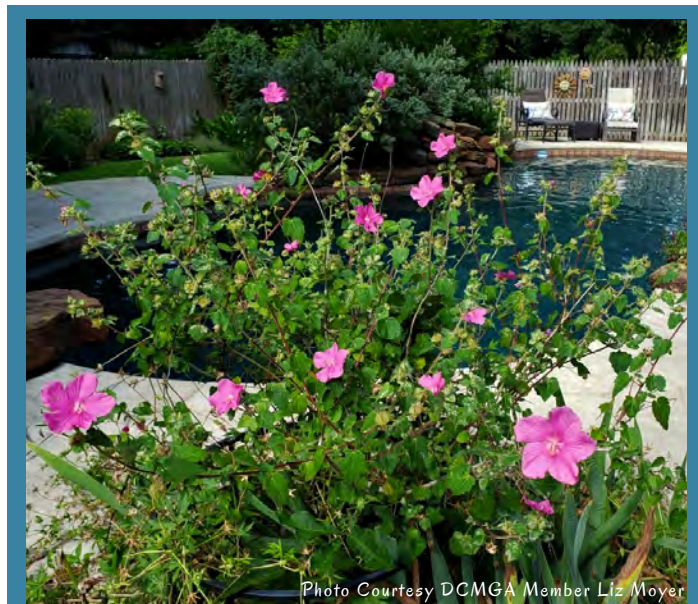


Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

## Rock Rose

Graceful, arching branches and hibiscus flowers make Rock Rose a great guest for any summer party!

## Shrubs (Cont.)

### Shrub Species Selection

Now that you are ready to plant those new shrubs, it's time to select our plants. This is where many gardeners lose sight of their long-term vision. We all just want to get in the garden and dig! A little research before selecting your plants will make a huge difference!

So, do a little research and make notes about the species of interest, and of those to be avoided. There are two major issues to be considered:

- Will this plant grow to provide the features I value – beauty, low maintenance, shelter and food for wildlife and pollinators, and at its mature size will it be the right fit in my yard?
- Is this plant likely to be invasive? Many common shrubs have been identified as invasive species by [TexasInvasives.org](http://TexasInvasives.org) meaning they are harmful to our environment. Invasive plants are characterized by:
  - Thrive and spread aggressively outside of their native range, choking out native species on which wildlife depends
  - Almost always are introduced (non-native) species
  - Decrease natural biodiversity
  - Costly to prevent, monitor and control

A list can be found in the [TEXASINVASIVES.ORG](http://TEXASINVASIVES.ORG) database.

Two good sources of lists of shrubs well-suited to our soils and climate are:

1) The AgriLife EarthKind Plant Selector at: <http://ekps.tamu.edu/>. Each species has a link that gives additional info for that type of plant. This info cites both the good and some of the not so good aspects of the plant. Plants are given an EarthKind rating from 1-10, so ensure your picks are on the positive end. Make sure you review this info before deciding on a specific species. This site does include some very hardy, but also invasive species, so check your favorites against the [TexasInvasives.org](http://TexasInvasives.org) list.

2) The Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks chapter website has lists of native landscape plants that will thrive here at: <https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/plant-lists/>

### Shrub Recommendations

- American Beautyberry, *Callicarpa Americana* – graceful arching stems produce clusters of tiny white flowers in spring, white berries in summer turning bright fuschia in early fall. No maintenance required, but can be cut back in early spring if needed for control.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### American Beautyberry

Who doesn't need a big shot of bright fuschia in their garden in late summer/early fall? American Beautyberry feeds birds and other wildlife, including people.



## Shrubs (Cont.)

- Coralberry, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* – graceful arching branches produces small round-ish leaves for a delicate texture and small red berries in winter. No maintenance required, but can be cut back in early spring if needed for control.
- Flame Acanthus, *Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii* – butterfly and pollinator magnet! Bright red blooms mid-summer–first freeze. No maintenance required, but can be cut back in early spring if needed for control.
- Pavonia (Rock Rose), *Pavonia lasiopetala* – beautiful small pink hibiscus-like flowers on long arching branches. Needs some control to stay in its space. Water intermittently to promote blooming during drought conditions. Mildew is minor and unavoidable and should be tolerated.
- Texas Sage (Cenizo), *Leucophyllum frutescens* – Beautiful shrub comes in dark green and silver leaf-color; blooms prolifically spring –fall proportionally to relative humidity. Selectively prune to shape if needed in winter. Does not like wet feet and is susceptible to cotton root rot. Do not fertilize. Do not overwater. Little maintenance required.
- Rosemary, *Rosmarinus officinalis* – beautiful upright shrub that also provides herbs for cooking! May need to be pruned to maintain shape and size. Drought resistant. Doesn't like wet feet.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### Elderberry Shrub

Clusters of white blooms make Elderberry a stunner in spring.

- American Elderberry, *Sambucus Canadensis* – large shrub, over 6' tall and wide with gorgeous large white flower heads in spring and bunches of dark purple berries in late summer. Berries are good for syrup, jelly, wine. Drops leaves under extremely dry conditions and then re-grows them rapidly. Recommend planting evergreen in front of it.
- Agarito, *Berberis trifoliolata* – Fun smaller shrub with lots of extremely sharp barbs. Not to be planted by your mailbox, but is good in a protective bed along a fence. Lovely white flowers in early spring followed by white, then red berries in mid-summer. Excellent food source and protection for birds.

- Rough-leaf Dogwood, *Cornus drummondii* – Beautiful clusters of white flowers in spring producing berries in fall. Can be a shrub if multi-trunked or a tree if single-trunk. Blooms well in shade.
- Turk's Cap, *Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii* – Hummingbird magnet! Arching branches with bright red hanging blooms throughout the summer. Requires pruning to stay in its space.

## Shrubs (Cont.)

- Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria* – Also available as dwarf version. Produces beautiful form if left un-pruned. Lots of bright red berries in fall and winter. Excellent food source for birds – not people (notice it's Latin name).
- Texas Mountain Laurel, *Sophora secundiflora* – Can also be a small shrub. Blooms large groups of bright purple blossoms early spring followed by seed pods and red seeds. Known for its strong "grape soda" smell. Seeds are toxic to animals and humans.

### EarthKind Selections

The following shrubs are non-native, but are EarthKind selections and well worth a little garden space:

- Oak-leaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia* – large white blooms in early summer, bright red foliage in fall in shade-part shade.
- Dwarf Pomegranate, *Punica granatum* var. *nana* – Single red-orange flowers set fruit prolifically. Fall color can sometimes be a nice yellow.
- Bay Laurel, *Laurus nobilis* – The classic laurel of antiquity used to fashion victory wreaths for ancient Greek and Roman generals and athletes. It also serves as a handsome upright growing evergreen larger shrub to small shrub. The foliage is often used in cooking to flavor stews and other meat dishes.

### To Be Avoided

The following plants are commonly sold and planted, but are listed on one or more invasive plant lists and **should be avoided**:

- Chinese/European Privet, *Ligustrum sinense* Lour./*L. vulgare* L. – listed by USDA Forest Service, and the *Invasive Plant Atlas of the US*
- Japanese / Glossy Privet, *Ligustrum japonicum* Thunb./*L. lucidum* Ait. f. – listed by USDA Forest Service, and the *Invasive Plant Atlas of the US*
- Nandina, Sacred Bamboo, *Nandina domestica* Thunb. – listed by USDA Forest Service, and the *Invasive Plant Atlas of the US*
- Bush Honeysuckles – listed by USDA Forest Service:
  - Amur honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii* (Rupr.) Herder
  - Morrow's honeysuckle, *L. morrowii* Gray
  - Tatarian honeysuckle, *L. tatarica* L.
  - Sweet-breath-of-spring, *L. fragrantissima* Lindl. & Paxton



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

### Yaupon Holly

Bright fall and winter berries feed birds and wildlife and make great holiday décor too.



## Shrubs (Cont.)

### *Picking a Shrub at the Nursery*

Now the fun of hunting for your ideal shrub begins. Depending on the species you want, "good" shrubs are available from numerous sources, including big box stores, if you take the time to evaluate them.

Selecting and planting shrubs is much like selecting and planting a tree. The Agrilife website has several good tips at <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PickTreeAtNursery.html>. The accompanying video is also a good reference. Keep in mind pulling a shrub out of its pot to check the condition is very important. If a retailer doesn't want you to pull the plant out of its container or the shrub has severely girdled roots, don't buy that shrub.

Shrubs are generally sold in pot sizes from 1-10 gallons. In general, it is better to plant a larger shrub. Shrubs will make an immediate impact on your landscape.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer  
Elderberry Blossoms



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer  
Texas Mountain Laurel Blossoms

**Pollinators love shrubs too!**

**And that little extra height makes watching them so much easier!**

### *Planting the Shrub*

Returning, once again to the Agrilife website, at

<http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PlantTreeProperly.html>, there are several points to remember when planting the shrub.

- The hole depth and width are important to establish the shrub properly.
- Refilling the hole with the same soil that was removed also helps establish the shrub. If the hole is terribly sticky clay, you may need to amend the entire bed with organic matter before proceeding.
- Mulch retains moisture and slows weed development around the shrub. It should not, however, touch the shrub, but should be pulled away from all trunks at least four inches.

## Shrubs (Cont.)

- Most important is proper watering. Watering of about a gallon is necessary at least once a week. In hot, dry periods this may increase to two times per week. Native plants also require this watering to recover from the transplant shock and get their root systems going. This should be maintained for the first two years after planting until they are ready to survive on rainwater alone.
- Trimming during the first year of a newly planted shrub should be limited to removal of dead or broken limbs.
- While nurseries will plant shrubs all year round (particularly potted shrubs), planting should be done when the shrub is dormant (late Fall through early Spring).

### *Pruning Your Shrubs*

After their first growing season, shrubs may need a little pruning for aesthetic purposes. Do not be tempted to get out the hedge clippers! Using good bypass action pruning shears, selectively remove branches as needed. There are excellent instructions at <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/>.

If the shrub is already too big for its location, consider moving it. Most shrubs have a mature size provided and if you plant properly, you shouldn't have this problem, but occasionally one will outgrow even our great expectations.

### *Planning and Proper Planting Yield Shrubs to be Proud of*

With proper planning, selection and planting, the lowly shrub will become a star in your landscape. Spend a little time now for big payback later.

### *References*

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

Earth-Kind Landscaping

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

*Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks Chapter*  
"Plant Lists"

<https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/plant-lists/>

*USDA Forest Service*

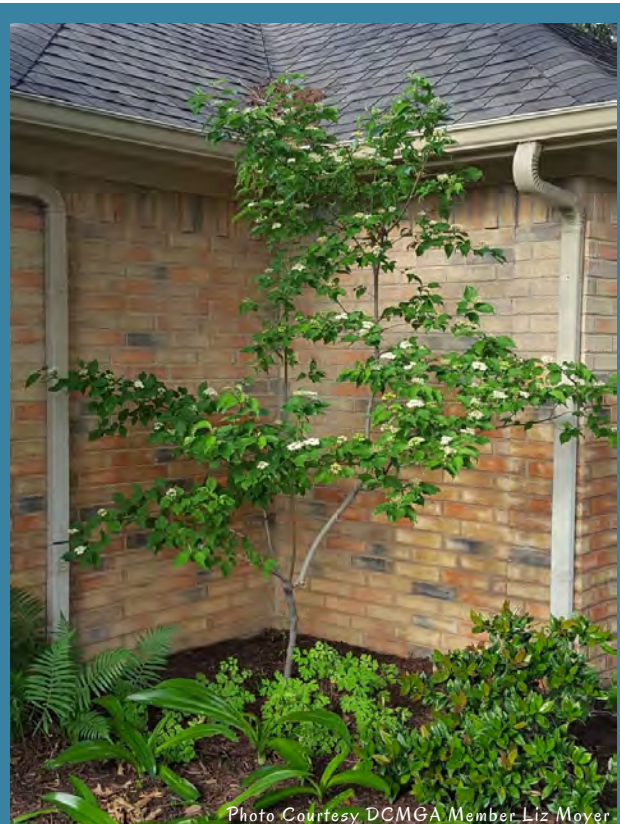
"Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests"

<https://www.invasive.org/eastern/srs/>

*TexasInvasives.Org*

"Invasives Database"

[https://texasinvasives.org/plant\\_database/index.php](https://texasinvasives.org/plant_database/index.php)



### **Roughleaf Dogwood**

This graceful tree lends a sense of "woody elegance" to any landscape and provides blooms for pollinators and berries for birds.



## **DCMGA Salutes Community Gardens Feeding Those in Need Across Denton County!**

**Here's the results so far this year from a couple of our partners:**

### **Shiloh Field Community Garden**

**Harvest delivered to various food pantries:**

**34,013+ lbs.**

### **Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden**

This garden accepts donations of home-grown produce and canned goods on Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:00 am.

#### **Harvest delivered to Christian Community Action**

FMFB: 3,404+ lbs

DCMGA Members: 993+ lbs

**Total: 4,400 lbs**

#### **Canned goods delivered to Christian Community Action**

FMFB: 784 lbs

DCMGA Members: 145+ lbs

**Total: 928+ lbs**

**Plant a Row for the Hungry  
and Help Feed Those in Need!**

**If Everyone does a little,  
Together we can do a Lot!**



## Fall Garden Fest

BY SHARRIE ELY



*Denton County Master Gardener Association  
is excited to present four speakers for our annual  
FREE garden-education event,  
Fall Garden Fest.*

*Register today for the DCMGA Fall Garden Fest ONLINE!  
to be broadcast via Zoom on Saturday, October 3, 2020.  
Register online for each talk for FREE using the links below,  
or visit [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com) or our [Facebook Page](#),  
[Denton County Master Gardener Association](#), to register for this free event.*

Fall is the best time to garden in North Texas!  
We offer you these great talks on topics for productive and beautiful vegetable gardens,  
preparing your landscape for fall and winter, important tips for your turf care,  
and great ways to save water in your landscape.

All talks will be presented live on October 3 with several incredible giveaways at each talk.  
So be sure to register and attend on October 3!

*If unable to attend, these talks will be available online the following week  
(giveaways awarded only during the live event).*

### Fall Garden Fest Speakers



October 3, 10:00 am

Dr. Hennen Cummings

"What Your North Texas Turf Needs"

**Register for this talk at:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOmqqjsvEtX-RxBI9Vf\\_xrImbCkUCJpp](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcOmqqjsvEtX-RxBI9Vf_xrImbCkUCJpp)

**Talk Description:** One of the most-asked questions that comes to North Texas Master Gardener Help Desks is how to take care of lawn turf. Tune in to learn about the basics of Turf Care and hear Dr. Cummings discuss what is needed for your North Texas Turf. Maintenance for North Texas turf grass during the fall and winter will also be discussed.



**Bio:** Dr. Hennen Cummings is an Associate Professor at Tarleton State University. Dr. Cummings has evaluated experimental herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, plant growth regulators, turfgrass paints and pigments, gypsum formulations, soil wetting agents, biostimulants, microbials, traffic



## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

injury abatement systems, new turfgrass and other plant varieties, and fertilizers using visual estimates of quality, injury, density, and control. He has access to regional golf courses with nesting blue herons, deer, wild hogs, armadillo, and numerous passerine species for studies of urban wildlife. The Tarleton State University Turfgrass Field Laboratory has 12 species of irrigated cool- and warm-season turfgrasses maintained at various mowing heights and levels. Dr. Cummings also has experience in environmental site assessment and environmental impact mitigation. His doctoral work examined pesticide movement in row crop and turfgrass systems. Visit [Tarleton.edu](http://Tarleton.edu) for more info.

**Dr. Hennen Cummings Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)**

- Five (5) one-year subscriptions to the *Texas Gardener* magazine awarded to five different attendees  
Donated by Texas Gardener, [texasgardener.com](http://texasgardener.com)



October 3, 12:00 pm

Dee Nash

"Beautiful and Productive Vegetable Gardens"

**Register for this talk at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcscOuprz0vG91jIm45EvuUJ5AjyPdCjJTo>



**Talk Description:** Come join us as we explore beautiful vegetable gardens throughout the United States and England to harvest ideas on structure, symmetry, and color for our own Texas gardens. Dee will help us incorporate garden design into our vegetable spaces. Plus, we get to take a trip without leaving our homes!

**Bio:** Dee Nash, professional garden writer, speaker, podcast host, author, travel writer and blogger gardens on seven acres in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Her first book, *The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff* was published in 2014 and is a wonderful reference for the beginning gardener (not just those in the 20-30 range).

Dee's blog, [Red Dirt Ramblings](http://RedDirtRamblings.com), won the Garden Writers Association's Gold Award for Best Electronic Writing in 2014. *Better Homes and Gardens* named RDR one of its "Top Ten Gardening Blogs" in 2014, and *Southern Living* magazine named Dee one of its "30 Bloggers to Follow" in 2015 and 2016.

Dee, along with her husband, Bill, maintains a vegetable garden, a wildflower meadow, honey bees, and several perennial garden areas which include some of her favorites, daylilies and roses. You can find her at her blog [reddirtrambblings.com](http://reddirtrambblings.com) and on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and listen to her podcast (along with Carol Michel) *The Gardenangelists*, on your favorite podcast venue.

**Dee Nash Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)**

- Three (3) copies of Dee Nash's book, *The 20-30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, Down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff* will be mailed to three different attendees of the Live Event.

## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

- One (1) copy of *Kitchen Garden Revival: A Modern Guide to Creating a Stylish, Small-Scale, Low-Maintenance Edible Garden* by Nicole Johnsey Burke to one Live Event attendee
- One (1) copy of *Mastering the Art of Vegetable Gardening: Rare Varieties – Unusual Options-Plant Lore & Guidance* by Matt Mattus to one Live Event attendee
- One (1) copy of *The Truth About Organic Gardening: Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom Line* by Jeff Gillman to one Live Event attendee



October 3, 1:30 pm

Toni Moorehead

"Fall/Winter Tips & To-Do's for North Central Texas Gardens"

**Register for this talk at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEQd-yopzgpEtbHfpSf9CUHt1naCQT6WPuH>



**Talk Description:** Learn about all the fall/winter landscape maintenance needed for your North Central Texas Gardens, as well as design tips and plant choices for fall and winter interest.

Learn about fertilizing, weed control, and planting wildflowers, bulbs, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, and veggies for fall/winter. Learn about designing the winter "bones" of the garden for winter interest.

**Bio:** Toni Moorehead has been an active Tarrant County Master Gardener since 2005. She is a Texas Certified Landscape Professional since 2013 and the Owner and Garden Designer for *Signature Gardens* ([signaturegardens.blogspot.com](http://signaturegardens.blogspot.com)). She is also an active member of the Grapevine Garden Club since 2002.

Toni has lived in Texas since 1986 and moved to Grapevine in 1988. She grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. She states that she has "been diggin' in the dirt a long time!" and loves to help people learn to love gardening in Texas.

Toni oversees the landscape maintenance at Countryside Bible church in Southlake. She was a freelance court reporter for 17 years and in 2002 she traded in her transcripts for trowels and left lawyers for landscapes and has never looked back!

Toni's Garden has been featured on the Colleyville "Promenade Garden Tour" and on the Southlake "Spin into Spring" Garden Tour, and on the Grapevine Garden Club and Master Gardener Tours. Toni has also written several articles for the *Grapevine Garden Club Newsletter* and wrote a column for the Tarrant County MGA newsletter called "Toni's Tips."

Visit Toni on [Facebook](#) at [Signature Gardens](#) or her garden blog at [signaturegardens.blogspot.com](http://signaturegardens.blogspot.com).



## Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)

- Ten (10) Texas A&M Water University Top 100 Plants for North Texas card decks.



October 3, 3:30 pm

Betsy Marsh, Tarrant Regional Water District

"Gardens that Give Back:

Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

Register for this talk at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkdOqrqjSpHdS7zNlQBUC-OYoiSIReqWE>



**Talk Description:** Bloom where you're planted. Sometimes this is easier said than done! Here in North Texas, we may be blessed with abundant rains one year and hardly any the next. With lots of folks moving this way, water conservation is now just a part of life. Yet we can create beautiful gardens that thrive with little water and give back to us in the very best ways. Betsy Marsh, Conservation Education Coordinator for the Tarrant Regional Water District, will share her adventures gardening with Texas native plants, explain how they make a difference, and help you discover new ways to bloom in North Texas.

**Bio:** Betsy Marsh is the Conservation Education Coordinator for the Tarrant Regional Water District and a Tarrant County Master Gardener. Growing up camping in Texas state parks, native plants stole her heart at a young age and she has been gardening with Texas natives for more than a decade. She attended the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Michigan where she received an MS in Natural Resource Policy and Behavior. As a program coordinator and consultant for various non-profit organizations, she worked with many indigenous, environmental, and human rights advocates from the U.S. and Latin America before settling with her family in Grapevine. Most recently, she worked for the City of Grapevine Parks and Recreation Department developing environmental education programs, helping schools create native plant gardens, managing habitat restoration efforts, and promoting biodiversity research.

Visit [trwd.com](http://trwd.com) for more information.

Giveaways: (only awarded at the Online Live Event)

- Three (3) \$25 E-Giftcards from Painted Flower Farm will be emailed to the winner. Donated by Painted Flower Farm, [paintedflowerfarm.com](http://paintedflowerfarm.com)
- Three (3) Rain barrels with a brass spigot (each winner must be a resident of Collin, Dallas, Denton, or Tarrant County for delivery)



DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
**FALL GARDEN FEST ONLINE**  
 OCTOBER 3 SATURDAY  
 SIGN UP TODAY

## Making And Tossing Seed Balls = Happy, Busy Children

BY RHONDA LOVE

A good way to have fun in the garden, either with or without children, is to make seed balls, toss them into the garden area and watch them grow. This could be done with any seeds, but pollinator seeds will bring much needed food for the bees and butterflies.

Making them is simple, tossing them even more simple!

To make them, all you need is:

- Top soil, either from your garden or the garden store. Clean mulch can be added.
- Natural clay, either from your naturally clay soil, or bought at a craft store.
- Peat-free compost. Mushroom compost is a quality compost for seed balls.
- Water, in a container for mixing with other ingredients.
- A large work surface where you can get very dirty.

Texas A&M AgriLife Water University recommends these proportions:

- 5 parts compost-soil-mulch
- 4 parts clay
- 1 part seeds
- Water as needed



The seeds should be appropriate to your area and season. Seeds from native plants and pollinators are the best to use to help the ecosystem and to get the best results for your garden. Native seeds bring quicker results, which is a bonus, especially if you are working with children, and are readily available in our area or online. Just be sure to get seeds native to this area. A native seed mix for other regions will not be happy here.

Prepare a work surface large enough to hold the ingredients and to allow you to roll out the balls. This surface is going to get very dirty. Just as you would if you were trying a recipe, get all your ingredients together in one spot and then combine them.

Mix all the ingredients together and shape the mixture into small balls, about an inch in diameter. A little experimentation with the proportions of the ingredients according to the moisture and other features of them will be needed. Add water last. You do not want the final product to be have more than about half dozen seeds in each ball, nor to do you want it to be soggy. You want it to just hold together and survive tossing.



## Making And Tossing Seed Balls (Cont.)



**Seed Balls**

Roll the balls, setting them aside as you go, until you have all the materials rolled into balls. Set the balls aside, perhaps on a cookie sheet, and let them dry in the sun for about three hours.

If you haven't already done so, now is a good time to prepare the area where the balls will be sown. It should be free of weeds and grasses. It is imperative to have good seed-to-soil contact for the seeds to sprout, and if you are planning on the area reseeding itself, ready access to bare soil is even more important.

Once the balls have dried, they are ready to be tossed into soil that is receptive to plants, has enough sun, and is not full of other plants.

You might want to gently step on them to smush them, then water them unless rain is expected soon.

*That is all there is to it. Sit back, watch the flowers grow and wait for the pollinators to entertain you.*



### Resources

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Water University - "Seed Saving is the Bomb!"

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/2018/september-15-2018-seed-saving-is-the-bomb-john-bunker-sands-wetland-center/>

**Parker County Master Gardeners Association**

"How to Make Seed Balls"

<https://pcmg-texas.org/misc/280-how-to-make-seed-balls>

## Rosemary—The Herb Of Remembrance

BY BARBARA BROWN

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is a perennial herb that grows well in North Texas. It is a popular culinary herb and one of the ingredients in *Herbes de Provence*. Available in upright and creeping cultivars, the upright varieties are preferred for both fresh and dried use.

"In ancient times rosemary was believed to strengthen the memory; in literature and folklore it is an emblem of remembrance and fidelity." (*Encyclopedia Britannica*) Rosemary is slightly stimulating and is often an ingredient in tonics, liniments and vermouthe.

Rosemary grows best in well-drained, loamy, slightly acidic soil that receives at least 6 hours of sun each day. It can be grown in a large container or in-ground. If adding directly into your landscape or garden bed keep in mind that rosemary is a shrub that can reach 5 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide. The upright type is more freeze tolerant than the creeping variety.

You increase the chance of success if you add rosemary to your garden as a transplant or rooted branch cutting because rosemary seeds can be difficult to find and often do not germinate well. Once established, the plant needs little fertilizer and is generally resistant to bugs and disease. Be careful not to overwater as that can cause root rot. ("[Growing Rosemary](#)")

Harvest cuttings at any time of the year. If collecting a large amount from the plant at one time, be sure to give it time to recover before additional harvesting. For cooking, remove the needle-like leaves by grasping the top of the branch and pulling downward against the direction of growth.

### Resources

*Encyclopedia Britannica*

["Rosemary"](#)

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension*

["Growing Rosemary"](#)

### Additional Resources on DCMGA – North Texas Gardening

["Why You Should Grow Herbs"](#)

["Growing Herbs in North Texas"](#)



Try Barbara's  
Rosemary Butter  
recipe found on  
page 35.



## North Texas Gardening Focus

*This column will highlight timely articles from the North Texas Gardening section of the DCMGA website. If you are wondering what to plant, when to plant it, when to fertilize it, and when to water it, you will find all this and more in articles written by Denton County Master Gardeners on North Texas Gardening.*

### *Mexican Buckeye*

In keeping with our *Shrubs* theme this month, the Mexican Buckeye is another cold hardy and heat-tolerant, drought-resistant plant perfect for your North Texas yard.

From March to June, Mexican Buckeyes produce the cutest clusters of pink, highly fragrant flowers at the same time light bronze leaflets begin to show; in summer, they are covered in lush, dark green, glossy leaves that look similar to but are smaller than a pecan leaf. They turn bright golden yellow in the fall, just glowing in your landscape. Come winter, the tri-valve seedpods, which kind of look like figs, hang on branches giving the tree interest. The seeds and their capsules are why this plant is called a

buckeye, even though genetically it is not a true Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*), as anyone from the Buckeye State can attest. Mexican Buckeye is the lone member of its genus, so plant a few to keep them from being lonely!



For more information about the Mexican Buckeye, visit

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/trees/mexican-buckeye/>



### *Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel*

Our virtual General Meetings and other programs can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.  
Check it out! And don't forget to subscribe!

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

## **Congratulations FMFB Community Garden!** *2nd Best Project by an Extra-Large Master Gardener Association in Texas!*

Janet Laminack, Denton County CEA-Horticulture, presented the FMFB Community Garden the award on behalf of the Texas Master Gardener Association. This garden has donated over 3400 pounds of fresh produce to the CCA food pantry this year, over 12,000 since its inception five years ago!



Pictured are: Carol Noble (DCMGA Project Co-leader), Donald Tittle (Pastor of Flower Mound First Baptist Church), David Huffman (DCMGA Project Co-leader), Lori Giesler (Founding Mother & Garden Director), Barbara Brown (DCMGA Education Director), Janet Laminack (Denton County CEA-Horticulture), and Gilbert Montez (CCA CEO).

## **Congratulations DISD School Days at Clear Creek!** *Honored by the Texas Master Gardener Association Search for Excellence Awards as Best Youth/Junior Master Gardener Project in Texas (Second Place)*

DISD School Days at Clear Creek was also awarded second place in the Texas Master Naturalist Program Exemplary Project Awards at the state's 20th Anniversary annual meeting in October 2018. Each year, the project educates and engages more than 4,000 DISD second and fourth graders with interactive education stations at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center in Denton.

Receiving the award and representing the collaborative project are (from left to right): Colleen Carpenter (4-H Program Coordinator), Sharon Betty (Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter DISD School Days at Clear Creek Project Co-Chair), Tammie Gurley (DCMGA SWAT Co-Chair), and Janet Laminack (Denton County AgriLife Extension CEA-Hort).



## Proposed 2021 Board of Directors

With CEA-Hort Janet Laminack's approval, the Nominating Committee has assembled a proposed slate of officers to serve as our Association's 2021 Board of Directors.

The slate will be presented to the membership in October with elections held at the November 18th General Meeting. (Please note that the November 18th General Meeting is the third Wednesday of the month, as our usual second Wednesday falls on Veterans Day this year.)

Per Section 6. of the Bylaws, each term of office is one year, and all offices have a two-year consecutive elected term limit, which means that folks may be elected for the same position two years in a row.

President: Kathryn Wells (2017)  
Vice President - Projects: Joanne Spurgin (2019)  
Vice President - Outreach: Kathy Rainey (2017)  
Secretary: Katherine Woodward (2013)  
Treasurer: Jolayne LaCour (2014)  
Communications Director - Systems: Cheryl Huckabee (2018)  
Communications Director - Promotions: Kathi Fast (2016)  
Education Director: Barbara Brown (2010)  
Member at Large: Tammie Gurley (2014)  
Immediate Past President (a non-elected position): Pat Moyer (2013)

Brief biographies of each nominee will be provided to the membership via email and in the November issue of *The Root*.

Many thanks to this year's stellar Nom Com team members:

Jolayne LaCour, Chair (2014)  
Karen Roberts, Vice Chair (2016)  
Jerry Alexander (2015)  
Randy Condit (2020)  
Beckey Cortines (2020)  
Cheryl Huckabee (2018)  
Sue Hudiburgh (2008)  
Pam Spooner (2018)

# ADMINISTRATION





## DCMGA Project News

### What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



#### Project Continuation Forms and 2021 Budget Preparation:

Every year project managers review their project needs and submit Project Continuation Forms for budget preparation review. Some projects will end because the educational mission was met. The DCMGA President, Vice President-Projects, and Treasurer recently met to review the comments and amounts submitted on the forms and put together a budget for 2021. This report is planned to be presented at the Oct 7th Board of Directors meeting.

#### Denton County Historical Park Gardens:

This new project had its first workdays in September to begin renovating the gardens around the Bayless-Selby House. The gardens have become overgrown and many plants need thinned out or replaced. New areas within the historical park are also being planned, making it a great opportunity to get involved from the beginning. Please check the calendar for scheduled workdays or contact Georgiana McCoig to get on her email list. SignUp Genius will not be used.

#### Fairoaks Senior Living Center Project:

This project's last workday will be October 12th. Project Manager Dale Powell and his regular team members would love to have your help in preparing 50 apartment gardens for winter. The residents greatly appreciate our help as well. Please check the calendar or contact Dale Powell if further information is needed.

#### DCMGA website changes:

Sue Hudiburgh finally will be able to turn over management of the website to others and spend time with more enjoyable gardening interests. Her replacements are 2020 interns Em Steel and Lee Greer. Sue was always accommodating to our needs, so please send her a big thank you. Em and Lee will work to follow that work ethic but also will be adding a twist of their own ideas as well. Members will be updated as changes occur.

#### Plant ID Detectives:

This new project had a kickoff meeting in September with 26 members/interns attending. Meetings are on the Member Calendar and scheduled for bi-monthly on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17 at 10 a.m. and will be a Zoom presentation prepared by Debbie Smith and Lela Khan. Both are Class of 2019 graduates and for the past two years managed the identification of pass-along plants sold at DCMGA's annual Plant Sale. Their presentation will expose you to the hidden knowledge of botanical Latin terms which have a universally correct sequence and typographical sequence used to identify plants.

*When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy,  
there is always the garden. ~ Minnie Aumonier*



## Online Education Opportunities

*For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve*

.....

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

.....

### AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

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

### 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>

### Aggie Horticulture YouTube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkScRVoHlN3Hi1\\_KUQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkScRVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ/)

### Chat with Green Aggies

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

This and Every Thursday at 12:12 pm

ONE SINGLE registration link

[https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJotc0IrqDkiH9w6M\\_JofkPxSnM-8ZHvqqfz](https://tamu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJotc0IrqDkiH9w6M_JofkPxSnM-8ZHvqqfz)

Pick any or all Chat for every week on Thursday until Oct 29, 2020 -- 10 occurrence(s).

All previous recordings:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

[list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH)

### Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas AgriLife posts great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook. There are about 50 presentations here, and more are added frequently. View them at:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/1541129202716211/>

Beginning July 1, AgriLife has moved away from Facebook Live events. You will now be required to REGISTER for their events online through their website:

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events/>

As always, their classes are FREE and no credit card info will be collected. Once registered, you will be emailed a link from which to attend the class. Class links will be sent out the day of the event to prevent spamming. There is no need to download anything with the new virtual class platform. It will play through your internet browser.

### DCMGA Members

Watch for a VMS email with current Online CE Opportunities.

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.

## Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

### DCMGA General Meeting CE Presentations

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"Preserving the Harvest"

"Growing Green and Saving Blue,"

Daniel Cunningham, AgriLife

"Gardens Gone Wild"

"Getting Buggy"

Business meetings

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### AgriLife Water University Youtube

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiwRrzQNaWP4EJVMTru48GA>

No Facebook Required

### East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Thursday, October 8, 2020

Join us online for this free educational program.

You Must Register Here:

<https://agrilife.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMld-itqjwqGNLgQQ4J6FF8wwLK1BQdCBtF>

Agenda:

**8:30-10:00 am** -- New Vegetable Garden Raised Beds, Presented by Dr. Joe Masabni, Extension Vegetable Specialist

**10:00-11:30 am** -- Pests in Fruits and Nuts

Presented by Mr. Monte Nesbitt, Extension Pecan, Fruit, Citrus Specialist

**11:30- Noon** -- Question and Answer Session.

All speakers will provide live presentations with time for questions from participants.



Join Denton County MGA  
in cyberspace for our  
October General Meeting  
& Program.

We're pleased to feature  
Jim Apken & Nancy Nance from the  
Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden,  
who will share the latest information  
about the  
Plant Trials Program.

**Advance registration is  
required.**

Free of charge.

\*Due to copyrights, the program will  
not be recorded.





## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, 10/18, 3:00PM** – KICK OFF FEATURING NPSOT PRESIDENT KIM CONROW & THE ORIGINS OF TEXAS NATIVE PLANT WEEK BY THE HONORABLE DONNA HOWARD

✓ **7:00PM** – iNATURALIST BIOBLITZ TRAINING – SAM KIESCHNICK, URBAN WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, TPWD

✓ **MONDAY, 10/19, 9:00AM** - THE BENNY J. SIMPSON ECOPARK: A TRIBUTE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY PIONEER FOR TEXAS FLORA- DANIEL CUNNINGHAM, HORTICULTURALIST AND PROGRAM COORDINATOR, TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE WATER UNIVERSITY

✓ **7:00PM** - BRINGING TEXAS NATIVE PLANTS TO TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS – KERRY GRAY-HARRISON, GARDENS MANAGER, TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS

✓ **TUESDAY, 10/20, 3:00PM** - HISTORICAL USES OF TEXAS PLANTS – CAROL CLARK, NATURE ENTHUSIAST

✓ **7:00PM** - CONSERVING THE RARE *ASCLEPIAS PROSTRATA* - PLANT CONSERVATION AT SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDENS – MICHAEL EASON, AUTHOR AND HEAD OF THE SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN RARE PLANT CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

✓ **WEDNESDAY, 10/21, 9:00AM** - VIRTUAL TOUR OF KATHY LYLES' GARDENS AND TIPS FOR MANAGING HILL COUNTRY LANDSCAPES - FREDRICKSBURG CHAPTER

✓ **7:00PM** - CARROLL ABBOTT GARDEN AT RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER – KERRVILLE CHAPTER

✓ **THURSDAY, 10/22, 3:00PM** – FRANKFORD CHURCH & PRAIRIE, AN AWAKENING – KATHY WELLS POWER, PRESIDENT, FRANKFORD PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

✓ **7:00PM** - NATIVE GRASSLAND RESTORATIONS, HOW PLANTS GROW AND HOW TO IMPROVE THEM - RICKY LINEX, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, NRCS

✓ **FRIDAY, 10/23, 9:00AM** – COFFEE TIME WITH SOME PLANT FRIENDS AT THE LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER - ANDREA DELONG-AMAYA, DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE

✓ **7:00PM** – EARLY HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY AND TOUR OF THE TWU BUTTERFLY GARDENS WITH DR. CAMELIA MAIER, PROFESSOR AND HERBARIUM DIRECTOR, TWU

**SATURDAY, 10/24, 9:00AM** – CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT, NLCP  
PANEL DISCUSSION, MEG INGLIS

**3:00PM** - NPSOT STATE MEETING OF MEMBERS  
KIM CONROW, NPSOT PRESIDENT

**7:00PM** - NPSOT CONTESTS AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

**REGISTRATION OPEN AT NPSOT.ORG**



✓ Indicates Approved for CE for DCMGA Members





#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

*Q: Hi! We live in Argyle and are struggling with a couple of our garden beds. We initially put down cardboard before filling the dirt (in 2018). We don't use chemicals. We consume the produce and fruit we grow and we also have free-range chickens. Any advice would be appreciated!*

**A:** Weed control is the "ugly" part of gardening. Here are some recommendations and tips:

- You may need to put a weed barrier down such as cardboard each season. Weeds are determined to grow and will overwinter in your soil only to show up again next year. Particularly in sunny spots, you may have to put cardboard down in the early spring each season.
- Prepare a lasagna garden bed this fall where you plan to grow vegetables in the spring. This is a method of sheet composting that includes layers of organic materials and compostable weed blocks such as cardboard or newspaper to enrich your soil without tilling.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch!!! After putting cardboard down, you can put soil on top of that, then apply a 3 – 4" layer of mulch. This makes a huge difference in tamping down weeds. It has corollary benefits of holding moisture in the soil and moderating the soil's temperature. Hardwood, cedar, cypress and pine straw mulches are all good options according to

Texas A&M AgriLife extension. Contact tree service(s) to see if they will drop off their chipped tree trimmings to use as mulch.

- Apply a pre-emergence herbicide rated for vegetable plants; it's designed to prevent weed seeds from sprouting. An organic example is corn gluten meal, which also contains 10% nitrogen that acts as a fertilizer. Another example rated for vegetables are products containing trifluralin. Both of these may require repeated applications to achieve weed control over the entire growing season. Always read the entire product label and carefully follow the instructions and safety precautions.
- Consider planting a cool-season cover crop such as buckwheat or winter rye this fall to enrich the soil and keep cool-season weeds at bay.
- Unfortunately, even with using a weed barrier and mulch, you'll still have a few weeds pop up during the growing season. Monitor your beds daily, and dig out any new weed growth as they pop up. Do your best not to let the weeds flower and go to seed. You may find you need to discard the weed plant material you remove rather than composting it, particularly if you plan to use the compost in your beds. Weed seeds seem to be able to survive even the hottest compost pile!

Sources and resources are included on the next page.



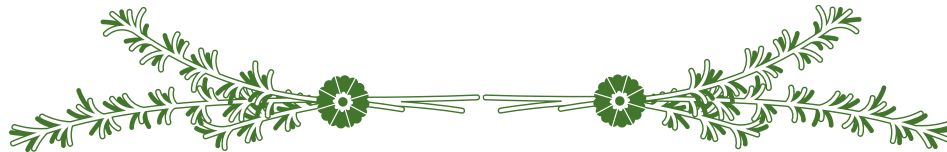
Canva Stock Photo

**Help Desk Weed Control Sources & Resources:**

- "Mulching" - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- "Vegetable Resources; Chapter VIII: Weed Management" - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- "Gardening & Landscaping, How to Grow Vegetables" - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- "Get an Early Start on Vegetable Weed Garden Control" - Michigan State University Extension
- "Using Cover Crops and Green Manures in the Home Vegetable Garden" - Wisconsin Horticulture Division of Extension
- "Fall Ground Preparation" - Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, East Texas Gardening

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*If you have questions about weed control or any horticulture-related subjects,  
please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892  
or [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com).  
It's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.*



## Rosemary Butter Recipe

### Ingredients

- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon rosemary, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon other flavorful herbs such as thyme or oregano
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced

### Directions

Using a spice or coffee grinder helps mince rosemary evenly. Add butter, garlic, and minced herbs into a food processor and mix until you have a paste. Scrape the sides of the bowl to ensure a uniform blend. Place the completed mixture onto a sheet of wax or parchment paper and roll it into a log. Refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight until firm.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

**Herb Butter**

To use for poultry, lift the skin on the breast and place slices of herb butter between the meat and the skin. For grilled meat, add a generous tab onto the meat right after removing from the grill. Rosemary butter also enhances the flavor of grilled and baked vegetables.





**TEXAS**  
**MASTER GARDENER**

**Want to Be a  
Master  
Gardener?**

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Now Recruiting for Our  
2021 Intern Class

Applications Accepted  
August 10 - October 23, 2020

**JOIN US** for our General Meeting via  
Zoom on October 14, 2020, as well as,  
an Informational Meeting via Zoom  
October 20, 2020 at 10 am  
Zoom registration will be posted on  
website as date approaches

Details and applications  
available at  
[www.dcmga.com](http://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.





**LIVE ONLINE ON  
OCTOBER 3  
GIVEAWAYS AT THE LIVE EVENT**



Denton County Master Gardener Association

# FALL GARDEN FEST ONLINE!

OCTOBER 3  
SATURDAY

SIGNUP FOR EACH TALK ON  
DCMGA.COM  
& VIEW A LIST OF GIVEAWAYS FOR  
THE LIVE EVENT

Join us online for free  
talks and giveaways on  
Saturday, October 3

10:00 am - Dr. Hennen Cummings, Turf  
Tasks for North Texas

12:00 pm - Dee Nash, Beautiful and  
Productive Kitchen Gardens

1:30 pm - Toni Moorehead, Fall/Winter  
Tips & To-do's for North Central Texas  
Gardens

3:00 pm - Betsy Marsh, Gardens  
that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water,  
Life-Giving Landscapes

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.

**VIST DCMGA.COM TO SIGN UP AND FOR MORE INFORMATION**





### 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      |
| Vice-President - Projects        | Joanne Spurgin     |
| Vice-President - Outreach        | Kathy Rainey       |
| Secretary                        | Katherine Woodward |
| Treasurer                        | Joe Beckett        |
| Communications Dir. - Systems    | Liz Moyer          |
| Communications Dir. - Promotions | Treva McFadden     |
| Education Director               | Barbara Brown      |
| Member-at-Large                  | Tammie Gurley      |
| Past President                   | Pat Moyer          |
| Extension Agent - Horticulture   | Janet Laminack     |

### Social Media

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

Twitter:

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

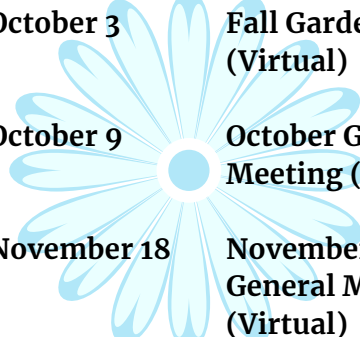
Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### Save the Date



|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| October 3   | Fall Garden Fest (Virtual)         |
| October 9   | October General Meeting (Virtual)  |
| November 18 | November General Meeting (Virtual) |

### Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
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Denton TX 76201-9026

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Help Desk:

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Communications:

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Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

**Submission deadline for the November edition of *The Root* is Thursday, October 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](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com).

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