

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy: DCMGA Member Barbara Brown

Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy April, Friends!

Spring has sprung here in North Texas, and, each day, many of us are happily discovering renewed life in our gardens. Some plants that we thought were Winter Storm Uri casualties are flush with fresh growth—what a joy!

If some of your plants didn't make it (or are looking a little past their prime), it's an opportune time to reimagine some garden spaces and try something new. And, although Programs Co-Chair Beverly Duncan planned our 2021 General Meeting schedule way back in 2020, she fortuitously scheduled a perfect speaker with a very timely (and evergreen) presentation for our April program.

So, on April 14th (still via Zoom), we're pleased to welcome Carol Clark (Native Plant Society of Texas Member and Past President, Texas Master Naturalist, Conservation Specialist, and self-described Botany Enthusiast), who will present, "Just Enough Latin to Go Plant Shopping." Advance registration is required, and, as always, our general meetings are free and open to the public.

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

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

All that plant inspiration will be perfect, as April is National Gardening Month. (Wait; raise your hand if you thought every month was national gardening month.) Our Communications Team has lots of educational engagements and fun features planned to celebrate the occasion.

Speaking of celebrations, National Volunteer Week is April 18th—24th, and our Denton County Master Gardeners and interns are the very best of the bunch! Every Denton County MGA project and program is carefully and thoughtfully chosen to fulfill and further our mission: educating and engaging county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that sustain gardens, landscapes, and communities.

And, behind every project and program are the individuals who selflessly serve, lending their time and talents to support our Association and our community. Abundant thanks to each and every one of you; what a pleasure and privilege to serve with such stellar gardeners and friends!

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you bring life to this land! May your gardens multiply and prosper—filled to overflowing with your very favorites—this month and every month.

Kathryn



April is National Garden Month



Denton County Master Gardener Association is celebrating National Garden Month

Each week in April we will post lots of fun and educational gardening information to our [Facebook page](#) and [dcmga.com](#).

- Regional parks & trails to enjoy
- Master Gardener favorite plants
- Master Gardener "regrets" plants
- Top gardening tips

So, get outside and garden this month with family, friends, and neighbors!

What's Growing in Member's Gardens



Loddon Lily, Snowflake
Capsicum Leucojum aestivum



Hyacinth
Hyacinthus



Viola
Violas



Bearded Iris
Iris germanica

Janet's Corner

BY JANET LAMINACK, AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, DENTON COUNTY

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week and the theme is "shining a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve." I want to take a moment to shine a beam of sunshine on Master Gardeners! It is a pleasure and inspiration to work with the Denton County Master Gardeners. 2020 took away a lot of opportunities to serve, but man, y'all wanted to get out there. I had to keep holding you back! Not only were our opportunities limited, but I miss seeing your faces, hearing your cheery voices and learning about all the great things you are doing in our community. And despite the year we had, Master Gardeners found creative ways to continue educating and supporting the community. In fact, the numbers tell the story. In 2019, DCMGA contributed 25,900 hours of service. In 2020, DCMGA contributed 20,480 hours and this is without Plant Sale or Garden Tour or in-person Fall Garden Fest!!!



Photo Courtesy Janet Laminack

I am thankful that you spend your precious time and energy serving as a Master Gardener. You truly inspire me.



Book

P. Allen Smith's Colors for the Garden: Creating Compelling Color Themes, P. Allen Smith (2006), Clarkson Potter Publisher - An excellent reference for looking at color combinations for the garden

E-Newsletter

Neil Sperry's e-gardens Newsletter, Neil Sperry Author & Publisher - Weekly newsletter delivered by email includes timely tips, featured plants, and answers to frequently asked questions. [Neil Sperry's Weekly e-gardens Newsletter](#)

Facebook Group

What's Wrong With My Plant? - A public, moderated Facebook Group with nearly 47,000 members. Focuses on accurate diagnosis of abnormal plant symptoms. The members comment on diagnosis, cure or prevention with a focus on Integrated Pest Management. [What's wrong with my plant? Facebook Group](#)

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

The Root Anniversary Recognition

BY KAREN GIBSON

In April 2018, DCMGA members, along with non-members subscribed to the DCMGA mailing list, received the first issue of *The Root*. While that first issue was a baby in size (a mere 10 pages in length), it contained what continues today as our core information: Buds From The Board (words from the current DCMGA president), Top Gardening Tips, Meet a Member, Project Spotlight, Plant of the Month, the Feature Article, and the Help Desk Question & Answer.

As we head into our fourth year of publication, I would like to acknowledge and recognize the core group that has made *The Root* possible each month. Thank you for making my job as Newsletter Editor easy, and most of all, enjoyable. It continues to be a pleasure to work with each of you.

If you see these members out and about at activities, or even virtually, be sure to give them a pat on the back and thank them for their ongoing service.



Karen Gibson

- Newsletter Editor, *The Root*



April 2018 Inaugural Issue



Kathryn Wells

- Instigating Communications
Director who Made it All Happen
- Author/Photographer



**Second Place Written
Communication win at the 2019
TMGA Search for Excellence Awards**

The Root Anniversary Recognition (Cont.)



Liz Moyer

- Past Communications Director Extraordinaire
- Author



Cheryl Huckabee

- Current Communications Director Extraordinaire
- Help Desk Q&A, Author



Barbara Brown

- Author / Editor
- Indispensable Go-To Person Whenever the Newsletter Editor is Stuck



Gay Campbell

- Meet a Member Contributor



Kathy Rainey

- Project Spotlight Contributor



Lee Ann Yates

- Plant of the Month Contributor



Michele Rawleigh

- Author
- Plant of the Month Contributor



Joanne Spurgin

- Author
- PM News / Garden Visits

The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives.

~ Gertrude Jekyll



Gardenscapers

BY KATHY RAINEY

Welcome to spring time! It's that time of the year when Master Gardeners are their busiest. It's a good time to share the good work our Gardenscapers Teams have been working on since fall, through winter, and during Covid restrictions that will come to fruition this spring and early summer. The program we call Gardenscapers consists of multiple landscape planning and design projects within Denton County that address the wide variety of soil types, drought conditions, and the capricious nature of our climate to create sustainable gardens. The organizations we serve share a common mission with DCMGA to educate and engage county residents in creating and implementing sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities. Our projects include involvement of resident volunteers who work with Master Gardeners to develop environmentally sustainable, low maintenance gardens using Texas native and waterwise plants. Several projects include adult and youth volunteers interested in horticultural and environmental practices to benefit bees, butterflies, song birds, beneficial insects, and water conservation.

Our current projects support a variety of organizations including the County of Denton, Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates, COAs (HOAs), and non-profit organizations. Pictured below are some of our projects as they were presented to us and a description of goals and challenges of each along with our approach to address the goals of the project. These projects will be transformed over the next few months.

Greater Lewisville Community Theatre

The non-profit Board for the Greater Lewisville Community Theatre requested assistance to design the entry garden for the theatre. They are interested in native plants and low maintenance. The Theatre Board is coordinating improvements to the drainage, irrigation, and the planter wall. The High School Youth Ministry from The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation in Lewisville will be assisting with the garden preparation and planting as a service project. The youth group applied for a grant to help cover the cost of the plants. This Gardenscaper team is advising the Theatre Board on soil analysis results and designing the raised planting beds. We are incorporating the use of the existing lion statue, existing decorative



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathy Rainey

Gardenscapers (Cont.)

rocks, and brick façade as a focal point with waterwise plants. The team includes Anne Haynie, Donnette Alexander, and Kathy Rainey who have completed the design using native and adaptive plants, evergreens, and long blooming perennials. In early April, youth volunteers will participate in an educational presentation given by our Master Gardeners prior to planting the beds. They will learn about soil analysis, our climate zone and its impact on plant selection, some of the challenges Master Gardeners addressed in the design, and the proper methods to install and care for the plants.

Ladera Highland Village Community Owners Association (COA)

This Highland Village project is an interesting one because the COA is responsible for maintaining the landscaping of the common areas and the front and back yards for each resident. Those who purchased homes in this community were provided a list of approved plants they could select for the builder to install in the landscaping around their new home and landscape services that includes change-outs of annual color plants twice a year. Many of the plants have not performed well and Randy Condit, a resident in the community and a Master Gardener, suggested that DCMGA could collaborate with the COA Board to address and revise the approved plant list for the community. His thoughts were that DCMGA could analyze why the plants were dying and suggest alternative plants that would thrive and identify alternatives for the annual color change-outs.

Because the management of the COA recently transferred from the developer to homeowners in the community, it is a perfect time to kickstart a team of Master Gardeners to advise the new COA Board and residents on horticultural and environmental improvements. The team is forming now to perform soil analysis, review and revise the existing approved plant list, and propose the use of flowering perennials in lieu of the annual color plants installed around the clubhouse. The flowering perennials around the clubhouse will serve as a demonstration of long-lasting blooms to the community residents. This Gardenscaper team will work with the COA to develop a horticultural and environmental education plan for residents to learn more about soil, native plants, perennials, and other related topics. The COA board and residents will review the success of the perennial plantings over the next year and determine the benefits of replacing annual color plants in the yards throughout the community.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Randy Condit



Gardenscapers (Cont.)

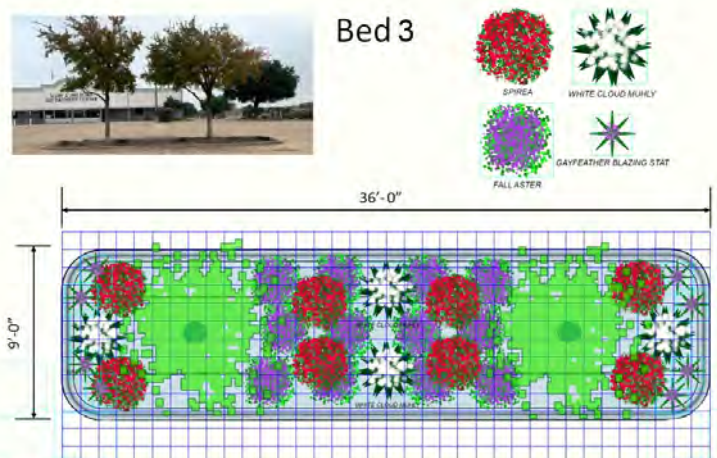
Master Gardeners who enjoy photography may want to join this Gardenscaper team. We will be photographing the flowering perennials throughout their growing, blooming, and dormant seasons. This photo journal will be used as a pictorial demonstration to other COAs and HOAs who are considering the use of more flowering perennials as an alternative to annuals.

Mary and Jim Horn Government Center

By far our largest project to support the Denton County Facilities Department is beautification of the Mary and Jim Horn Government Center landscaping around the building and throughout the parking lot. This team includes Shirlee Singer as leader, Claude Singer, Susan Cosio, Steve Spurgin, Randy Condit, and Candy Bennett. They are finalizing their proposal that will be presented to Judge Eads by Janet Laminack. The team identified a theme of "Landscape Lagniappe," which means giving back. A landscape that gives back addresses community needs, water resources, nature, maintenance, plants that bloom, as well as wildflower areas to support nature in Denton County. The plants chosen will be in the patriotic colors of red, white, and blue. The plants chosen by the team are native and adaptive perennials that attract and provide for butterflies, other pollinators, hummingbirds, and songbirds.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Spurgin



Gardenscapers (Cont.)

Keep Corinth Beautiful Monarch Butterfly Garden

The City of Corinth, Keep Corinth Beautiful, and Denton County Master Gardener Association are collaborating on the design and installation of a monarch butterfly waystation in the Corinth Community Park. What was previously a wildflower garden, which was dormant through winter,



will be transformed into a garden of native host and nectar plants to support a wide variety of pollinators and specifically monarch butterflies. The site has recently been mowed and tilled by city staff. KCB Board Members, along with Denton County Master Gardeners, have begun to prepare the site for an Arbor Day event scheduled for April 10, 2021, when pollinators and milkweed will be planted by volunteers within the community, KCB board members, and Master Gardeners.



Congratulations are in order for Keep Corinth Beautiful and Linda Barker, Master Gardener and KCB Board Member, for being awarded a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas. The garden will be planted in phases as funding becomes available.

There are additional Gardenscaper projects underway, including the Denton County Health Department Parking area, Community Supervision-Adult Probation, Law Building and DA Annex, and just getting started is the entry garden beds at Good Samaritan Denton Village. In future issues of *The Root* we will provide updates and photos of these projects and others as they are completed.

If your organization could benefit from help from a collaboration with Denton County Master Gardeners or if you are a Master Gardener looking for a variety of volunteer opportunities, contact Kathy Rainey, Gardenscapers Project Manager.



Denton County Master Gardener Association announces with great pleasure that Linda Williams has received the Texas Master Gardener Emeritus honorary title. This title is awarded to a retired Master Gardener volunteer for distinguished service to Texas AgriLife Extension Service. This is a prestigious honor that recognizes the best of the best within the Texas Master Gardener Association.

Linda recently retired after being a 20-year veteran of DCMGA. She served and educated the residents of Denton County well to fulfill Denton County Master Gardeners' mission to: "to educate and engage county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities." During her tenure Linda also helped grow the Denton County Master Gardener Association and its partners through her leadership, management, organizational, and administrative skills.

A few examples of Linda's exemplary service:

- Linda served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer for one term and as President in 2003, 2009, and 2010.
- She opened her garden three times for the annual Garden Tour, one of DCMGA's most important educational and fundraising events.
- Linda played an instrumental role in planning, hosting, and sponsoring the 2005 State Master Gardener Conference.
- Linda interviewed Master Gardener candidates. Many veteran Master Gardeners still speak fondly of their interview with her.
- Her service also included the Speaker's Bureau, Cool Shade for Third Grade, Arbor Day, InfoFest, Plant Sale, our Vegetable Show, a resource for communities seeking help to establish a community garden, Help Desk, MG informational booths, and more.

Linda is a strong believer in building and maintaining relationships. She and her husband hosted barbeque picnics for DCMGA and she was a member of the Sunshine Gardeners, which offers daily living assistance to members in need. Linda worked on and oversaw the installation of the landscape design for the Upper Trinity Regional Water District. Her efforts built a lasting relationship between the UTRWD management team, Texas AgriLife Extension, and the Denton County Master Gardeners. Her work with Denton County Operations was essential in establishing the DCMGA's DIG project located on county property and helped to educate the public on good gardening practices. The Denton County community and Master Gardeners are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of Linda's distinguished service.

Congratulations to Linda and best wishes for her next adventure!

Hidden Treasures

BY JUDY ALLEN, BARBARA BROWN, AND MELISSA MEGIS

It's time to enjoy the outdoors again

Tired of being cooped up in the house because of cold weather and pandemic concerns? Nature invites you to come out and play. April's warmer temperatures deliver an abundance of beautiful flowers, grasses and spring-green leaves at our local parks and public gardens. Responding to a DCMGA Help Desk request for suggestions on where to enjoy nature while safely distancing, Master Gardeners Judith Allen and Melissa Megis dug up a list of hidden garden treasures in Denton County to inspire and entertain you and your family.

5 unique Denton County gardens and trails

Bob Jones Nature Center & Preserve

355 Bob Jones Road, Southlake, Texas 76092

Phone: (817) 748-8019

Encompassing 758 acres of Cross Timbers habitat, the Bob Jones Center and Preserve has over 20 miles of hiking trails for different activity levels from the quarter-mile White Tailed Deer trail to the 2-mile Grapevine Lake trail. As nature lovers wander through the preserve, they will be greeted by almost 700 species of flora and fauna. "Please be aware, while we do love your furry dog friends, they are not currently allowed on the Nature Center trails."

Amenities include:

- Benches and picnic tables
- ADA Accessible
- Porta Potty Available
- Water fountain



Hidden Treasures (Cont.)

Grapevine Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park

411 Ball Street Grapevine, Texas

Hours of Operation: Dawn to Dusk, 365 days a year

Cost: Free

The Grapevine Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park is a beautiful park with trails, streams, ponds, sitting areas and hundreds of plants to see. This garden really is a hidden gem.

Amenities include:

- Walking trails
- Sitting areas
- Partial ADA accessible
- Pond stocked with fish for viewing
- Butterfly sanctuary
- Seasonal colorful flowers and abundant trees



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Greska Leamon



Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)

201 E. Jones St. (corner of Jones & Kealy Streets), Lewisville, Tx 75057

Phone: Mon.-Fri. (972)219-3550; Sat.-Sun. (469) 635-5483.

See their website for information on fees, hours of operation and how to reserve guided tours.

The 2,600-acre site offers four eco-environments: tallgrass prairie, forests, wetlands and gardens. LLELA's Mission is: "To preserve and restore native Texas ecosystems and biodiversity while providing opportunities for environmental education, research, and recreation." While walking the six hiking trails, visitors will enjoy diverse wildlife including mammals such as bobcats, white-tailed deer, and mink, over 250 bird species, a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians and insects.

Hidden Treasures (Cont.)

Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA)



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Becky Cortines

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center

3310 Collins Rd – Denton, TX 76208

Phone: (940) 349-7275

Open daily 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Admission is free

Partially ADA accessible.

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center offers 2,900 acres of bottomland, hardwood forest, upland prairie and diverse aquatic habitats. The Center features more than 10 miles of family-friendly hiking trails through diverse habitats. "Fisherman's Trail winds along Clear Creek to the Elm Fork confluence. Wetlands Trail allows visitors to view constructed wetlands with inhabitants such as waterfowl, herons, and beavers. Old Wetlands Road and High Trail wind through thick, majestic bottomland forest. The outer loop of the trails system totals 3.2 miles—perfect for 5K trail runners."



Canada Goldenrod



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathryn Wells

**Long-Horned Bees
on Lonestar Gumweed**



Bushy Bluestem

Hidden Treasures (Cont.)

Quakertown Park

700 Oakland St., Denton, Texas

(940) 349-7275

Hours of operation: daily, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Located behind/between – Denton Civic Center, Denton Senior Center, Civic Center Pool, and the Emily Fowler Central Library, this 32-acre city park includes almost a half-acre garden walk area, playground and swing set, grill, benches and picnic tables and security lighting. Restrooms/water available in the surrounding buildings during working hours. The Quakertown Park is ADA accessible.



History of Quakertown

"In the early 1880s, Quakertown emerged as a thriving African American Community in the heart of Denton. Quakertown flourished through 1920, its growth due in part to its location near the city square and the opportunities it provided African Americans. The community was bounded by Withers St. on the north, Oakland Ave. on the west, Bell Ave. on the east, and by Cottonwood and Pecan Creeks on the south. Although many residents worked for businesses on the nearby city square, at the college of industrial arts (now TWU), and as servants for white household, Quakertown prospered as a self-supporting community. Several churches, a physician's office, lodges, restaurants, and small businesses joined home to line the streets of the community. The neighborhood school, the Fred Douglass School, burned in Sept. 1913 and was rebuilt along Wye St. in southeast Denton in 1916, foreshadowing events to come." Learn more about the [history of Quakertown](#).

Amenities include:

- Walking trails
- Sitting areas
- Creek/stream
- Drinking fountain
- Dog friendly
- Coming soon The Nook: designed with decomposed granite, river rock, sod and native Texas plants in the landscaping. It features four picnic tables and seating for 50 in a small amphitheater.
- Event area
- Pool

Hidden Treasures (Cont.)

One of our favorites

Ray Roberts Lake State Park

Ray Roberts State Park offers extensive and varied opportunities to have a great time. The hiking trails range from 2 miles to 13 miles and from easy to difficult making for a great time with the kids or a total workout for the serious hiker. Equestrian trails wander through the trees and by the water and range up to 12 miles. They also have equestrian camping sites. All in all, there is something for everyone here. Some sites are more primitive than others.



And there are more ...

There is nothing like being out in nature to experience the peace and tranquility we all desire during these unsettling times. Our hope is that everyone will take advantage of the wonderful natural places that we have here in Denton County. On our website, DCMGA.com, under North Texas Gardening, select HOT TOPICS for information on 16 gardens and trails in Denton County.

Editor's Note: Many of the photos in this article were taken in previous years due to the impact of Winter Storm Uri.

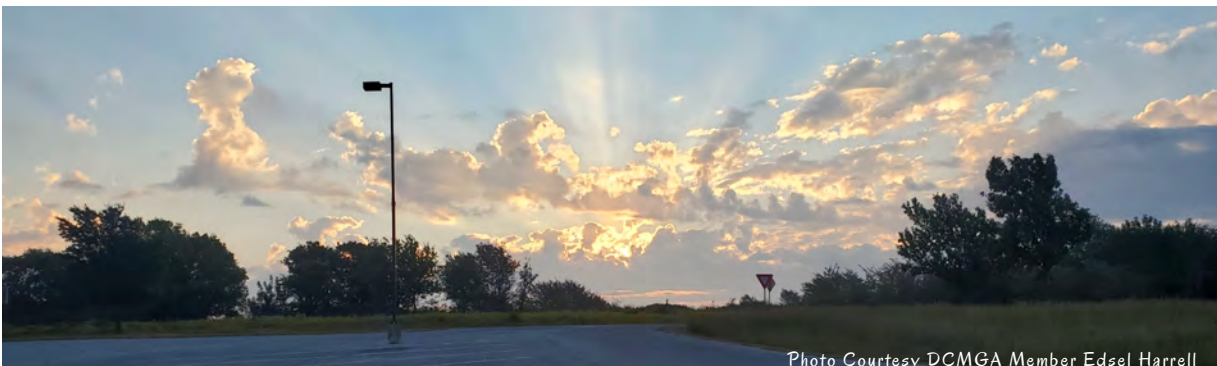


Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Edsel Harrell

Sunrise at Lake Ray Roberts

2021 Garden Tour Preview

My Garden Playground

Editor's Note: This is the last of our Garden Tour location sneak peaks.

*This year's Garden Tour date is **Saturday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Check [Upcoming Events](#) late this summer for tickets and further information.*

This well-established yard will delight your senses as you experience colorful yard art, delightful aromas, subtle sounds, and colorful happy plants that have been planted in the right place. Notice the eight-year-old pineapple guava tree at the gate to the yard. It produces beautiful flowers and fruit that has a pineapple taste. Pass through the gate and proceed to walk under huge crepe myrtle trees that are at least thirty years old and have incredible bark. As you continue along the walkways, search for the secret hidden door that leads to your mind's imagination and notice the succulent area on the back ledge of the pool. Some of the flowers the cacti produce are breathtaking and only last for a day. Unique art pieces are exquisitely placed throughout the yard.



Another feature is the bog garden located at the bottom of the retaining wall. This area gets a lot of water, has poor drainage and is one of the hottest spots of the yard. Henry Duelberg salvia does well here, which the bumblebees appreciate, as does the bog sage blooming with bright blue blossoms. The dry creek bed on the south side of the garden solves a drainage issue and is also aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

2021 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)



The owner loves the back porch and calls it "my spot in the world." From the porch, most of the yard is visible and is so relaxing for her. Bur Oaks planted sixteen years ago provide shade and, in the autumn, leaves, which are ultimately used as compost. The garden has hot spots, super-hot spots, shade, super shade, wet spots, super wet spots, etc. and, as the owner says, "right plant, right place – that is half the battle!"



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

We're pleased to feature Carol Clark (Native Plant Society of Texas Member, Texas Master Naturalist, Conservation Specialist, and Botany Enthusiast), who will present, "Just Enough Latin to Go Plant Shopping"

Advance registration is required.

As always, our General Meeting programs are open to the public and free of charge.

We look forward to seeing you!

Presidential Volunteer Service Award Winners

BY KATHRYN WELLS

The international Presidential Volunteer Service Award program recognizes extraordinary levels of service in a 12-month calendar period. Fifty-nine DCMGA members and interns completed 100 or more hours of service in 2020 despite the challenges of restricted service opportunities due to Covid-19 protocols. What an achievement! Ten of those fifty-nine individuals were interns in 2020; their names are denoted with an asterisk below.

Congratulations to these award recipients:

Gold (500+ Hours)

- Debbie Smith (who invested a whopping 974 hours of service in the twelve-month period!)
- Joanne Spurgin
- Kathryn Wells

Silver (250-499 Hours)

- Daniel Arenas
- Joe Beckett
- Barbara Brown
- Susan Cosio
- Sharrie Ely
- Janet Gershenfeld
- Karen Gibson
- Tammie Gurley
- Cindy Helm
- Sue Hudiburgh
- Lela Khan
- Jolayne LaCour
- Sandy LaQuey*
- Liz Moyer
- Susan Novak
- Karen Roberts
- Shirlee Singer
- Steve Spurgin
- Kim Wootton

Bronze (100-249 Hours)

- Donnette Alexander*
- Judy Allen*
- Marion Arndt
- Amal Ashmawi*
- Dana Bays
- Barbara Beane
- Pamela Boyd*
- Mary Cissell
- Randy Condit*
- Suzie Cook
- Patty Cooke
- Beckey Cortines*
- Beverly Duncan
- Don Edwards
- Pat Edwards
- Edsel Harrell*
- Lynda Harvey
- Linda Hay
- Ann Hillmann
- Cheryl Huckabee
- David Huffman
- Cece Kenney
- Larry Legg
- Linda Lunger*
- Shirley Manfredi
- Treva McFadden
- Pat Moyer
- Carol Noble
- Tom O'Brien
- Dale Powell
- Kathy Rainey
- Beth Sharum
- Pam Spooner
- Carolyn Stoy
- Sherry Vanatta*
- Katherine Woodward
- LeeAnn Yates



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz

Wildflowers at Lake Ray Roberts

Earth Day

BY BARBARA BROWN

So, what is Earth Day all about?

On April 22 every year since 1970 trees are planted, litter is cleaned up, and environmentalists strive to increase awareness of issues directly impacting our quality of life and the survival of the plants and animals with which we share the planet. Earth Day is "reportedly the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes," according to the Earth Day network.

Key figures in the creation of Earth Day include Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, President John F. Kennedy, and Secretary of Agriculture, Morris Udall. In the early days of the movement, the celebration of Earth Day spurred congressional action including the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and then President Richard Nixon established the Environmental Protection Agency.

By 1990, countries around the world participated in Earth Day. In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly slightly changed the name to "International Mother Earth Day." Each Earth Day celebration has a theme. Earth Day Network (EDN), the organizing body for Earth Day worldwide, announced that the theme of Earth Day 2021 is "Restore Our Earth."





Tractor Supply Company in Bartonville (store manager, Karla Callaway) invited our **Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden** leaders out to the store to "shop." Master Gardeners Lori Geisler, Carol Noble, and David Huffman picked out over \$500 of 2021 Burpee Seeds and garden supplies for our community garden. Special thanks to TSC for encouraging our project!

JOB WELL DONE!

Kudos to the Denton County Master Gardener Association volunteers who sorted, distributed, and loaded 555 tree seedlings (10 species) for 61 customers for the **2021 Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District Tree Seedling Sale**.

All the trees were sold and all the orders were perfect! As a bonus, the Master Gardeners provided tree care advice to the customers.



DMGA Volunteers:
Denise Jeppson, Sandy Laquey, Pat Moyer, Michelle Rawleigh, Judy Riley, Carolyn Stoy (Project Manager), Ruth Tweto (2021 Intern), Russell Tyson (Project Manager), Brenda Wellenreiter, Carly Zambiella.



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.

.....

DCMGA General Meeting Presentations

April 14, 2021. 10:00 AM – Noon.

Open To The Public

"Just Enough 'Latin' to Go Plant Shopping."

Even if you're becoming 'sinensis' you'll enjoy learning your 'accidentals' from the 'orientalist' during Carol Clark's information packed presentation immediately following the April General Meeting.

To Register:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsceqgpjItG91ynnKiXZzg5Z5-J-8fZWUZ>

May 12, 2021. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Organic Gardening" presented by Randy Johnson

Special presentations from DCMGA Christmas party

begin at 24:36 minutes on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7j2R5xA1EU>

Tuesdays with Texas Master Naturalists

On the Second Tuesday of each month at the noon hour (12PM Central Standard Time), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training event (sometimes including some fantastic new and returning guest speakers). These will be recorded each month and shared to the website by the following day of each month. Here's a link to one YouTube video: A Presentation by Doug Tallamy – "Nature's Best Hope"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY4aV5hqkxY>

BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series

April 17, 2021. Noon to 1 PM.

"Spring Flower Pounding" – Join Master Gardener Nancy Curl to create a lovely piece of fiber art on prepared fabric using natural pigments from flowers and leaves. Flower pounding is a wonderful way for gardeners to preserve the colors of the garden while relieving stress and creating beauty. This is an outdoor class and supplies are provided.

Price: \$35 /Non-Member or \$30 /Member.

More info at

<https://shop.brit.org/Flower-Pounding?page=1>

Upper Trinity Regional Water District

April 7, 2021. 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM.

"Getting Started with Natives" (Virtual)

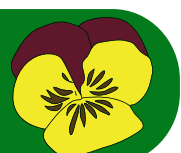
Native and adaptive plants are naturally accustomed to our local soil types and climate, allowing them to flourish with less water and supplemental fertilization. Native and adaptive plants can also attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinator species. This class will discuss how to select, install, and maintain native and adaptive plants in your landscape. Taught by Liz Moyer, Denton County Master Gardener & Native Plant Society of Texas. (Registration required).

Optional videoconference access information:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe51qr-GQXo884RIfBwau25NxTRJEa7DSGHeTR8Y5PNkpi0JA/viewform>



FYI: Underlined Texts are active Internet Links throughout this publication.



Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

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/UCbp4wkcScrVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ/

DCMGA YouTube CE Programs

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"The Pleasures & Pitfalls of Perennial Plants"

"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 Fall Garden Fest Presentations

Dr. Hennen Cummings – "Your North Texas Turf Needs"

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

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

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

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

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

DCMGA Members

Plan Your Week emailed each Friday has the most current Online CE Opportunities.

See our [Member Handbook](#) for approved CE sources and guidelines.

Note that members may claim up to 3 hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to 6 hours.

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: After the severe February freeze, my live oaks dropped almost all their leaves. Did the freeze cause this? Are my trees dying?

A: The freeze definitely caused this sudden leaf drop. As you may know, normal leaf drop happens this time of year, so these leaves would have been lost anyway. Usually, old-leaf loss and new-leaf growth happen gradually, so we never see live oaks nearly leafless in spring.

Give it time, and don't give up hope. As temperatures warm, many plants in our landscape will begin to awaken, including our important live oaks. In fact, if you look closely now, you may start seeing new leaf buds appearing on stems. Early leaf buds appear as tiny, brown nubs; as the buds mature, they turn a lively green and begin to enlarge. Live oaks in your landscape may undergo bud maturity on different

timetables, so don't worry if one tree has green leaf buds and others do not. The following article should be helpful reading.

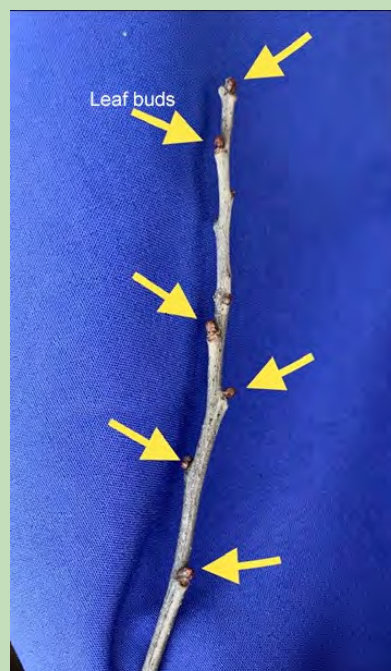
<https://plantclinic.tamu.edu/2011/03/30/annual-texas-live-oak-leaf-drop/>

Thorough article on what you might be seeing in your landscape and how to manage recovery:

<https://www.plantanswers.com/Articles/Dealing-with-Freeze-Damage-on-Plants.asp>

Excellent video of Denton County Master Gardener Association President Kathryn Wells discussing post-freeze care:

https://youtu.be/7cKa1N_IeIo



If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov.

(Note new email address)

It's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.

November's Help Desk Q&A on Pruning Perennials was so well received that it now has its 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/>

**Denton County Master
Gardener Association**

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/>



Do you have **Canva** (or any "drag-and-drop" layout program) knowledge?
Are you interested in helping with the newsletter?

Contact the
Communications Director
dcmga.communications@gmail.com

**Earn Volunteer hours
from home!**



**Denton County Master Gardener
YouTube Channel**

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

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

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



2021 Garden Tour



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM -4:00 PM

A favorite family-friendly event you don't want to miss!
Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique Denton County private properties

Master Gardeners will be on-site in each garden to provide information about the garden, as well as featuring additional learning opportunities on a variety of gardening topics.

Our SWAT (Science With An Attitude) team will be on-site to provide hands-on learning opportunities for children.
Our "Ask a Master Gardener" booth will also be on-site at one of our gardens to answer all your gardening questions.

Go to www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents
for tickets and further information as the date draws near.



#GrowWithUs

@DentonCountyMGA

Denton County Master Gardener Association

2021 Events

Upper Trinity Regional Water District/Keep Lewisville Beautiful/DCMGA Secret Garden Series

March 24: Getting your Sprinklers Ready for Spring

March 31: Lawn Care Basics

April 7: Getting Started with Natives

DCMGA General Membership Meeting program:

April 14th: "Just Enough Latin to go Plant Shopping"

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

Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series:

August 19: Waterwise Gardening

September 16: Texas Native Plants

October 21: Made for the Shade

Garden Tour: October 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

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Joanne Spurgin
Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
Secretary	Katherine Woodward
Treasurer	Jolayne LaCour
Communications Dir. - Systems	Cheryl Huckabee
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

April 7 Board Meeting - Virtual

April 14 General Meeting & Program - Virtual ("Just Enough Latin")

Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Joseph A. Carroll Building
401 W. Hickory Street
Suite 112
Denton TX 76201-9026

Office: 940.349.2883

Help Desk:

940.349.2892

master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov

Webmaster:

dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com

Communications:

dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

Submission deadline for the May edition of *The Root* is Thursday, April 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.