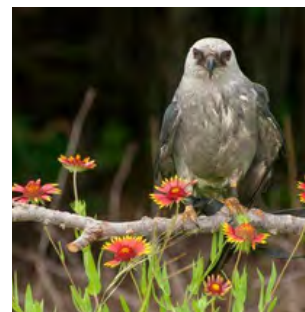


Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



## WHAT'S GROWING ON

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# Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

Spring has finally arrived! With the chance of freezing temperatures behind us, we can get outside, enjoy the weather, and work in our gardens and landscapes. April is National Garden Month, which began as National Garden Week in 1986 by Ronald Reagan and expanded in 2003 to encompass the entire month.

Gardening is one of the oldest hobbies in history, dating back to 1500 B.C. in ancient Egypt. In the 17th and 18th centuries, many Americans gardened as a source of income. In the 19th century, as home gardens grew more popular, Americans preferred ornamental to edible gardens. Gardening is good for you. It burns calories and improves your overall health; it distracts us from the stresses of daily life; it promotes healthy sleep and boosts our mood; and it builds a healthier lifestyle by growing our own food.



Earth Day is April 22nd, a day to show support for environmental protection. Earth Day events throughout North Texas include learning opportunities from Denton County Master Gardeners: an Ask A Master Gardener Booth at ColorPalooza in Lewisville and an Earth Day Workshop at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie in Carrollton.



Feed your gardening habit at the Denton County Master Gardener Plant Sale at Trinity United Methodist Church in Denton from 9 am-2 pm (or until sold out) on April 29th. Buff up your gardening skills at the many presentations sponsored by DCMGA in April. You can learn about rainwater collection, composting, native plants, container gardening, gardening for birds and butterflies, frugal gardening, and Denton Independent School District field trips at Clear Creek this month. Please find the details on our website Event Calendar.

*The Root* is celebrating its 5th-anniversary this month! *The Root* has been a labor of love by Denton County Master Gardeners from April 2018 to April 2023. Nearly 1,600 pages, 60 issues, and 200+ gardening articles have delighted North Texas gardeners of all skill levels. Join us at our April Monthly Meeting and Program to celebrate this achievement and enjoy "Confessions of a Frugal Gardener" by Dallas County Master Gardener Fran Powell.

We hope you'll *Grow with Us* this month!



## Why A Local Plant Sale?

BY BARBARA BROWN AND LIZ MOYER

Spring is an exciting time for gardeners. After the brown, sad look of our landscapes during the winter, green is coming up everywhere as perennial plants begin their growing season. Big box stores and nursery shelves are filled with plants to entice shoppers. But wait. There is another option for finding landscape plants— spring plant sales held by local gardening associations.

There are several reasons why plant sales of this type are a good bet:

- They often have hard-to-find plants, native plants, and often seedlings started by association members from their own gardens. This is especially true of those specialty sales like native plant sales, iris sales, etc.
- Most organization or association plant sales have knowledgeable volunteers to answer questions including design, planting, and long-term care of your purchases. These associations want you to be successful with their plants because they are concerned for the continuation of the species, and want you back for more next year.
- Prices are generally a bit lower than in nurseries.
- Your purchases help fund programs ranging from public plantings to education and research.

### *Why Pass-alongs*

Pass-alongs are plants that were donated by a member of the organization hosting the sale. They are often smaller than nursery plants in the sale, generally in mismatched pots with homemade labels, and may look a bit droopy if they were dug too close to the sale date.



**Crowd entering the DCMGA Plant Sale in 2022.  
Note the "pro's" who brought their own carts and wagons!**



## Why A Local Plant Sale? (Cont.)

So why do I always head straight for pass-alongs?

- They did so well in someone else's garden that they have some to share.
- They are already acclimated to our soils and climate.
- They are generally less mature, so they will root in faster.
- They are often less expensive.
- They probably spread easily.
- The person who donated them is often available to answer questions and provide advice.



### *Benefits of choosing native plants for your landscape*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines a native plant as "a plant that lives or grows naturally in a particular region without direct or indirect human intervention." Some authorities define native as a plant that has existed in an area for hundreds of years, while others extend the required time frame to thousands of years to allow for the co-evolution of the plant with indigenous insects, birds, and other flora.

Native and well-adapted plants are drought-tolerant, and heat-tolerant, and usually require little supplemental water once established. Native plants have successfully adjusted to the growing conditions of our area including soil, droughts, floods, excessive heat, and the occasional ice and snow event. Because native plants evolved in North Texas, they are more resistant to common pests and diseases. Note: Texas has many growing regions, so be aware that not all plants native to the State of Texas are native to North Texas.



### *Recommended native plants for North Texas*

Here are two resources that provide lists of North Texas plants divided into categories including trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses, and ground covers:

- Trinity Forks Native Plant Society (Denton) "List of Native Plants"  
<https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/plant-lists/>
- Earth-Kind Plant Selector  
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plant-selector/>

## Why A Local Plant Sale? (Cont.)

### *Advice when attending plant sales*

1. Bring a cart or wagon and flats or boxes to carry your plants. This makes it much easier to move plants through the rows of for-sale items, to the checkout, and to your vehicle.
2. Wear a hat and comfortable shoes.
3. Check the plant tag or ask a volunteer about a plant's sun requirements, eventual size, and any cautions about the plant and its growing habits.
4. Have a checkbook or cash available for your purchases. Although many non-profit organizations' plant sales accept credit cards not all of them do.
5. Be flexible. Plan for the spaces you want to fill – not what specific plant you want for them.
6. Select the healthiest plants, not necessarily the biggest or showiest. Look for new growth, leaves, and buds.
7. Definitely purchase pass-alongs.
8. Check out the association's website for more information about its plant sale. Many sites will list the types of plants available, time of the event, and provide a map to the location.
9. Go early. Local plant sales are popular and some of the most desirable plants sell out quickly.
10. Carry water.
11. Potty before arriving.



### *Upcoming North Texas plant sales*

April 15-16, Texas Discovery Gardens, Dallas: <https://txdg.org/plant-sale/>

April 15, Collin County Master Gardener Association, McKinney: <http://ccmgatx.org>

April 1-18 – shop online, April 28 – pick up orders, Tarrant County Master Gardener Association: <https://tcmga.org/>

April 22-23, Heard Museum Native Plant Society, McKinney:

<https://www.heardmuseum.org/plant-sale/>

April 29, Denton County Master Gardener Association, Denton: <https://dcmga.com>

April 29, Native Plant Society Trinity Forks Chapter, Flower Mound:

<https://npsot.org/TrinityForks>

May 6, Native Plant Society of Texas, Dallas Chapter: <https://npsot.org/wp/dallas/>

May 6, Native Plant Society of Texas, Fort Worth Chapter:

<https://www.txnativeplants.org/plant-sale-general-info/>



## Meet Shirley Manfredi

BY LEE ANN YATES

Recently, I had the absolute delight of talking with Shirley Manfredi, class of 2008, about her gardening history and involvement with DCMGA.

Shirley grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and considers herself part-country and part-city. As a young girl, she lived with her grandparents on their farm during the summer months. There is where her love for land, animals, and gardening began. Her parents weren't interested in farming or gardening (the "city" part of her life), though her father did have a backyard tomato garden. Shirley related that her mom said, "you should have been your grandmother's

daughter!" Shirley's city side took precedence for a while as she worked full-time with IBM, living in five different states. Except for when she and her husband were in San Francisco, they always lived on acreage

with their horses. Shirley didn't really get into gardening until about twenty years ago. They bred, trained, and showed American Morgan horses. For a birthday/Christmas/anniversary present one year, her husband built her a riding arena. This left a huge pile of topsoil. A friend suggested Shirley needed a garden. Thinking that was a good idea, she built a 30'x30' fenced raised bed garden. And voilà, her gardening passion was rekindled. However, as we all know, gardening in Denton County is quite a challenge. Being from the "Show Me" state, Shirley knew she needed to amend her knowledge base and became a Denton County Master Gardener.



**Shirley Manfredi**  
**DCMGA Class 2008**

Shirley's garden has evolved to include nine raised beds in which she grows a salsa garden of tomatoes, onions, and peppers. She raises beets, radishes, bush green beans, and at least one type of melon. Last year it was honeydew and Shirley happily reported they were the best she'd ever tasted. She has eight or nine containers for vegetables and flowers and a permanent asparagus bed (I'm going for lessons soon!). Shirley and her husband blanch and freeze some of their vegetables, including whole tomatoes because they love having fresh stewed tomatoes in the winter.

Shirley's favorite part of her garden is...well...several parts of her landscape! She LOVES her roses....now. Years ago her mother-in-law tried to get Shirley interested in growing roses, but she said, "No way!" Too much work! Then, one day she was drawn to a miniature rose at one of the big box stores and soon had added thirty miniature roses to her garden. Then came a big shrub rose and the rest is history. Currently, Shirley has between thirty-five and forty-five roses – she hasn't counted recently.



## Meet Shirley Manfredi (Cont.)

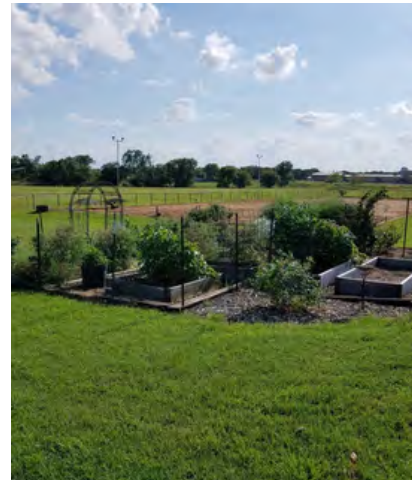
She had some issues with rose rosette virus a few years ago when the next-door neighbor planted 300 Knock-Out roses on their adjoining ranch and hired a company to care for them. It didn't take long for every one of those Knock-Outs to become infected with RRV. Shirley noticed some of her roses becoming infected also – for every one she planted, she lost two. Shirley talked with the neighbor, encouraging him to dig up the roses – which he did and then replanted with more Knock-Outs which were, in turn, you guessed it – re-infected with RRV. So, along with neighbor and fellow Master Gardener Carolyn Stoy, they eventually convinced the ranch owner to remove all those roses and replant them with something else. She has not had a bad infection since then. When she occasionally has a rose start to show signs of RRV infection, she immediately removes it, leaves the spot fallow for a week, and then replants a new rose beauty because she gets such "pleasure of the beauty of nature in these flowers."



With DCMGA activities, continued involvement with horses, training agility with her young Aussie, and of course gardening, Shirley favors a minimal work landscape leaning heavily toward drought tolerance. Her love of flowering trees is evident from the Bubba Desert Willows along the drive to the Texas Vitex surrounding the circle. Though they can be large shrubs, she keeps them trimmed as trees. The white Natchez Crepe Myrtle, the shocking pink Muskogee, and the dark red of the Black Diamond add even more color when their buds open in late spring. The Flowering Crab Apple's deep pinkish red is something to behold each year. And lastly, the red berries of her Weeping Yaupons set off the plant's beautiful green foliage. She enjoys the beauty of her ornamental grasses both in the summer as well as the winter. Of late she has also included multiple varieties of yuccas. Most recently, the charm of sedums has worked its magic and she is planning to do more with them.

Shirley's volunteer efforts as a Master Gardener have encompassed many roles and projects over the years. She spent seven years on the Board of Directors – two years as Treasurer,

## Meet Shirley Manfredi (Cont.)



Vice-President, President, Past President, and two years as a state director at TXMG. She has been involved with the Member Rose Sale at our Annual Plant Sale for eight or nine years and the earlier years of the Bayless Selby Garden maintenance team, as well as past involvement with the Speakers Bureau and twice being a judge for the Veggie, Flower & Fruit Show. Shirley took Earth-Kind® training first when it focused only on the Earth-Kind® roses Texas A&M had developed. She audited the training again when the course added Earth-Kind® landscape design. Shirley ran the 2011 DCMGA Plant Sale and loved helping to put together the earlier Fall Garden Fests, where she truly enjoyed talking with all the people who attended.

When they were held in person, Shirley went to every state conference in a four-to-five-hour drive time radius of Denton County. She said that Zooming a conference is understandable nowadays and still interesting, but participants just don't get the full effect or benefit of talking face-to-face with other gardeners. However, conferences, Zoomed or otherwise, are great for getting a lot of Continuing Education in a short time and she recommends everyone attend. For anyone not aware, DCMGA hosted the 2005 state conference.

To interns and veterans, Shirley said, "Stick your toe in the water of every project. Find out what you are passionate about" and pursue it! She added, "If you have an opportunity to be part of the garden tour, DO IT!! The joy of laboring on workdays with like-minded people, seeing the amount of work accomplished, and the absolute pleasure of visiting with guests on the day of the tour is just above and beyond! People are so grateful for Master Gardeners being available to teach and to learn from." Let me just say, her enthusiasm for this organization and the things we contribute to this world was palpable...and so exciting to hear!

When I asked Shirley what she enjoyed the most about being a Master Gardener, she responded with one word – camaraderie! She was first exposed to Master Gardeners at a Neil Sperry landscape design class and she thought, "How neat is this organization!" She attended the



## Meet Shirley Manfredi (Cont.)

DCMGA Fall Garden Fest in 2007 where she met MGs who were so friendly, full of information, and who shared so readily, Shirley fell in love with DCMGA. She left there and decided to apply immediately. She was accepted into the legendary John Cooper's last class. Now, in her fifteenth year with DCMGA, Shirley says, "There is something new and different all the time. All the knowledge you can absorb is out there to be had."

During the pandemic, Shirley took her own advice and worked with the Help Desk for the first time. She could research, learn, and share that information from her home with the whole county. Shirley takes DCMGA's mission of educating and engaging the people of Denton County in research-based, sustainable gardening practices very seriously. Shirley feels DCMGA holds an important role in educating the public about best practices in adapting to the changes happening across the county.

Shirley has some favorite resources to recommend to gardeners. She highly recommends checking out the Texas A&M University Press. They publish so many books on so many horticultural subjects there is something for everyone. Many of their pamphlets and leaflets are free. Some go-to books Shirley mentioned specifically include *Easy Gardening for North Central Texas* by Steve Huddleston and *Texas Garden Almanac* by Doug Welsh, as well as anything about roses (Shirley's emphasis) by Dr. Steven George. She recommends William Adams' book, *Tomato Lovers*, and also *Butterfly Gardening for Texas* by Geyata Ajilvsgi. If you want to learn every little tidbit about composting, *The Secret Life of Compost* by Malcolm Beck is Shirley's gold standard. She also regularly enjoys Neil Sperry's weekly newsletter and *Texas Gardening* magazine.

My last question for Shirley concerned her thoughts on how gardening has changed since she began and what changes she foresaw for the future. She answered, "It hasn't, and it won't! Gardening is working with Mother Nature. She knows what she's doing – we just have to figure it out!"

Thank you, Shirley, for all you have contributed to DCMGA, for your continued enthusiasm and passion for gardening, for sharing your knowledge and experience, and for being such an inspiration to us all!



# 2023 Garden Tour Preview

## Wildlife Waystation - Oak Point, Texas

May 13, 2023

*Landscape Design tips, the importance of Native & Adapted plants, a shade gardening presentation, a scavenger hunt, and local arts and crafts booths – our Annual Garden tour has it all.*

*Visit the [DCMGA website](https://dcmga.com) for ticket information.*

**By Barbara Brown**

Nestled on a cul-de-sac in a master-planned community on Lake Lewisville, the landscaped yard and the surrounding natural area provide a demonstration of how to create a sustainable and attractive landscape in a small space. The integration of plants and hardscape work with nature to provide a welcoming habitat for local and migrating birds, pollinating insects, and indigenous plants and animals while following the rules of its HOA.

### Visitor Highlights

- Master Gardeners will be on-site to guide tour visitors and answer questions
- Additional information about plants is provided by QR code signs posted throughout the landscape
- Integrated into the landscape are raised vegetable and fruit beds that are supported by a composting system and stored rainwater
- Members of the Trinity Forks Native Plant Society will be on-site to answer questions and provide more information about native plants for North Texas
- A short distance away from Wildlife Waystation is a vendor area for you to shop for goodies to decorate your garden and home created by local artists and Master Gardener craftspeople (your tour ticket allows admittance to the vendor area).

### Focus on Sustainability

The owners want to show visitors that anyone can contribute to a sustainable landscape that adds beauty to their neighborhood, while at the same time providing a wildlife habitat that works with nature, not against it. Touring Wildlife Waystation, you will see permeable walkways that reduce runoff and erosion and raised beds for growing fruit, herbs, and vegetables.





## 2023 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

### *Wildlife Waystation - Oak Point, Texas*

All the landscape plants are drought-tolerant and pollinator-friendly being either Texas natives or adaptive specifically to North Texas growing conditions.

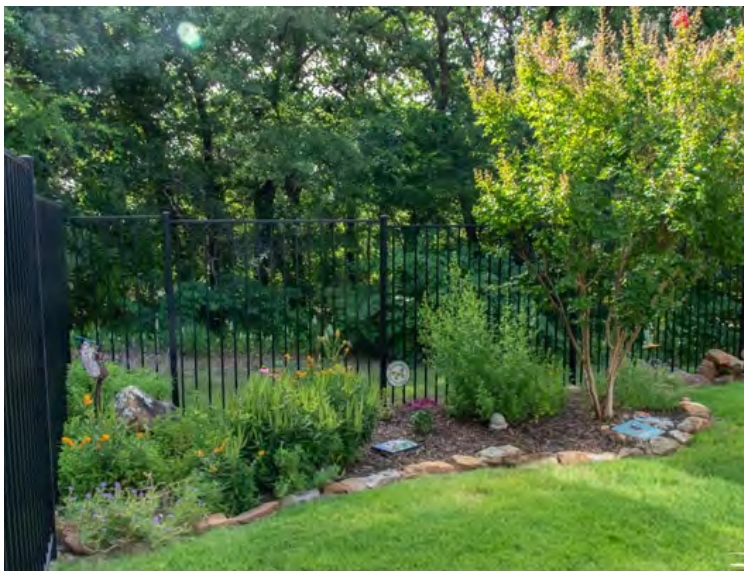
In recognition of the owner's commitment and accomplishments in supporting wildlife in our area, this home has been designated by The National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. To meet the Federation's criteria, the site provides food and water sources, cover from predators, and places to raise young while following sustainable gardening practices. When touring the yard, visitors will see flowering plants for pollinators, shrubs, and trees that provide protective cover, and bird feeding stations.



Since purchasing the property in 2014, the owners' stewardship has included identifying and removing invasive plants (such as privet and honeysuckle), which escaped cultivation from neighboring properties. It is a labor of love and a gift that keeps on giving, as the work requires annual assessments (and additional removals).

Wildlife Waystation is also recognized as a Certified Monarch Waystation providing space, shelter, nectar, and, most importantly, native milkweed plants for the endangered monarch butterflies as they travel 3,000 miles from their summer homes in the Northern U.S. and Canada to the mountains in central Mexico for their winter survival.

Just beyond the property's boundary lies Army Corp of Engineers land covered with trees, bushes and native grasses that





## 2023 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

### Wildlife Waystation - Oak Point, Texas

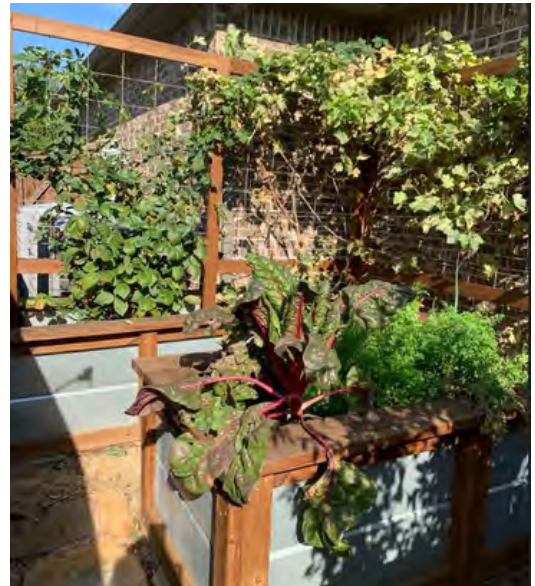
support wildlife. The sustainable practices of Wildlife Waystation comply with the USAE's Lewisville Lake 2020 Master Plan objectives to "protect, conserve, and sustain natural and cultural resources, especially environmentally sensitive resources."

[https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Portals/47/docs/Lakes/Lewisville/MasterPlan/2020\\_Lewisville\\_Lake\\_Final\\_MP.pdf?ver=bURKhPc6H0Wr9dFEPN\\_VsQ%3d%3d](https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Portals/47/docs/Lakes/Lewisville/MasterPlan/2020_Lewisville_Lake_Final_MP.pdf?ver=bURKhPc6H0Wr9dFEPN_VsQ%3d%3d).

### Meeting the HOA Challenge

As with many planned communities, the landscaping of Wildlife Waystation must comply with State laws and the rules and regulations of a homeowner's association (HOA). The strategy chosen by the property owners was to engage and educate rather than fight. During several meetings with the HOA, the owner—a certified Native Plant Landscape Specialist—provided information, explanations, and encouragement.

The goal of the meetings was not only to get permission for their property to be a Certified Wildlife Habitat but also to get their consideration of achieving certification for the entire community. The success of this effort is clearly demonstrated at Wildlife Waystation by the adoption of similar practices on several nearby properties and a neighborhood certification as a wildlife habitat.



### A Few of Our Favorite Resources

#### *Gardenangelists (Podcast)*

Are you ready to be converted to living a gardening life? Each week, join Carol Michel and Dee Nash, both passionate gardeners, authors, and long-time bloggers, as they chat over the garden fence about flowers, veggies, and all the best dirt on gardening.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-gardenangelists/id1441884090>

*Raised-Bed Gardening for Beginners: Everything You Need to Know to Start and Sustain a Thriving Garden*, by Tammy Wylie. Rockridge Press; (July 9, 2019).

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## Plant of the Month - Sundrops *Calylophus berlandieri*

BY LEE ANN YATES

How are we doing this month, gardeners? Busy as bees? Everything greening up? Pollen (and noses) flowing? Making full use of the sundial shift? Spring is here in full force and summer is waiting not very patiently behind. Most Denton County gardeners look forward to the brighter, sunnier days in spring. I've got a sunshiny plant beauty for you this month you will want to get on your "to be planted" list right now!

One way to increase that sunny look in your garden is to plant Sundrops (*Calylophus berlandieri*) also known as Berlander's Sundrops. These dollops of plantiferous sunshine were named after the French-Swiss physician who collected plants in Texas and northern Mexico in the first half of the 19th century, Jean Louis Berlander.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

### ***Calylophus berlandieri***

Sundrops are a low-growing perennial Texas native. They are bushy and deciduous, losing their narrow serrated leaves in winter, but returning with new growth in spring. The sunny yellow flowers cheer us up from March through September, often making their most spectacular display in April. Sundrops grow between four inches and twenty inches tall and spread out one to two feet wide. Their showy blooms have four broad, crinkled petals that are two inches across. Sundrops are in the Evening Primrose family, so they look similar to the roadside pink evening primroses prevalent across North Texas in spring and summer. In the fall, Sundrops produce small seeds that you can allow to drop in place or you can collect them for fall sowing and sharing - because really! Who doesn't want some of these sunshine spreaders?!

Where can you plant these bringers of cheer in your landscape? Sundrops make wonderful rock garden plants because they thrive in full sun to partial shade. They are happy in most soil types, even clay, if they have good drainage. They will not tolerate excessive, regular watering or having "wet feet." Obviously, they have low water needs after getting established, but Sundrops will appreciate occasional supplemental water during drought. Otherwise, they should survive on existing rainfall. Consider that the native habitat for Sundrops is the wide open plains, edges

## Sundrops (Cont.)

of woodlands, and roadsides stretching from the southwest corner of Kansas through eastern New Mexico and Oklahoma, across Texas and the Gulf states into Alabama, and down to northern Mexico. They are sturdy, heat-tolerant plants of real beauty. If you struggle with sharing your landscape plants with deer, Sundrops are moderately deer resistant.

Sundrops can be located in your landscape as small shrubs, in front of an evergreen hedge, or as anchors in a flower bed with other flowers. They look pretty and play well with other Texas natives such as Winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*), Fragrant Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), Mealy Blue Sage (*Salvia farinacea*) and Texas Sage (*Salvia greggii*) – their purple, pinks, and blues work well with Sundrops' pretty yellow. If you are looking to plant more natives to replace existing non-native dianthus, primroses, petunias, snapdragon, periwinkle and so forth, Sundrops, as well as these other natives, are excellent substitutes. If you are on the hunt to increase nectar sources for several pollinators in your garden, Sundrops should be included in your landscape if just for that purpose. The Texas Department of Transportation lists Sundrops as a recommended native perennial landscape plant on its website. Look for it in TXDOT plantings along roadsides and highways. You know how much tender-loving care those landscapes get (that's a joke!) so this is a definite plug for Sundrops!

Keep in mind that Sundrops are not evergreen in North Texas. They will die back to the ground after a freeze, but when the weather warms up again, start looking for them to reappear. Some Master Gardeners reported their Sundrops blooming in very early March this year! Because they are small bushes, the inside of the plant at the base can become woody over time, so appropriate pruning will be needed after a couple of years.



**Sundrops with Don Juan roses**

Sundrops are such bright, happy plants that once you plant them, you may want to propagate them to create additional plants for yourself and to share with others. Propagation by seeds is most successful if they are sown in the fall. You can directly sow seeds into the soil or into seed trays, milk jugs, or whatever you use for winter sowing. If you propagate with cuttings, wait until the appearance of new growth in early spring. Take your cuttings from that growth. Some years that could be as early as January if it is warm enough to be growing then.



## Sundrops (Cont.)

It's short and sweet this month, gardeners, for a sweet, sunny jewel of a plant I encourage you to try – Sundrops! (I've just added them to my list! See you at the Plant Sale!)

Here's to cheerful, sunny April gardening, folks!

### Resources

*Native Plant Society of Texas, The North Central Chapter, "Calyophus"*

<https://www.txnativeplants.org/home/attachment/calylophus/>

*US Dept. of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, State Plant Listings, Texas*

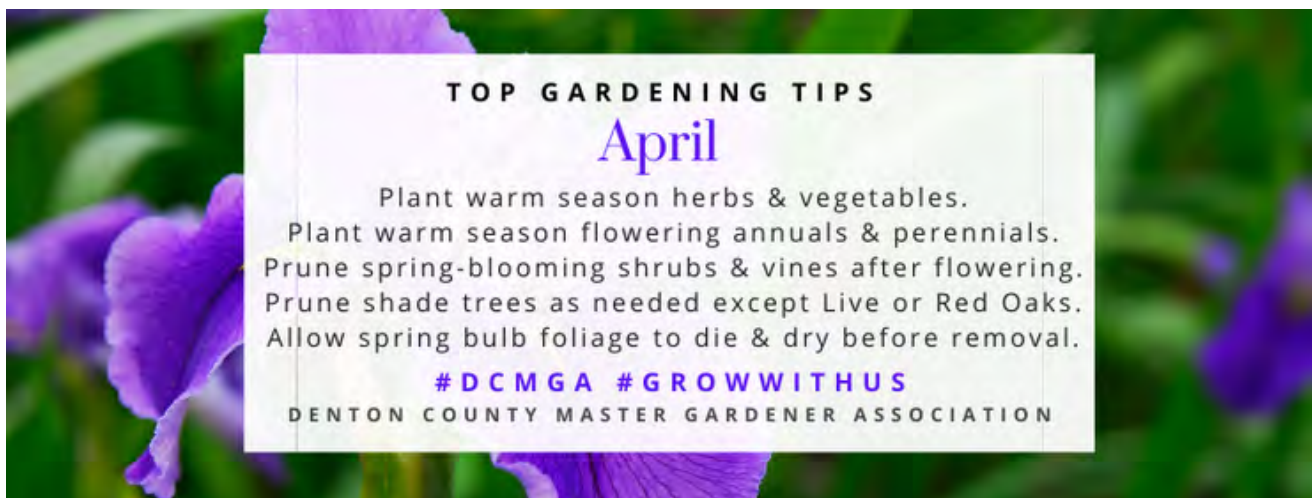
[https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env\\_topics/ecosystems/roadside\\_use/vegmgmt\\_rd\\_tx.aspx](https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_topics/ecosystems/roadside_use/vegmgmt_rd_tx.aspx)

*Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, "Calylophus berlandieri"*

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=cabe6](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=cabe6)



Look for Native & Pollinator Plants at the  
2023 DCMGA Plant Sale!  
April 29, 2023



# *You're Invited*

April 2023, Monthly Meeting & Program  
"Confessions of a Frugal Gardener"



As an avid proponent of not throwing away anything that has a useful second life, Dallas County Master Gardener Fran Powell will share ideas for recycling and using everyday items in the garden.

April 12, 2023, 10 am  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210

# iNaturalist

## *Helping to Steward the Earth...One Observation at a Time*

BY KATHRYN WELLS

Since its 2008 inception and as of this writing, 1,670,054 observations of 10,800 species have been uploaded to iNaturalist by 32,545 observers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and confirmed by 17,239 identifiers from around the world. Almost two million observations is a tremendous statistic, and, yet, it represents only 1.3% of the 128,866,719 (and counting!) worldwide observations documented in the popular, international, nature app.

Currently a joint initiative by the California Academy of Sciences (as of 2014) and the National Geographic Society (as of 2017), iNaturalist began 15 years ago as a Master's final project for three students at UC Berkeley's School of Information. Today, it's a full-blown community of over one million citizen scientists, naturalists, and enthusiasts who, through their observations, create quality data to help better understand and protect nature.

### *Documenting uncultivated biodiversity*

And, while, yes, there's an app for that—which is handy for uploading quick observations in the field or on the go, the website is really rich with data and serves as a virtual gathering spot and social network for observers and identifiers to share information and discoveries with other like-minded individuals.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathryn Wells

### **Wildflowers**

Among the wildflower species I document each spring on The Flower Mound, *Penstemon cobaea* (top left) also known as Prairie Penstemon, Wild Foxglove, Large-Flowered Beardtongue (and several other common names!) is one of my all-time favorites. Located in Flower Mound, Texas, this historic, preserved 12.576-acre native tall grass prairie segment of the Great American Blackland Prairie flourishes with seasonal native plants throughout the year.



## iNaturalist (Cont.)

iNaturalist (dubbed "iNat" by most users) is designed to document uncultivated biodiversity, so if you're looking for a tool to identify store-bought garden cultivar plants, this is not that. But, if you're interested in helping to collect data via photos of uncultivated natural species (or escaped-from-cultivation invasive species), this is absolutely that.

Filters help narrow the data by geographic area in twelve categories: amphibians, arachnids, birds, fungi (including lichens), insects (including bees and butterflies), mammals, mollusks, plants, protozoans, ray-finned fishes, reptiles, and unknown (the big, black hole where unidentified observations linger until someone brings them out into the light with at least a high-level identification). Other filters allow users to narrow or widen data as needed or preferred.

Numerous projects also exist as repositories of observations, which users may join. Some projects automatically "sweep" observations into their data according to designated project parameters. Users may also create projects; I've created one to document the uncultivated species I've observed on my property. And, although I've always been an avid iNatter, in January 2020, I decided to "streak" (upload consecutive days of observations); as of this writing, my current streak duration is 1,159 days. I haven't missed a day of observing or documenting since January 11th, 2020; even on my daughter's wedding day, I pulled my phone from my pocket (don't you love a formal dress with pockets?!) and documented an uncultivated plant (Southern Annual Saltmarsh Aster, *Symphyotrichum divaricatum*) on the grounds of the wedding venue while waiting for the ceremony to begin.



### Birds, 2021 City Nature Challenge

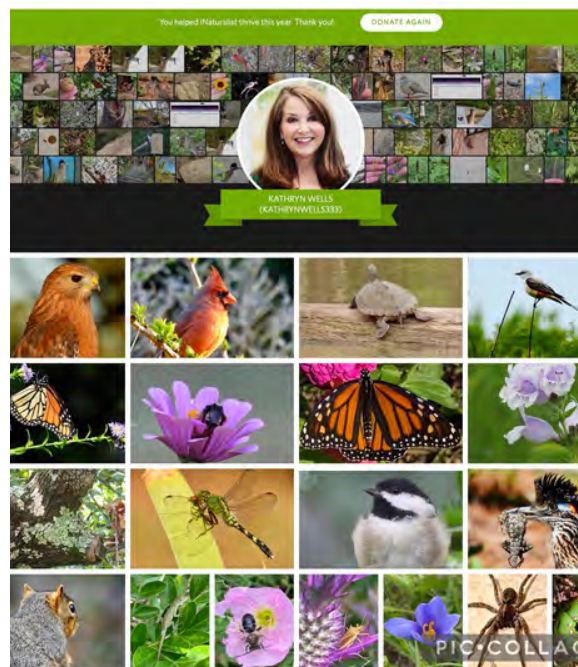
Some of my favorite avian observations during the 2021 City Nature Challenge include (clockwise from top left): Clay-Colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolnii*), and Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*).

## iNaturalist (Cont.)

### *Blitzing the biosphere*

While iNaturalist users are individuals, many users team up for periodic bioblitzes with the goal of recording as many flora and fauna species as possible in particular areas for designated time periods. Bioblitzes can be smaller regional events or larger worldwide (friendly) competitions. Each spring, for example, the DFW area engages in a global competition known as the City Nature Challenge. During the four-day event, ten metroplex counties (Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise) canvas their respective boundaries in an effort to document as much biodiversity as possible. All observations made during this time (and uploaded to iNaturalist before the deadline, typically a few days after the event ends) are automatically swept into the DFW City Nature Challenge project; users need do nothing more than enjoy time documenting nature with their cameras (or smart phones).

This year, the City Nature Challenge is scheduled for April 28th through May 1st. (It falls on our DCMGA plant sale, but, hey – while we're working/shopping, at least we can document the



### **2021 Statistics**

**At the end of the year, iNaturalist provides a “Year in Review” for each user to easily see their annual observation statistics. In 2021, I contributed 5,835 observations of 907 species.**

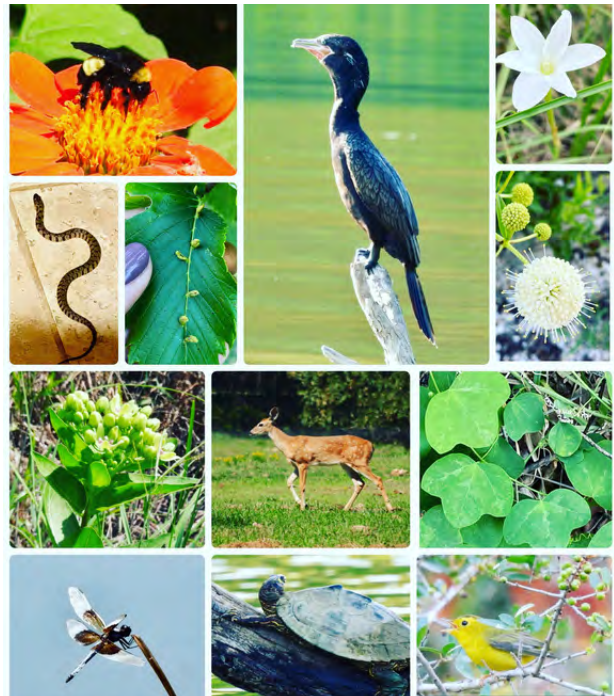
pollinators that inevitably find their way to the blooms!) Observations discovered during those four days must be uploaded before May 6th to count in the final tally. As a reference, the 2022 DFW City Nature Challenge netted 42,149 observations of 3,340 species by 1,378 observers, which were identified by 1,219 observers. Those efforts landed us in fourth place on the worldwide leaderboard! The La Paz area in Bolivia earned first place with 138,179 observations of 3,982 species. But, in terms of actually documenting diversity, DFW scored higher than La Paz with 8% of total observations representing unique species while La Paz's ratio of unique species to observations was "only" 2.9%. Globally, 1,593,327 observations of 51,945 species were documented by 67,984 observers. That's still "only" a 3.3% ratio of unique documentations, so DFW was way ahead of the average! And, at least as long as I've been participating, DFW has always reached the global Top 5.

## iNaturalist (Cont.)

What's the upside? Well, in addition to bragging rights, we get the satisfaction of contributing research-grade data to help analyze, protect, and preserve the land. The stats can even be used at the grassroots level (pun intended!)—perhaps as educational and informational support to help preserve swaths of open space in your city, town, or county. We also receive the joy of being in nature ... and sharing that joy with like-minded friends.

For more information on iNaturalist, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions web page, which addresses many topics including how the identification process works (research-grade observations are important) and how you can protect your privacy while contributing meaningful data. If you're not an iNatter but want to be, here's how to begin. And, if you're already an iNatter, please participate in the upcoming 2023 City Nature Challenge; every observation (and identification) matters!

Flora and fauna friends, I look forward to following your finds ... and finding you in the field!



### Fall 2022 BioBlitz

During the week-long DFW area Fall 2022 BioBlitz, I documented 949 observations of 377 unique species and identified 627 observations for others. See the snake in this photo? Yep; that's a Diamond-Back Water Snake (*Nerodia rhombifer*) ... in my kitchen! Sometimes, the wildlife comes to you; happily, it appeared during the event, so I could count it in my stats ... ha! (After documenting it, I encouraged it out the patio door into the backyard where it could forage for supper in a place other than my pantry.)



DCMGA Garden Tour - May 13, 2023  
[Purchase Your Tickets Now!](#)





## Roots For Wings Program Takes Flight

### *Lewisville Debuts Initiative to Encourage Pollinator Gardens*

BY MICHELE RAWLEIGH

More native plants. Less turfgrass. That's the aim of a new program for residents sponsored by the City of Lewisville. Roots for Wings seeks to encourage city residents to convert thirsty lawns into eco-friendly pollinator gardens through education and a formal certification process.



The free program is administered by the city's Sustainability Manager, Mendie White. She is assisted by Chris Chastain, Greenbelt & Preserves Manager, and several local volunteer organizations. Besides Mendie and Chris, the Steering Committee that developed the program consists of representatives from Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA), Texas Master Naturalists – Elm Fork chapter, Keep Lewisville Beautiful (KLB), and the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) – Trinity Forks chapter. Volunteer participation in the implementation phase of the various program components will be a critical key to success.

The mandatory workshop for those wishing to participate in the program was recently held at the Thrive Recreation Center. The workshop was open to 40 Lewisville residents living in single-family homes. (Future modifications could potentially allow businesses and multi-family homes to participate.) The three-hour class and accompanying notebook were designed for newbie gardeners in smaller, suburban yards typically found in the city. The covered topics ranged from pollinator habitat requirements to how to eradicate bermudagrass.



**Cardboard Work Party**

And, of course, there was lots of information about plants! Liz Moyer, with NPSOT and DCMGA, walked the students through about 50 recommended native and adapted pollinator plants for a novice gardener in just about any small yard. A comprehensive spreadsheet listing all the plants, their cultural requirements, and benefits to pollinators was developed by a team from NPSOT so the students would have a proper shopping list for creating their gardens.

## Roots For Wings Program Takes Flight (Cont.)

Now that the first workshop has been completed, the students will begin readying their gardens for certification. Some will be starting from scratch and others will be tweaking their existing plantings to meet the certification requirements. Applications will be received online and require photographs and plant lists. Trained volunteers will be reviewing the applications against a checklist and make in-person or virtual visits as needed to determine conformance with the requirements. Once approved, the residents will receive a nice yard sign proclaiming their garden to be a "Lewisville Certified Pollinator Garden." Certifications are generally good for three years and periodic reports will be requested from the homeowners to track their progress.

Future elements of the Roots for Wings project include a seed library and a demonstration garden, both anticipated to reside at the Thrive Recreation Center. KLB, which already has two seed libraries elsewhere in the city, will create a third one strictly for pollinator plants. Volunteers will assist in seed harvests, plus preparing and managing the seed library. A demonstration garden reflecting the program principles and showcasing the recommended pollinator plants for the area will be designed, installed, and maintained by volunteers. Both of these activities have the potential for additional educational opportunities once established.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Roots for Wings project or are a Lewisville resident interested in hearing about the next workshop, please contact Michele Rawleigh through the Denton County Master Gardener Association at [dcmga.info@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.info@gmail.com) or VMS.



### *Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel*

Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!  
And don't forget to subscribe!

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

## 2022 President's Volunteer Service Awards

Annually, through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, DCMGA honors members for completing volunteer service. A record-breaking 98 Denton County Master Gardeners were awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer service in 2022.

Bronze Award, 100-249 volunteer hours - 71 Master Gardeners

Silver Award, 250-499 volunteer hours - 20 Master Gardeners

Gold Award, 500+ volunteer hours - 7 Master Gardeners

Your service and dedication to the DCMGA mission are appreciated!

### Denton County Master Gardener Association 2022 President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients



#### Gold (500+ Hours)

- Beverly Duncan
- Cheryl Huckabee
- Debbie Smith
- Kim Wootton
- Ann Hillmann
- Mike James
- Kathryn Wells

#### Silver (250-499 Hours)

- Judy Allen
- Sheila Daniel
- Jolayne LaCour
- Beth Sharum
- Russ Allen
- Janet Gershenfeld
- Pat Moyer
- Pam Spooner
- Daniel Arenas Richieri
- Tammie Gurley
- Thomas O'Brien
- Joanne Spurgin
- Lori Barr
- Lynda Harvey
- Dale Powell
- Steve Spurgin
- Beckey Cortines
- Lela Khan
- Kathleen Rainey
- Lee Ann Yates



## President's Volunteer Service Awards (Cont.)

### Bronze (100-249 Hours)

- |                      |                     |                    |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Gloria Alexander   | • Claudia Duckworth | • Allison Lohse    | • Amanda Price       |
| • Jerry Alexander    | • Don Edwards       | • Pam Long         | • Barbara Prins      |
| • Marion Arndt       | • Pat Edwards       | • Clarice Luce     | • Karen Roberts      |
| • Patti Barry        | • Sharrie Ely       | • Shirley Manfredi | • Kim Shaneyfelt     |
| • Barbara Beane      | • Peggy Fox         | • Regan McCamey    | • John Shelton       |
| • Kelli Bixler       | • Sherry Galbreath  | • Missy McCormick  | • Shirlee Singer     |
| • Mary Branstetter   | • Karen Gibson      | • Rhonda McKinzie  | • Carolyn Stoy       |
| • Reagan Branstetter | • Mary Harned       | • Anne McMahon     | • Ivy Summerfield    |
| • Carol Brantley     | • Edsel Harrell     | • Melissa Migis    | • Laura Thompson     |
| • Barbara Brown      | • Linda Hay         | • Kari Miley       | • Sherri Ursini      |
| • Mary Carlson       | • Sue Hudiburgh     | • Phyllis Minton   | • Debra Wallace      |
| • Steve Carroll      | • David Huffman     | • Bill Moen        | • Melissa Weaver     |
| • Sydney Chase       | • Debby Ishee       | • Liz Moyer        | • Tray Webber        |
| • Susan Cosio        | • Johna Johnson     | • Carol Noble      | • Reesa Wilkins      |
| • Anne Cushman       | • Karen Kearns      | • Susan Novak      | • Ricky Wilkins      |
| • Linda D'Amanda     | • Cece Kenney       | • Dolores Payne    | • Deborah Williams   |
| • Penny Davis        | • Teri Kettle       | • Matthew Phelps   | • Katherine Woodward |
| • Nancy DiMarco      | • Lisa Lebsack      | • Chryl Prestemon  |                      |



## NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH

Denton County Master Gardener Association



Photo courtesy of DCMGA member Kathryn Wells

**Lonestar Gumweed &  
Long-Horned Bees at Clear Creek Natural  
Heritage Center**

*It's time to enjoy the outdoors again*

Tired of being cooped up in the house because of cold weather? 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.

Click the link in this post to view the list of hidden garden treasures in Denton County prepared by Master Gardeners Judith Allen and Melissa Megis.

Gardens and Trails

[dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com)

## Mother Earth News Fair *Exploring Opportunities*

BY SHERRI URSINI

As we journeyed down the Central Texas countryside thoughts danced in our minds of potential inspiration and endless ways of creating a beautiful oasis in our gardens. So, Master Gardeners Janet Gershenfeld, Joan Stanley, and I set off for Belton Texas. Our goal was to bring back information to you the reader and fellow gardener. And, along the way, have a great time!

Pen, paper, and a good pair of shoes for the Mother Earth News Fair were a must because you DO NOT want to miss a thing. Many packed the venue eager to participate in what was being offered, dozens of workshops, hundreds of exhibitors, and countless money saving-hacks were present in Mid-February at the Belton, Tx. Convention Center.

<https://www.motherearthnews.com>

<https://www.bellcountyexpo.com>

This rare opportunity gets you up-close interactions with exhibitors from soap-making to herbal remedies, authors of many topics, and growers who are excited about their choice of expertise. Countless workshops were offered to the fairgoers. Many of them corresponded with books for sale in the large fair bookstore. Speakers were scheduled to speak throughout the venue on many different stages. Planning out which we wanted to listen to was the hard part. So many choices and not enough time!

There were classes for those interested in hearing more about gardening with chickens and keeping a sustainable peaceful garden with Melissa Caughey from Tilly's Nest (<https://www.tillysnest.com>).

Others were learning about seasonal beekeeping in Texas from Tara Chapman. She is the owner of Two Hives Honey (<https://www.twohiveshoney.com>) and offers classes from her Texas apiary.

Many of you may know the Dirt Doctor (Howard Garret) and the mission he has been practicing and researching, using fewer pesticides and the benefits of organic growing (<https://www.texasorganicresearchcenter.org>).

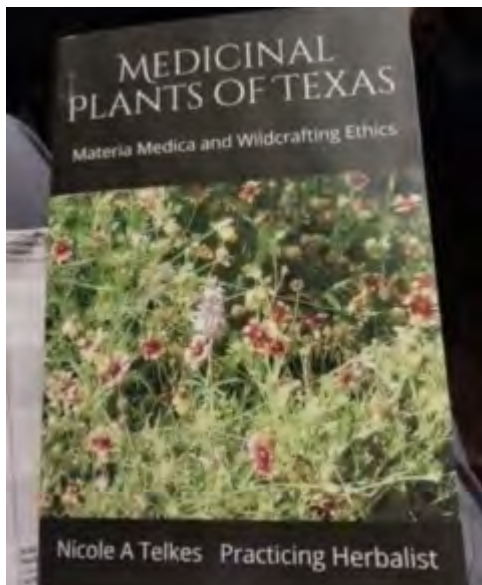


## Mother Earth News Fair (Cont.)

The list of sustainability enthusiasts can go on and on, but to name a few more, there was Livestock Conservancy (<https://livestockconservancy.org>) and Uncle Mud, who taught a class on building your own wood-fired pizza oven from dirt/soil (<https://unclemud.com>).

The kids were not forgotten. There were classes for youth on DIY. Bath bombs and the junior poultry scientists class made nesting boxes. There was something for everyone.

When we start talking about herbs, it is party Thyme for me! So don't Kale my vibe! Vendors, authors, and herbal schools have so much to say about the benefits of this greenery. Many spoke of the uses and how to utilize them, and not just in our favorite culinary dishes. Nicole Telkes of Wildflower School of Botanical Medicine (<https://wildflowerherbschool.com>) spoke of the many ways herbs can be used. She is a University of Texas graduate that studied botany. She has written two books: *Medicinal Plants of Texas* and *Herb.Craft*. She has an online and in-person herbalist school. Nicole is an expert in the herbal community and a member of the native plant society of Texas (<https://npsot.org/wp/>). She spoke on the top 10 Springtime Medicinal plants for Central Texas. It is amazing how powerful plants can be! Why would these plants not be beneficial since generations before us have used them? The good news is that more research has been done as to the safe practice and use of herbs.



On the whole, this was a great experience and I would definitely go again. This fair put on by Mother Earth News is great for all levels of growers and stewards of the land. As we put our thinking caps on, Earth Day approaches, and the question is, how do we make this a better place in our backyard and community? Fellow gardeners, the answer is to keep learning and keep growing!





# Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

BY DEBBY ISHEE

This year's Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show will be held Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North Texas Fairgrounds, located at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd, Denton, TX, 76201, in the air-conditioned West Wing.

We are excited to let you know that there will be vendors and educational booths to coincide with the old-fashioned County Fair-themed Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show where you compete for ribbons, cash prizes, and bragging rights!



Registration for the show will occur between 9-10 a.m., with judging starting promptly at 10 a.m. This year's registration will be through a QR code and we are no longer going to limit the number of entries you can enter. We hope to complete the judging and announce the winners by noon.

**DCMGA Members:** The planning meetings occur on the 2nd Thursday of each month in room 507 at the AgriLife Building and via Zoom. If you are interested in helping plan this year's event, we invite you to join us.

Plan now for your entries to the

*Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show*

June 17  
9 am-1 pm,  
at the  
North Texas Fairgrounds  
2217 N. Carroll Blvd, Denton

What will you enter? A juicy tomato? An aromatic herb?  
A beautiful zinnia? Let's get planting!

## Earth Day Workshops at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie

BY LELA KHAN

Join Denton County Master Gardeners and the City of Carrollton as we celebrate Earth Day at the Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. The event will take place on Saturday, April 22nd, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. North Dallas Master Naturalist will host plenty of hands-on activities for children focusing on beneficial insects they might see at the pocket prairie. Children will use their creative talents while having loads of fun with take and make projects. Carrollton is having a city-wide eco-art contest for school children. Opportunities will be available for older children and adults to participate in the creative arts.

There will be many educational displays including native bees, honeybees, Furneaux Creek Nature Trails, water-wise principles, recycling, and much more. Master Gardeners will be available to answer any gardening questions you may have at the Ask a Master Gardener Booth.

Plan to spend your day at Josey Ranch. There is something for everyone to enjoy. The pocket prairie offers native plants that invite numerous pollinator species, and the fishing pond is brimming with waterfowl. You are sure to see geese and ducks swimming or strolling the area. You'll experience how the city and wildlife peacefully coexist. Josey Ranch is the perfect place for taking photos of insects, flowers, and urban wildlife. There is so much to see!

The area offers a peaceful atmosphere where you are free to stroll along the boardwalk and piers and enjoy paved trails throughout the entire Josey Ranch Lake area. Children can enjoy the outdoors. There are playgrounds and room to run, skip, and jump. There are also plenty of picnic areas throughout the park.



## Earth Day Workshops at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie (Cont.)

Visit Josey Ranch Lake Library and check out Carrollton's Seed Library where free seeds are available. If you are feeling hungry, stop by the coffee shop for a quick snack. The water-wise gardens are located directly behind the library and are lovely. They provide inspiration for making your garden less dependent on supplemental water.

A Veteran's Memorial stands next to the pocket prairie. It is surrounded by nature, and people often experience a moment of silence and reflection there.

At the end of the day, we hope you return for the ladybug release at Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie. This event starts at 6:00 p.m., and the Lady Bug Lady will lead children and adults through the prairie releasing thousands of ladybugs. Be sure to bring a spray bottle of water to give these thirsty creatures a drink before they find a cozy spot to sleep. If you have children or grandchildren, this is an event you don't want to miss. The ladybugs are free and flutter and crawl around the children and it is magical for the young at heart.

This Earth Day event is sure to be fun and educational for the entire family. It is your chance to go outside, get a little sunshine, and experience urban nature at its best!







**New!**

### **Fruit Grafting and Budding Workshop**

This hands-on workshop will provide a thorough understanding of the art and science behind this form of propagation. Training will include Detailed demonstration and hands-on practice. BYO pruners and grafting knife if you have them.

Techniques include:

Cleft and Bark graft

T-bud

Chip-bud

And more!

Space Is limited to 25 participants

**April 14, 2023**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm (CT)

**Location:** 1801 Circle Dr., Fort Worth

**Registration Required**

\$40 w/Lunch

### **DCMGA Members & Interns**

Plan Your Week (PYW)  
is emailed each Friday.  
It has the most current  
VS/CE Opportunities.

## **Resources & Education Opportunities** **For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve**

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics.

.....

### **DCMGA YouTube Playlists**

Flower Arranging

Herbs & Vegetables

Organic Gardening

Other Gardening Topics

Permaculture

Seasonal Tasks & Tips

Waterwise Gardening

Wildlife Habitat Gardening

Houseplants

Landscaping

Pollinators

Roses

Shade Plants

Tree Care

Turf Care

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

**New!**

### **DCMGA Monthly Meeting & Program**

Please join us for our Monthly Business Meeting & Program, "**Confessions of a Frugal Gardener.**" As an avid proponent of not throwing away anything that has a useful second life, **Dallas County Master Gardener Fran Powell** will share ideas for recycling and using everyday items in the garden instead of buying from a gardening catalog. Our monthly business meeting will follow the program.

**April 12, 2023**

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Location:** Global Spheres Center, 7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX

DCMGA Events  
are listed on the Calendar at  
[Upcoming Events](#)



#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

**Q:** I have clover in my lawn. How do I get rid of it?

**A:** Maybe there's a lucky four-leaf clover in your lawn! Sadly, probably not. So, let's talk about controlling broadleaf weeds in your lawn.

There are three types of weeds commonly found in turfgrass in North Texas:

- Broadleaf weeds - henbit, common chickweed, spotted spurge, dandelion, purslane, clover, and many more
- Grassy weeds - crabgrass, dallisgrass, annual bluegrass, rescuegrass
- Sedge - annual sedge, green kyllinga, purple nutsedge, yellow nutsedge

Aggie Horticulture has a terrific webpage with photos of the common weeds found in Texas turfgrass:

<https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-weeds/>.

#### Options for Managing Weeds in Lawns

The type of herbicide you use to manage weeds in your lawn depends on the time of year and the kind of weed you're trying to control.

- *Pre-emergence herbicides* are chemical weed control that prevents weed seedlings from becoming established. These must be applied at certain times of the year to treat the weed seeds before they germinate. Using a pre-emergence herbicide is an excellent method for preventing weeds.
- *Post-emergence herbicides* target visible weeds. This is what you'll want to use to treat the clover in your yard.
- *Non-selective herbicides* are chemical herbicides that kill any vegetation they contact. There are limited applications for using a non-selective herbicide to control, usually when you want to kill the weeds and the turf in an area and start over.

#### Post-Emergence Herbicides for Broadleaf Weed Management

Broadleaf herbicides that contain two or three of these active ingredients are most effective: 2,4-D, MCPP, MCPA, dicamba, mecoprop, quinclorac, or triclopyr. These ingredients are potent and poisonous. Always carefully read and follow the label instructions.



Liquid products are readily available in both ready-to-use and concentrate formulations. Granular products are often combined with fertilizer; use of these "weed and feed" products is not recommended. If you prefer to use a granular post-emergence herbicide,

check the ingredients list on the label to ensure it does not include fertilizer.

Apply broadleaf herbicides only when needed and when most effective. Here are some guidelines:

- The best time to apply is when weeds naturally transport nutrients to their roots in the fall. Getting the herbicide to the weeds' roots is key to killing them. Applications in the spring may require repeat applications.
- Spot spray only on weedier areas of the lawn. Choose a ready-to-use product to avoid mixing, and only buy enough product for one season's use. If you plan to use a concentrate mixed with water in a sprayer, dedicate it to the herbicide and clearly mark it.

Spray during the right conditions:

- Drift can damage vegetables, flowers, trees, and shrubs. Spray on a calm day when the wind is less than 5 mph. It's best to cover plants you don't want to kill to protect them from overspray.
- Apply the spray when the temperature is less than 90 degrees. In hotter conditions, the herbicide will evaporate or turn to vapor, and turf damage may occur.
- Water your lawn 2 - 3 days before applying the herbicide. Drought-stressed turf is more susceptible to damage from the herbicide.
- Do not mow immediately before or after spraying to ensure the spray makes good contact with the weeds' leaves.
- Treat when no rain is forecast for at least 24 hours.

Granular broadleaf weed herbicides should be applied when the weed foliage is wet,

either early in the morning when the dew is on the leaves or after irrigating the area. The granules must stick to the foliage to be effective.

### Preventing Weeds

- Cut the lawn tall (3-4 inches). The blades shade the emerging weeds and prevent them from getting established.
- Use a mulching blade on your mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. They also smother the emerging weed seedlings and recycle nutrients into the soil.
- Maintaining a healthy lawn through proper irrigation and fertilization will crowd out broadleaf weeds.
- Apply a pre-emergence herbicide to your lawn. According to Neil Sperry, these are the timing guidelines for pre-emergence herbicide application:

<https://neilsperry.com/2013/01/what-is-the-right-time-for-preemergents/>

Learn more about managing weeds in your lawn at these links:

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/faq/what-proper-way-apply-broadleaf-herbicides-lawn>

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/herbicide-options-managing-common-lawn-weeds-maryland>



*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](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov).*

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



## Denton County Master Gardener Association

### Upcoming Events

- April 5** Ladies' Night at Ace Hardware! Sip wine while you shop for flowers, plants, and garden decor. Lots of giveaways, raffles, and door prizes. Denton County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.  
Denton Ace Hardware 5-8PM
- April 6** Natives in the Suburbs: Wish you used less time to maintain your yard and more time to enjoy it? Come and let Liz Moyer, Denton County Master Gardener and instructor for the Native Plant Society of Texas help you bring more natural beauty throughout the year and more support for pollinators to your gardens. Presented in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful. Lewisville Grand Theater 6-7PM
- April 12** "Confessions of a Frugal Gardener." Please join us for our Monthly Business Meeting & Program. As an avid proponent of not throwing away anything that has a useful second life, Dallas County Master Gardener Fran Powell will share ideas for recycling and using everyday items in the garden instead of buying from a gardening catalog. Our monthly business meeting will follow the program. Global Spheres 10AM -12PM
- April 13** Ladies' Night at Ace Hardware! Sip wine while you shop for flowers, plants, and garden decor. Lots of giveaways, raffles, and door prizes. Denton County Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.  
Justin Ace Hardware 5-8PM
- April 14** Container Gardening: Are you short of space and think you can't have a garden? Let Denton County Master Gardener Bonnie Ambrose share how to use containers to grow beautiful and edible plants. Presented in partnership with Denton Senior Center 9-10 AM
- April 21** Texas Native Plants can improve soil quality and quality of life with less maintenance, less cost, and more year-round interest. Come hear Mike James of the Denton County Master Gardener Association and the Native Plant Society of Texas teach you how to use native plants in your landscape and support local pollinators and other wildlife. Pilot Point Community Library 10-11AM
- April 22** Do you have gardening questions? Denton County Master Gardeners are here to help! Join us at the Ask a Master Gardener booth at ColorPalooza in Lewisville.  
Old Town Lewisville 9AM-4PM
- April 22** This is a free event and everyone is invited. Educational displays and free handouts available. Hands on activities for adults and children. Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists will be on site to answer your questions. This event is in collaboration with the City of Carrollton. Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie 1-3PM
- April 29** Spring Plant Sale: Join DCMGA at their annual plant sale to find thousands of plants at terrific prices. Texas natives, tough-as-nail perennials, no fuss roses, hard to find ground covers, bedding plants, container plants, and herbs. Pass-along plants from our own Master Gardeners' gardens.  
Trinity United Methodist From 9AM until sold out.
- May 4** Would you like to attract pollinators to your garden? Learn how to choose the right plants for birds and butterflies from Denton County Master Gardener Shirlee Singer. Presented in partnership with Keep Lewisville Beautiful.  
Lewisville Grand Theater 6-7PM

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.







TEXAS  
MASTER GARDENER  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION'S

# Plant Sale

**April 29, 2023**  
9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M. or Until sellout,  
**RAIN or SHINE!!!**

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**633 Hobson Lane, Denton**

- ✿ Texas native plants, tough-as-nails perennials, and no-fuss roses
- ✿ Hard-to-find ground covers, bedding plants, and herbs
- ✿ Special container plants
- ✿ Pass-along plants from Master Gardeners' own gardens
- ✿ Master Gardeners available to help you make your selections and answer your gardening questions

**Bring your own wagons or carts so you can take home as many of these wonderful plants as your garden can hold.**

For more information,  
Visit our Website: [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)  
Email: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov)  
Call Help Desk phone: (940)349-2892

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\*Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Denton County AgriLife Extension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.\*

\*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.\*





DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 13

9 AM TO 4 PM

### TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties. Learn about garden design, native plants, enjoy children's activities, and shop for gardening goodies during the tour! Advance purchase tickets are \$15, and on tour day \$20. Children 12 and under are FREE!

#### HIDDEN COTTAGE GARDEN

Denton, TX 76205



#### RED ROCK CROSSING

Lake Dallas, TX 75065



#### WILDLIFE WAYSTATION & MARKET

Oak Point, TX 75068



#### HUNDRED WOODS ACRE

Oak Point, TX 75068



SCAN THIS CODE OR GO TO  
**DCMGA.COM** TO PURCHASE TICKETS.

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# at the MARKET GARDEN TOUR

Decorate your garden & home from  
local artists & Master Gardener  
crafts people

Ana's Crystals & Garden Art  
MBW Garden Art  
Best Bug Bait  
Texas Gardener Magazine  
The Paws Cause  
Earthly Creations  
Lone Star Specialty Foods  
Clay Happy

Twin Star Art  
Tere's Garden Stones  
Green Metal Art  
Argyle Woodworks  
Stay Jee Bakes  
Pretty Seeds  
Green Dragonfly Designs  
Healing Thyme Botanicals

My Angel Warriors Snack Shack

Garden Tour ticket gives you entry to all the Vendors!  
3500 Wildridge Blvd. Oak Point, TX.

**Saturday, May 13, 9 am - 4 pm**

A family-friendly event you won't want to miss!  
Self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties  
Master Gardener docents on-site

Garden Tour Tickets: Advanced purchase \$15, at the gate \$20. Children 12 and under are FREE.  
Purchase tickets at [dcmga.com](https://dcmga.com) or from a Master Gardener

**Denton County Master  
Gardener Association**

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### 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.

### 2023 Board of Directors

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### Social Media

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

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

### Save the Date

- April 12 General Meeting & Program, "Confessions of a Frugal Gardener" - Global Spheres
- April 29 Spring Plant Sale - Trinity United Methodist Church, Denton

### Contact Information

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<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

Submission deadline for the May edition of *The Root* is Saturday, 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 Judy Allen 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.