

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy February, friends!

This short transitional month from winter to spring is filled with sweet things. First and foremost, we celebrate and welcome our newest Master Gardeners—34 members of the 2020 intern class graduated and were celebrated via protocol-appropriate doorstep deliveries. Hello, official DCMGA Texas-shaped name badge; congratulations, y'all!

Since an in-person Graduation and Awards Banquet couldn't be held during the continuing Covid restrictions, we're announcing our veteran and 2020 intern awards at our virtual Volunteer Opportunity Fair on February 10th. (DCMGA members and 2021 interns, you'll receive the link via an email coming soon to an inbox near you!) Veteran members, we'll also have our 2021 budget on the agenda for your approval. Vice President-Projects Joanne Spurgin and our Project Managers are working to bring you creative and meaningful volunteer service opportunities, so please plan to join us in cyberspace to learn about the offerings.

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<https://dcmga.com>

WHAT'S GROWING ON

-
- 01 Buds From The Board
 - 03 Project Spotlight: SWAt
 - 04 What's Growing in Member's Gardens
 - 05 Meet a Member: Lee Greer
 - 07 Volunteer Fair
 - 07 Favorite Things
 - 08 Plant of the Month: Roses
 - 12 2021 Garden Tour Preview
 - 13 Feature Article: Tree Diseases
 - 16 Congratulations Class of 2020
 - 18 Janet's Corner
 - 19 Online Education Opportunities
 - 21 Help Desk Q&A: Pomegranates

Buds From The Board (Cont.)

Speaking of 2021 interns, hello and welcome to our newest Master Gardeners in training—32 individuals who are truly the cream of the proverbial crop. These adventurous folks signed on for an intentionally virtual program this spring, and under the leadership of Intern Class Administrators Kim Wootton and Barbara Beane, I know it will be a wonderful experience. We're using a team approach to our mentoring process this year, so our interns will be even more connected via their small groups—peas in a pod! Thanks to the many individuals who work tirelessly and faithfully to ensure a successful intern program; we appreciate you all!

In-person service opportunities are raising their pretty little heads as we move slowly but surely (and safely!) through the Covid restrictions. In the meantime, as always, our mission of educating and engaging the community continues through numerous virtual events, activities, and presentations. Many of those opportunities are featured in this issue of *The Root*, so enjoy this full and fresh February issue ... and have your calendar handy.

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

Kathryn



SWAt

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

According to a 2013 study by experts at Stanford University, environmental education for K-12 students was shown to have multiple benefits for children:[1]

- Increased knowledge in science, mathematics, reading, and writing
- Improved emotional and social skills
- More environmentally friendly behavior
- Improvements in critical thinking, oral communication, analytical skills, and problem solving
- Higher motivation to learn and interest in school
- Increased interest in civic responsibility and engagement

The 2015 Texas A&M AgriLife Texas Community Futures Forum identified

"stewardship of natural resources" as an issue.[2] We certainly experience that here in Denton County as it becomes increasingly urbanized, limiting the opportunities for children to interact with nature, understand their impact on the environment, and knowledge of food production and nutrition. The fantastic folks at Denton County AgriLife Extension responded by forming the Science with Attitude (SWAt) program.



What Is SWAt?

Science With Attitude (SWAt) is an interdisciplinary collaboration of volunteers from Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and Master Wellness, 4-H youth and 4-H leaders in Denton County.[2] The SWAt team creates kits with all the lesson materials drawing on curricula from programs such as Junior Master Gardener, Sharing Nature with Children, and Growing Up Wild. Teachers can check out the kit for use in their school. Now, due to the pandemic, teachers can do these things virtually.

What Does SWAt Do?

Prior to the pandemic, and, hopefully again very soon, the SWAt team conducted direct educational outreach to children using the kits and other materials. 4-H youth taught the bee keeping presentation, and, SWAt conducted weeklong day camps in collaboration with the City of Denton Parks department. The Dallas AgriLife Research Center Stream Hydrology Trailer is managed by the SWAt team. At the "Denton ISD Days at Clear Creek" SWAt team volunteers staffed hands-on activity stations exploring three ecosystems, pelts and skins, exploring trees, up close with snakes, box turtles and all the animals found at Clear Creek. In addition, the SWAt team develops the curriculum for an

SWAt (Cont.)

AgriLife class at Lake Dallas Middle School, the only one like it in the state. This program continues with both virtual and in-person lessons written by the SWAt team.

What Is SWAt's Impact?

In 2019, the SWAt program reached 5,962 school children and teachers. Feedback from the teachers was outstanding with 71% indicating the program provided "Excellent opportunities to explore and discover nature," and 74% rated the engagement with Master Volunteers as Excellent.[2] Even in 2020, the SWAt program, although much smaller, receives accolades from participating teachers.

Want More Information?

Please contact the SWAt leadership at sciencewithattitude@gmail.com. And, when you get a chance, give a shout out to Master Gardeners Tammie Gurley, Marion Arndt, and Beth Sharum for their outstanding work!



2020 Volunteer Fair SWAt Display

DCMGA members Marion Arndt and Leah Knack sharing some of the materials available for educators to use with their classes.

Sources

1. *Stanford analysis reveals wide array of benefits from environmental education*, National Association of Environmental Education and Stanford University (2013), https://cdn.naaee.org/sites/default/files/eeworks/files/k-12_student_key_findings.pdf
2. *2019 Denton County Science With Attitude Educational In-Depth Program*, Janet Laminack (2019), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



What's Growing in Member's Gardens



Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Lea Sage Watson
Heart Leaf Fern
Hemionitis arifolia



Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Cheryl Huckabee
Red Sails Lettuce
Lactuca sativa

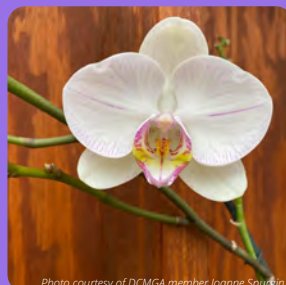


Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Joanne Spurgeon
Orchid
Orchidaceae



Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Joanne Spurgeon
Variegated Haworthia
Haworthia cymbiformis f. variegata

Meet Lee Greer

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Lee Greer had no plan when he retired in 2018 from Jason's Deli after a twenty-four-year career in marketing, strategy, consumer insights, and analytics. He dabbled with robotics working for Chowbotics, a pioneering company that developed Sally, the world's first salad-making robot. After a one-year sabbatical to "explore the future of food, health, robotics automation, blockchain technologies, agrotechnologies, and other areas affecting our human experiences with both consumer and business products," Greer Strategic Consulting was born with Lee as the principal consultant.

Then inspiration struck Lee in the form of his mother-in-law Norma. Norma was an avid gardener, an active Master Gardener member of the Tarrant County Master Gardener Association, and president of the Gardeners Club. She was an artist and loved the colors and shapes of flowers. When Norma passed away, Lee inherited her gardening library. Influenced by Norma, in 2020 Lee turned his focus from selling food to growing food and began his journey with the Denton County Master Gardener Association.



**Lee Greer,
DCMGA Class of 2020**



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Members Lee Greer

Cabbage Heads Grown
in Lee's home vegetable garden in
Flower Mound.

Lee is a big ideas kind of guy. He planted his first vegetable garden last year at his home in Flower Mound. He quickly graduated to preparing a half-acre ridge-and-swale vegetable garden plot on a forty-acre property in Aledo, Texas. He has an aggressive planting plan for succession crops, including tomatoes, squashes, peas, and other vegetables. He's in the process of installing a drip irrigation system. He plans to donate the entire harvest to local food banks through his recently formed non-profit corporation Clearfork Creek Farm. How's that for going from no plan to a super plan!

Lee Greer (Cont.)

As a 2020 Master Gardener Intern, Lee persevered through the COVID-19 shutdown to successfully graduate in January. He is a valued member of the Communications Team and Technology Committee, and recently took on the role of DCMGA.com webmaster along with Em Steel. Lee's big ideas have helped DCMGA streamline administrative tasks like Member Calendar updates and Zoom meeting requests. He has many more ideas for helping DCMGA continue its mission by leveraging technology.

A lifelong learner, Lee earned his MBA from UT-Dallas in 2013. During his mid-life crisis, Lee said instead of getting a red Corvette he got an MBA! He earned his Master Composter certification through Keep Lewisville Beautiful and has attended several Flower Mound Library Gardening Series classes. He's also looking forward to taking Greenhouse Management Advanced Training.

In Lee's gardener's library, his favorite books include:

- *The New Organic Grower, 3rd Edition: A Master's Manual of Tools and Techniques for the Home and Market Gardener*, 30th Anniversary Edition, Eliot Coleman (2018), Chelsea Green Publishing
- *The Pruner's Handbook: Practical Pruning Advice for Healthy, Beautiful Plants*, John Malins (1996), David & Charles Uk.

Thank you Norma for inspiring Lee to become a Master Gardener! We're looking forward to all the big ideas Lee has in store for DCMGA.



The Half-Acre Ridge-and-Swale Veggie Garden

Lee is preparing at his place in Aledo. He plans to donate the entire harvest to local food banks through his recently formed non-profit corporation Clearfork Creek Farm.

DCMGA Virtual Volunteer Opportunity Fair and 2020 Awards Announcements

Since an in-person VOF is not protocol-appropriate during the continuing COVID-19 restrictions, we're presenting our service opportunities in cyberspace.

Prior to the virtual VOF, our 2020 annual award winners will be announced, and we'll also vote to approve the 2021 budget.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Interns, look for the meeting link in our weekly email. We look forward to seeing you on February 10th at 10 am!



Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2021 Tree Seedling Sale ends soon.

Hurry and order yours before they sell out.

Visit [Upcoming Events](#) on the DCMGA website.



Book

Easy Gardens for North Central Texas, Steve Huddleston and Pamela Crawford (2009), Color Garden Publishing - Full color on every page, written for this specific area by credentialed authors who have extensive local experience.

YouTube

Monty Don on Gardeners' World, Monty Don (2017), BBC Gardeners' World Live - The show goes through the year of seasonal gardening as well as traveling to well known gardens around the world. [Monty Don on Gardeners' World](#)

Television Show

Growing a Greener World, (2010), PBS - Host Joe Lamp'l demonstrates a hands-on gardening project, visits interesting gardens all over the U.S., and interviews interesting people making a positive impact on our planet. Aired on Saturday mornings at 8:30am on KERA-TV, DFW PBS. [Growing a Greener World](#)

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Plant of the Month - Roses

*"That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet,"
Juliet famously said upon meeting Romeo.*

BY LEE ANN YATES

Roses have a long, colorful history and are symbols of love, beauty, politics, and war. Fossilized evidence shows the rose to be 35 million years old. Across the Northern Hemisphere, 150 species of genus *Rosa* naturally occur and are added to constantly. About 5000 years ago, rose cultivation began, probably in China. They were found extensively across the Middle East during the Roman Empire where they were used at celebrations, for perfumes, and for medicine.

During the 15th century, the Yorks and the Lancasters, represented by white and red roses respectively, fought for control of England for thirty years in the War of the Roses. By the late 15th century, the Tudors created the "Tudor rose," uniting the white and red roses as they united the opposing forces across England. By the 17th century roses were so highly prized that royalty in some countries considered them legal tender to be used for barter and for payments. Roses hold deep symbolism in religious traditions of Christianity, Islam, Sufism, and other religions.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Sharrie Ely

Duchesse de Brabant

an Earth-Kind® Rose recommended by Aggie Horticulture. With long lasting fragrance and full cupped, repetitious blooms, this rose makes a great stand-alone specimen plant.

In the early 1800s, Josephine, Bonaparte's beloved wife, built an extensive collection of roses at Chateau de Malmaison, her residence outside of Paris, but little remains of their grandeur. By the late 1800s, increasing trade between China and Europe brought botanical wonders from the East, including new roses. These Chinese roses are the ancestors of today's hybrids.

Rose Capital of Texas

Roses play an important cultural role across the United States, as well. Pasadena, California has held the annual Tournament of Roses parade since 1890, joined by college football's Rose Bowl game in 1902. Portland, Oregon has held an annual Rose Festival since 1905 and is home to an International Rose Test Garden, the oldest continuously operating public rose test garden in the US. Closer to home is Tyler, Texas, the "Rose Capital of Texas." The Tyler Rose Garden holds 35,000 rose bushes within 14 acres, is

Roses (Cont.)

open from dawn to dusk, and is free! A nearby museum houses a history of the local rose industry as well as gorgeous gowns worn by the Texas Rose Festival Queen. The American Rose Society exists to promote rose culture, preservation, and appreciation, in addition to improving education, research, and keeping high standards of excellence within the industry. There are local branches in Collin County, Dallas, and Ft. Worth.

It is February, love is in the air, and if you plan well and act soon, the scent of Love's favorite flower, The Rose, will be in the air this spring. What is THE Rose? Why, it is whichever rose is your favorite or, if you are like many of us – favorites. Maybe you have planted one or more already in your landscape, or you inherited roses with a house you bought. Perhaps you want to add roses to your landscape. This is the perfect time to address planting and pruning roses for a flush of blooms in the spring.

Rose Classifications

The American Rose Society has recently approved a new system for rose classification: Species or "wild" roses; Old Garden roses (types that existed before 1867 when hybrids were introduced); and Modern roses – the hybrids so prevalent today. These include Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas, Polyanthas, and many more. For more information on each type, visit the ARS webpage:

<https://www.rose.org/single-post/2018/06/11/Rose-Classifications>

Plant Roses in North Texas

If you want to add a rose or two to your landscape, now is a great time to plant! Roses need at least six hours of sun every day, but they will tolerate light afternoon shade and even appreciate it in the heat of summer.

Too much shade, though, and you won't get any beautiful blossoms – and that would just be a shame!

Growing in shade also promotes mildew and fungal diseases, like black spot disease.

Knowing the mature size of your chosen rose is important for spacing the rose in relation to other roses and other plants. Good air circulation around each plant is absolutely essential! Spacing your rose plants apart from each other, two to three feet apart, will aid in controlling those fungal diseases.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Sharrie Ely

Spice Rose

another Earth-Kind® Rose, produces waves of blush pink, double blossoms that have a peppery fragrance.

Roses (Cont.)

Another reason to spread rose plants away from each other is to slow down any spread of Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) which has been devastating rose plantings throughout North Texas. If your area gets strong winds, consider planting a barrier to protect your rose plants to reduce damage to those beautiful blossoms. Avoid planting directly under or near trees – the shade-sun thing, but also because rose roots are poor competitors with tree or large shrub roots.

Good drainage, at the surface and below, is another essential factor for success with roses. They definitely do not like wet feet, and since Wellies for your roses are impractical, check the drainage capacity for your soil. Planting in a raised bed or amending your soil appropriately may be a good idea for your site. Before planting, taking and submitting a soil sample for analysis will be helpful in addressing particular needs of roses, especially acidity levels, as roses prefer slightly acid soil (6.0–6.5 pH).

February is a great time to plant roses while they are dormant, or not actively growing. The advantage of winter planting is that the roots have longer to establish themselves before top growth begins as the weather warms up. If you can't get your plants in the ground immediately after you get them home, be sure to keep them in a cool location and keep the roots from drying out. If you are going for a large, formal rose garden look with parallel rows, plant your roses in beds at least five feet wide, with at least three feet between the rows. An additional four to five feet of walking space between beds for maintenance is necessary also.



Bare Root Roses

For bare root roses, soak the roots of the plants in a bucket or tub of water for several hours, or overnight, before planting. Don't try to plant if your soil is wet – wait a couple of days after a heavy rain – but don't plant in completely dry soil either. Next, dig holes for each plant, individually, at least twelve to twenty-four inches deep and sixteen to eighteen inches in diameter depending on the size of the root system. You want to be able to spread the roots out without wrapping them around or kinking or bending them. Refill the hole with the soil to within eight inches of the top. Tamp the soil down with your hands, then form a cone of soil in the center of the hole large enough so the top of the cone is about three inches below the top surface of the hole. An easy way to check this is to place your shovel handle across the top of the hole over the cone. Set the plant on top of the cone and spread the roots out around the cone. Plant each rose individually, using sharp pruners to clip off any damaged or broken roots. Trim all other roots about one inch from the tip to encourage new feeder root development. Enlarge the hole to accommodate a larger root system, rather than trimming roots to fit a smaller hole.

Cover the roots with enough soil to stabilize the plant. Fill the hole with water, allow it to drain away, and fill a second time. After the water drains this time, fill the rest of the hole with soil, mounding it just slightly above the bed level to allow for some settling as the rose and the soil get comfy with each other. Make sure that the bud union, or grafting point, is two inches above the final bed level. If the soil settles to the point that the bud union sinks lower than two inches above the level of the bed, raise the plant to the proper height by gently pulling it up, sloooooowwwly coaxing it upward to its proper height. Don't yank it or pull hard, just firmly, then tamp the soil around it again.

After planting, if the canes have not already been cut back to eight to ten inches above the ground, prune them with sharp pruners, making an angled cut about 1/4 inch above a bud on the outside of the stem.

Roses (Cont.)

This will encourage new growth in an outward direction, increasing air flow on the inside of the plant. Remove any weak, damaged, or spindly growth at the base of the canes.

Roses have somewhat of a reputation for being fussy and hard to grow, but if you choose wisely, you will be blessed with abundant blossoms. Roses that have been deemed Earth-Kind® will thrive without special care once they are established. You can find a list of these Texas-hearty roses at: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/cultivars/>. You will be surprised at the beauty awaiting there! Happy Gardening ... and take some time to smell the roses!

The optimist sees the rose and not its thorns; the pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious to the rose. ~ Kahlil Gibran

Resources

Texas Forest Trail, "Tyler: Tyler Municipal Rose Garden and Museum"

<https://texasforesttrail.com/plan-your-adventure/historic-sites-and-cities/sites/tyler-municipal-rose-garden-and-museum>

Texas A&M AgriLife, Aggie Horticulture

"Roses: How To Plant"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/rosejanne.html>

"Earth-Kind Roses"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/cultivars/>

"Pruning Methods"

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

Texas A&M AgriLife, AgriLife Extension

"Rose Rosette Virus"

<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/landscaping/rose-rosette-virus/>

"Earth-Kind Rose Cultivars"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/cultivars/>

University of Illinois Extension, Our Rose Garden, "The History of Roses"

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/roses/history.cfm>

DCMGA Rose Rosette Info

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

American Rose Society

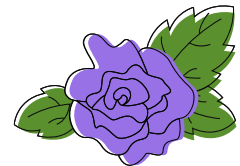
<https://www.rose.org/>

Rose Rosette

<https://roserosette.org/>

Goodreads, Roses Quotes

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/roses>



To read this month's complete
"Roses" Plant of the Month article, visit:
["Planting and caring for roses"](#)

Additional Topics included are:

- Taking Care of Roses in your Landscape
- Rose Rosette Disease

2021 Garden Tour Preview

Four-Season Wildscape

*Editor's Note: For the next few months, we will share a sneak peak of this year's Garden Tour locations.
Be prepared to see some colorful and creative gardens.*

This garden of many rooms has been transformed from a typical suburban lawn and hedges into a wildlife habitat. There are more than 1700 species of plants that create a never-ending cycle of year-round bloom, food, and shelter. All plants serve at least three purposes: habitat, be edible or medicinal, and create unique beauty.

Some of the highlights of this garden include magical creatures from literature characters, rare specific host plants for butterflies, birds, and wildlife, and an eco-balanced pond that uses natural filtration, rainwater collection, and permaculture gardening for a sustainable ecosystem.



From the steward of this garden:

"I garden not for pretty, but for the squirrels, birds, bees, butterflies, frogs, and lizards that I want to invite to live here. As all gardens do, this has changed over time as I have. I have drifted to permaculture and habitat incorporating native and adaptive plants that feed me, body and soul, and my wildlife friends. This garden is my sanctuary. It has healed me literally. From heartbreak to cancer...wandering around unseen corners and losing my sense of time, working in my garden has brought me back to wholesomeness

time and again. I enjoy watching the creatures drink from the waterfalls and interact with me. Experiencing the change of light through the canopy of leaves to the ceiling of sky that winter brings helps me treasure each season of life.



"I am an artisan. I created this garden of whimsy—children's storybook characters, art designs in metal, glass, and sculpture that fit naturally into the overall wildscape. It is meant to bring a smile, laughter, and a sense of exploration to those who visit."

Tree Diseases

BY JANIE FARLER

North Texas home owners cherish their trees for their beauty and for their shade protection. Unfortunately, trees can experience problems that affect their attractive appearance and may even lead to death. Trees are vulnerable to environmental stress, infectious diseases, insects and human-caused damage. Correctly diagnosing the cause of a tree's problem is the most important step in successful treatment.

To determine if your tree has a disease, examine the whole tree not just the area showing symptoms suggests Iowa State University Extension Service (*Diagnosing Tree Problems*).

- Check leaves for holes or ragged edges, discoloration or deformities
- Look at the tree's trunk for damage to the bark such as cracks or splits
- Consider previous activity that may have impacted the tree's root system such as planting shrubs nearby or construction of a sidewalk or adding hardscape like a deck or patio

The following diseases occur in Denton County. This is not all-inclusive, but Master Gardeners have seen all of these (with the exception of oak wilt). If you need help diagnosing a tree problem, send a picture of the entire tree and close-ups of the problem area(s) to the help desk at master.gardener@dentoncounty.com. If it is a new tree, include a picture of the bottom of the trunk where it meets the soil. Include such information as:

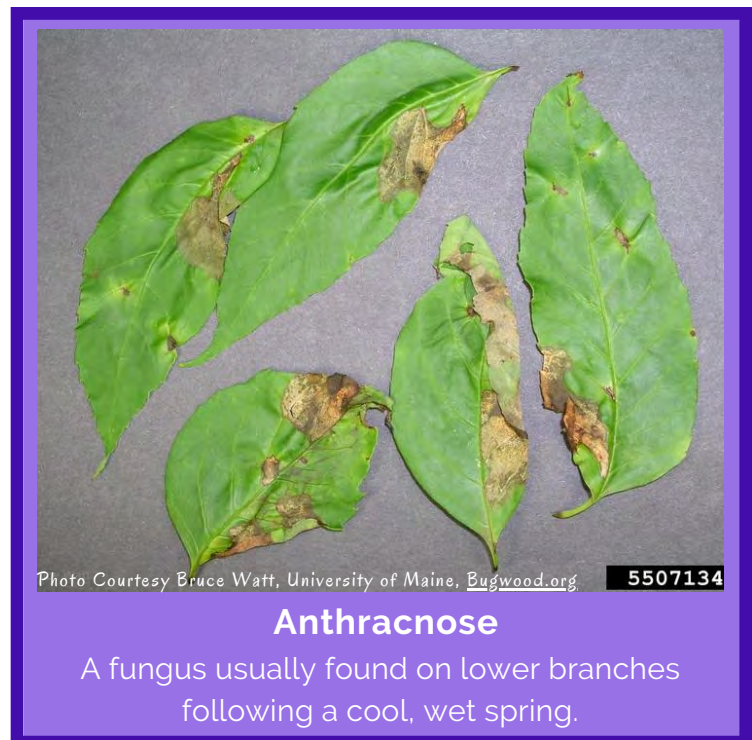
- Age of the tree
- When the problem was noticed
- Sudden or gradual onset
- Presence of insects
- Anything else you believe is relevant

Anthracnose

This fungus is usually on lower branches, following a cool, wet, spring. Lesions on leaves are the only symptom. It is quite common on ash trees in this area.

Repeated annual defoliation caused by anthracnose weakens trees and makes them more susceptible to insects and other diseases.

Source: University of Illinois IPM,
"Anthracnose Disease of Shade Trees"
Retrieved from
<http://ipm.illinois.edu/diseases/series600/rpd621/>



Tree Diseases (Cont.)

Photo Courtesy William Jacobi, Colorado State University, 5366748, Bugwood.org.



Mushroom Root Rot

The white fungus is a distinguishing feature of this disease.

Mushroom Root Rot (or Oak Root Rot) *Armillaria spp.*

These parasitic fungi cause death, wood decay, and growth reduction. They infect and kill trees that have been weakened by competition, other pests, or environmental factors. The fungi also infect healthy trees, either killing them or predisposing them to attacks by other fungi or insects. There may be mushrooms at the base of the tree. When the bark is peeled back, a white fungus (pictured) is present and is a distinguishing feature of the disease. Lawn grass growing close to the tree may encourage the fungus.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Retrieved from

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5299329.pdf

Bacterial Leaf Scorch *Xylella fastidiosa*

"Bacterial Leaf Scorch is an infectious disease transmitted by insects that feed on xylem (water-conducting tissue). The bacteria colonize and clog the xylem. Water can no longer be transported, and the tree looks as if it needs water. There is a band of brown around the outer edges of the leaves, with a halo separating the dead tissue from the green tissue. Symptoms recur each year, eventually killing the tree. It is easily confused with physiological leaf scorch. There is no treatment available." The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab can verify the diagnosis (see Resources).

Source: The United States National Arboretum Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

Retrieved from

https://www.fs.usda.gov/naspf/sites/default/files/publications/bls_amenity_trees.pdf



Photo Courtesy Nancy Gregory, University of Delaware, Bugwood.org, 5427648

Bacterial Leaf Scorch

Tree Diseases (Cont.)

White Rot Botryosphaeria spp.

Botryosphaeria is an opportunistic fungus. Symptoms are commonly wilting or dieback of a branch or branches on a tree or shrub that otherwise appears healthy. "Cankered twigs and branches may not be noticeable until wilt and dieback occur. Removing the bark reveals discoloration of the wood. Cankers may appear sunken or be contained by callused wound wood. In other cases, bark may peel and drop from cankered areas."

Source: Bush, Elizabeth A., College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech

Retrieved from <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-726/450-726.pdf>

Photo Courtesy Donald Owen, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Bugwood.org



Photo Courtesy University of Georgia Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



White Rot

Additional Information

This University of California site is extremely helpful. Click on a tree and get a list of pests, diseases, and management options:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/plantmenu.html>

This is another great resource for oaks: <http://plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/landscaping/trees/oak/>

The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab in College Station can help diagnose disease and fungi. Obtain a submission form here:

<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu/forms/>

For questions about taking samples or proper packaging, send an email to plantclinic@tamu.edu

Editor's Note:

This is a small portion of the complete article on Tree Diseases. Visit [Tree Diseases](https://dcmga.com/files/2021/01/Tree-Diseases-bmb-update01-21.pdf) (<https://dcmga.com/files/2021/01/Tree-Diseases-bmb-update01-21.pdf>) for the complete article.

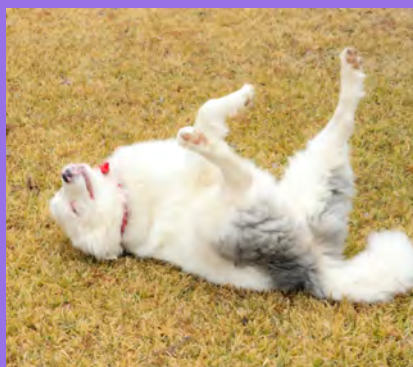
Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

BY KIM WOOTON

The pandemic threw a number of obstacles at the Class of 2020. They had to adapt from an in-person to a virtual learning format on-the-fly, deal with ever-changing restrictions on completing their volunteer service hours, and still complete the rigorous training and tests required for them to certify. Yet, no matter how often the requirements and opportunities changed, these new members kept an inspiring attitude of optimism and creativity, conquering every challenge posed.

Even their highly anticipated graduation banquet became a Covid Casualty in the light of ever mounting cases and tight restrictions. However, the can-do spirit of the Denton County Master Gardeners rose to new heights during this time. A Graduation Committee was formed consisting of a dozen veterans, the class administrators and mentors, Janet Laminack and Nikki Johnson. These dedicated people met over a period of several months, and ultimately came up with a plan to celebrate each of the 34 graduates. Over the course of two weeks, a handful of eager volunteers traveled to the far reaches of the Denton County Galaxy in their separate cars to gather, socially distanced and masked, in front of the Interns' houses to cheer and present their certificates and badges. It was truly a labor of love, and we hope it was special for each of our graduating members.

Class of 2020, YOU DID IT! You overcame during a time of struggle. You persevered in the face of the unknown. You earned your credentials and you are now Denton County Master Gardeners. We are all proud of you. Congratulations!



A Graduation Celebrated By All

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! (Cont.)

Emily Bilcik
Pamela Boyd
Ann Clintsman
Tami Guess
Kendrick Lewis
Robin McCormick
Gary Shafferman
Jennifer Smith
Becky Parnell
Linda Burman
Randy Condit

Yvonne Wernecke
Maria Gasca
Tabitha Mason
Donnette Alexander
Amal Ashmawi
Cathy Berg
Kelli Bixler
Sherry Connell
Linda Lunger
Edsell Harrell
Lee Greer
Kerry Quinto

Brad Allison
Judy Allen
Nancy Blakney
Cody Acord
Em Steele
Sandy LaQuey
Mike Hamilton
Sherry Vanatta
Lindsey Larned
Melissa Migis
Beckey Cortines



2020 Intern Class



Congratulations



Janet's Corner

BY JANET LAMINACK, AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, DENTON COUNTY

There's nothing I can say that hasn't been said over and over about how weird this past year has been. I'm not the only one who never suspected it would shut down our lives so completely and for so long. That being said, I really miss the Master Gardeners!

In a time of distress in our community, I'm cut off from those passionate individuals who work towards making the world a better place. To make matters worse, I know that you passionate individuals are feeling stymied in being able to take action during this time.

While activity hasn't entirely ceased, it has been very different. The Master Gardeners have done great things this past year to stay connected and to support the community. Gardening became really popular! People spending more time outdoors or at home put our Help Desk through a workout. They answered a record number of calls this past year. Thank you, Help Desk! Sometimes I get push back from someone who doesn't want to talk with a Master Gardener about their problem, they want a horticulturist. I assure them without hesitation that they are going to get a very thorough examination and answer to their question ... much better than my answers!

I read the articles in *The Root* and wow! Such wonderful contributions of research-based information shared in an accessible and friendly way by Master Gardeners. And the virtual holiday party was a delight! It was important to be reminded of how creative and multi-faceted our members are – all the presentations and topics were fabulous. And of course, so many of you have been able to continue gardening projects to feed the hungry, support pollinators, and inspire and beautify our community.

As gardeners, we have patience (sometimes). As gardeners, we know that many flowers have their time to shine and their time to just survive in the background. We realize that even trees take a rest during the winter. That is what I keep reminding myself, this is just a short pause. A rest that we too often skip right over in our busy "always on" lives. Enjoy the dormant period a bit longer, friends. Stay safe and healthy and we will get back to it soon.



February is the border between winter and spring.

~Terri Guillemets





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/

DCMGA YouTube CE Programs

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"Preserving the Harvest:

"Growing Green and Saving Blue,"

"Gardens Gone Wild"

"Getting Buggy"

"Texas Trees: Caring for Your Legacy"

"Using Technology for Plant Identification"

Business meetings

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

Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas AgriLife posts great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook. There are over 50 presentations here. View them at:

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

Citrus Varieties:

Gardening on the Gulf Coast

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture

<https://youtu.be/wSIRjQJnxhE>

Chat with Green Aggies

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

All previous recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH>

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 Fall Garden Fest Presentations

Dr. Hennen Cummings at 10:00 am Presenting "Your North Texas Turf Needs"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=EpMG6dvYdEY>

Toni Moorehead at 1:30 pm Presenting

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjCVnRQyX74>

Betsy Marsh at 3:00 p.m. Presenting

"Gardens that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5a2HXvkmYs>

DCMGA Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series

February 18, 2021. 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

"Gardens Gone Wild: Putting Out the Welcome Mat for Wildlife Habitat," Presented by Kathryn Wells

Event location: (VIA Zoom) Aubrey Area Library

To preregister: <https://dcmga.com/gaags/>

BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series

February 2, 2021. Noon to 1 PM.

"When flowering plants took over the world: New insights into the changing structure of forests during the Cretaceous" by Dr. Dori Contreras (Perot Museum),

More info at <https://bit.ly/39M7MYb>

DCMGA Flower Mound Library Spring Garden Series

February 1, 2021. 7:00 PM.

"Organic from the Ground Up – Get the real dirt on Organic Gardening," Presented by Lynda Harvey.

Event location: (VIA Zoom)

To preregister: <https://dcmga.com/2021-flower-mound-library-spring-gardening-series/>

February 8, 2021. 7:00 PM.

"Beyond Sprig of Parsley," Presented by Bonnie Ambrose.

Event location: (VIA Zoom)

To preregister: <https://dcmga.com/2021-flower-mound-library-spring-gardening-series/>

February 15, 2021. 7:00 PM.

"Trees Please," Presented by Lynda Harvey.

Event location: (VIA Zoom)

To preregister: <https://dcmga.com/2021-flower-mound-library-spring-gardening-series/>

February 22, 2021. 7:00 PM.

"The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Perennial Plants," Presented by Carol Rowley.

Event location: (VIA Zoom)

To preregister: <https://dcmga.com/2021-flower-mound-library-spring-gardening-series/>

Special presentations from DCMGA Christmas party

begin at 24:36 minutes on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7j2R5xA1EU>

Denton County Master Gardener
YouTube Channel

Check it out! And don't forget to subscribe!

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

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: I'd like to plant pomegranates in a sunny side of my yard. Is this the best time of year to plant? What varieties are recommended for Denton County? Do I need two different varieties for cross-pollination?

A: When pomegranates arrive in the produce department every fall, I find myself distracted by a flurry of thoughts: I need to plant pomegranates. I should have already planted pomegranates. I bet a bowl of pomegranates on my holiday table would be beautiful. I need to plant pomegranates. It's a mad cycle, I tell you. Lucky for you and me, this is the perfect time of year to plant pomegranates (Jan-Mar). These delicious show-stoppers are self-pollinating, growing both male and female flowers on the same plant; however, they will bear larger fruit if cross-pollination is possible or enhanced. Studies are showing that three cultivars do best in north Texas: Al-sirinar, Salavatski, and Russian 18. Plant in a

sunny spot on the south side of your property for best fruiting.

Plant pomegranates, and any fruit tree for that matter, with a measure of patience! It will take three to four years for the shrub to begin bearing fruit. In the interim, follow the care guidelines listed in the first linked article, below. For the first few years that your young pomegranates are in the ground, I would recommend carefully protecting them from freeze and frost. The second link, below, lists a variety of ways to protect young plants from cold damage. So, let's plant now to fend off the otherwise inevitable "pomegranate regret" that plagues some of us in the produce department every fall.

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/files/2015/04/pomegranates_2015.pdf

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/FrostsandFreezes.pdf>



If you have questions about any 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.

Denton County Master Gardener Association



This past 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/>

November's Help Desk Q&A on Pruning Perennials was so well received that it now has it's own dedicated DCMGA webpage:

"When and how to prune perennial flowering plants"

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/perennials/when-and-how-to-prune-perennial-flowering-plants/>

The Newsletter Editor is looking for
an assistant
who has **Canva** (or any "drag-and-drop"
layout/design program) experience and/or knowledge.



If you would like to help, please contact the Communications Director
dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Earn Volunteer hours from home!



2021 GREATER AUBREY AREA GARDENING SERIES

**Jump start your 2021
gardening with this
free educational series.**

Aubrey Area Library
226 Countryside Drive
Aubrey, TX 76227



JANUARY 21

Texas Trees

Pat Moyer



AUGUST 19

**Waterwise
Gardening**

Jolayne LaCour



FEBRUARY 18

**Gardens Gone Wild:
Putting Out the Welcome
Mat for Wildlife Habitat**

Kathryn Wells



SEPTEMBER 16

Texas Native Plants

Liz Moyer



MARCH 18

Roses

Pat & Don Edwards



OCTOBER 21

Made for the Shade

AgriLife TBD

**WE'RE GOING
VIRTUAL!**

Until we can meet in person, all
sessions will be presented virtually
through Zoom.

Register for each session at:
www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**Third Thursday: Jan, Feb, & March
and August, September & October**

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KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

The Denton County Master Gardener Association's *2021 Spring Gardening Series*

in partnership with The Flower Mound Public Library

February 1:

Organic from the Ground Up

Get the real dirt on Organic Gardening for all aspects of your yard.

Presented by Lynda Harvey, Denton County Master Gardener,
Natural-Organic Certification by the Texas Organic Research Center

February 8:

Beyond a Sprig of Parsley

Discover the many uses of herbs and how and where to grow them.

Presented by Bonnie Ambrose, Denton County Master Gardener

February 15:

Trees Please!

Explore the needs and growth habits of trees. Learn how to nurture your existing trees or choose a new one for your landscape.

Presented by Lynda Harvey, Denton County Master Gardener

February 22:

The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Perennial Plants

Learn about perennials: What they are, how they grow and propagate, and which ones have been most successful for Master Gardeners.

Presented by Carol Rowley, Denton County Master Gardener



All programs start at 7 p.m. and will be presented virtually through Zoom.

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



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DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

2021 Events

Denton County Speaker Series:

Aubrey: Jan 21-Oct 21

Flower Mound: Coming Spring 2021

Lewisville: Watch for updates:

<https://keepLewisvillebeautiful.org/garden-secrets/>

Children's Garden: TBD

Plant Sale: TBD

Garden Tour: May 8

Junior Master Gardener Camp: TBD

**Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show:
June 19**

Design Your Yard Class: TBD

Fall Garden Fest: Oct. 2

DCMGA New Member Round Up: Oct. 19



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.

2021 Board of Directors

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Communications Dir. - Promotions	Kathi Fast
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

February 10 Virtual Volunteer Fair / Annual Awards

March 3 Board Meeting - Virtual

March 10 General Meeting & Program - Virtual ("Permaculture")

Contact Information

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940.349.2892

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Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the March edition of The Root is Monday, February 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Cheryl Huckabee at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

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