

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz

WHAT'S GROWING ON

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Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

"At last came the golden month of the wild folk-- honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year." — Samuel Scoville Jr., *Wild Folk*

The month of May is a time to celebrate all things nature. Our gardens are bursting with blooming flowers, bees, butterflies, and birds. Here are a few interesting facts about May: The month of May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. May Day, usually celebrated on May 1, is a European festival of ancient origins marking the beginning of summer, also associated with the ancient Roman festival Floralia. Traditional activities include gathering wildflowers and green branches to weave into floral garlands, crowning a May Queen, and dancing around a Maypole.

The full moon in May is known as the Full Flower Moon. Plan to venture out after dark on May 4th and 5th to get the best view of the bright Full Flower Moon! The Eta Aquariids meteor shower will peak from 3-6 am on May 6, showing off about 60 meteors per hour.

One of May's birth flowers is the Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.), a small flowering tree with bright red fruits enjoyed by wildlife and used in jams and jellies. The Parsley Hawthorn (*C. marshallii*), with its leaves shaped like parsley, Reverchon (*C. reverchonii*), and Red Haw (*C. mollis*), are all native to Texas. [Learn more about native Hawthorns.](#)

May is the [National Wildlife Foundation's Garden for Wildlife Month](#). Wildlife and pollinator-friendly gardens need food, water, and shelter. Plan your garden with various native plants that are hosts and habitats for pollinators and wildlife. Learn more about planning your garden to attract pollinators and wildlife on our website [Plan page](#). Our [Monthly Garden Tips](#) page will help you know what to do in your yard and garden in May.



Photo by *Crataegus mollis* Głóg miękki CC BY-SA 4.0

Don't forget Mother's Day on May 14. What better way to celebrate with your mom than joining us at our Annual Garden Tour on May 13? Landscape Design tips, the importance of native and adapted plants, a shade gardening presentation, a scavenger hunt, and local arts and crafts booths – our Annual Garden tour has it all. Read the overview article on page 5 and purchase tickets on our website [Garden Tour](#) page.

Get out there and enjoy all that the month of May has to offer!

Argyle Unity Community Park *Quintessential Master Gardener Project*

BY RUSS ALLEN

Denton County Master Gardener Association's purpose as set out by Texas A&M's AgriLife Department is to Educate and Engage our Local Community in Science-based Landscaping and Gardening.

In 2019, a new DC Master Gardener couldn't take it any longer: driving down the road near his home and seeing a New City Park full of grass, grass, and more grass! Yes, it served the basic needs of baseball and soccer. It was a landscape without color or variety to draw the local Argyles to enjoy their Park! So, in 2019 John Ankeny & Becky Parnell submitted and DCMGA's Board of Directors approved his request to assist the City of Argyle to develop and beautify Argyle Unity Park. It was the beginning...like so many DCMGA Projects, it started with a desire to serve the community!

That first year saw the completion of three flower beds close to the park's pavilion, a hedge row along a parking area, shade gardens, and a small butterfly garden, plus three dedicated benches. 2020 saw three additional flower beds at the front of the park. The Town Council, recognizing the blessings and positive responses from these improvements, greeted John and his DCMGA Team with open arms and a bit of a budget! Yahoo! In 2021, the DCMGA Team oversaw the addition of two larger flower beds and new stonework to frame them. Also in 2021, Argyle requested John and Becky's assistance in placing four large mature trees and additional irrigation. The trees are now the backdrop highlighting the Crawford Rd frontage beds!

A huge transition started in 2022. It became more than just a "Beautification Project," more than a pretty face! The City of Argyle was recognized by DCMGA as the Top Supporting City for 2022. The 2022 DCMGA Interns Amanda Barber, Johnna Johnson, Teri Kettle, Sandra Garoutte, Ivy Summerfield, and others came on board with a plethora of energy & ideas! This DCMGA Project Team of Master Gardeners entered into designing a "Master Plan" for 2023 and



Argyle Unity Community Park (Cont.)

beyond. They didn't waste any time: 2022 saw the engagement and education of local Girl Scout Troop 8016's yearlong garden bed design, prepping, planting, and maintenance into 2023. Then there was designing and estimating additional water needs for more Landscaping beds and grant writing for a large Monarch Way Station! There was the clearing brush from the adjacent creek and what to do with a dying tree at the Crawford Road main entrance? All of this still needed to be presented to the City of Argyle for approval!

Now early in 2023: The City of Argyle has again put its faith in DCMGA. New water lines have already been brought in for more beds and planting areas. This DCMGA Team won their first Grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas for the first phase of their proposed Monarch Way Station! On April 1st of this year, The Argyle Unity Park Team hosted an Information Booth with DCMGA's Canopy and Information Table at Argyle's Community Easter Celebration at Unity Park. Furthermore, The Argyle High School National Art Honor Society is scheduled to design and produce a landscape mural on the DCMGA's Storage/Work Building (provided by the City of Argyle) in the park.

Oh, and that big dying tree at the entrance? The DCMGA Team got really creative and the City of Argyle joined in. On April 15th, the Team brought in Kevin Roach of Decatur, "Chainsaw Carver extraordinaire!" Out of that tree, he carved two flying Eagles and one perched Eagle. The eagles will welcome people to the park for years to come!



Argyle Unity Park has become a successful multi-phased community involvement and educational DCMGA Project partnering with the City of Argyle. Never say done! Those individual projects will be a part of and available to all who walk and play in the park! The Town Council has already asked the TEAM for their next "Wish List" for the 2024 Unity Park Budget!



I've probably missed mentioning over half the blessings this Team of Master Gardeners has poured into Argyle Unity Park with the City of Argyle's partnership. But I know they have created the "Quintessential DCMGA Project" – involving and educating the community, a learning-by-doing project that will keep giving for years, maybe even generations, to come!



DCMGA Annual Garden Tour *A Fun-Filled Day for the Whole Family* May 13, 2023

Our annual Garden Tour is just around the corner, 9 am-4 pm on May 13th. Four Denton County Master Gardener properties in Oak Point, Lake Dallas, and Denton will showcase native and adaptive plants, shade gardens, activities for children, learning opportunities, and local arts and crafts booths.

Tickets are available from a Master Gardener or online on our [Garden Tour](#) page.

By Cheryl Huckabee

Wildlife Waystation

This environmentally responsible space features permeable walkways, raised-bed edible gardens, composting, and rainwater harvesting systems in a small landscape. Working within HOA guidelines and state laws, the owners' design is aesthetically pleasing and a designated Monarch Waystation and National Wildlife Certified Wildlife Habitat.



Liz and Pat Moyer, Denton County Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society of Texas members, will be onsite all-day sharing information about native Texas plants for North Texas.



Hundred Woods Acre

This Master Gardener owner's love of Winnie the Pooh makes this property a fantastical adventure. Children will be delighted with the fairy and mini-themed gardens, the dragon treehouse, and the mural of the lake and wildlife. Adults will be enchanted with the waterfall feature and shade gardens featuring Clematis, Hosta, Rose of Sharon, Rudbeckia, and more.

Learn about the many beautiful plants that grow well in shade in North Texas from

Denton County Master Gardener Charlotte Canion. Our Science with Attitude team will host a scavenger hunt and other activities for children.

DCMGA Annual Garden Tour (Cont.)

Hidden Cottage Garden

Surrounding a Craftsman-style home, the hidden cottage garden has no rules except variety and abundance. Beds with the riotous colors of Poppies, Yarrow, Roses, Verbena, and their many native and adapted flower friends spill onto curved rock pathways while attracting pollinators and birds. Edible plants add surprise to drifts of self-sown annuals, and antique iron gates lead to rock terraces showcasing successful shade gardening. A dry riverbed, repurposed tree stump, and an adorable garden shed add delight.



Get landscape design tips and tricks from Denton County Master Gardener Kathy Rainey. Bring your gardening questions to the Ask a Master Gardener booth and pick up an AgriLife Soil Test bag while you're there.



Red Rock Crossing

Enjoy nature's beauty and tranquility on the largest property on tour. The carefully "wildscaped" design provides habitats for wildlife and pollinators. See it all - shade, sun, xeriscaping, rain, and pollinator gardens. Post Oaks, Little Bluestem, Winecups, and Cutleaf Daisies are just a few of the many native plants displayed. Enjoy watching the nesting bluebirds and busy pollinators while relaxing in one of the seating areas.

Learn the importance of utilizing native plants in the landscape from the Native Plant Society of Texas. Children can get in on the fun with our Science with Attitude team. And Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist Sam Kieschnick will be on hand to answer your wildlife questions.

DCMGA Annual Garden Tour (Cont.)

Market at the Garden Tour

You'll find items to decorate your garden and home from 20+ local artists and Master Gardener craftspeople, specialty foods and snacks vendors, *Texas Gardener* magazine, and more at the Market at the Tour. Located at the Wildridge Amenity Pavilion, 3500 Wildridge Blvd, Oak Point. Your Garden Tour ticket gives you entry to all the vendors!

We look forward to seeing you at the tour!



Plant of the Month *Hummingbird Feeder Plants*

BY LEE ANN YATES

Hummingbirds are here and those delightful, feisty beauties are hungry! To keep up the energy required to go from 0 to 60 mph in 3 feet takes lots of calories. A 170-pound man would have to burn 155,000 calories a day to equal what a hummingbird burns in a day! Hummers have to eat every 10 to 15 minutes during the day and then go into hibernation at night. Commonly seen in Denton County, ruby-throated hummingbirds, among others, migrate over vast distances to and from Mexico, flying nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico after they “bulk up” for the flight. Sugar from nectar is their main food source, but they also eat small spiders and insects caught in flight for protein.

Supplemental Feeders

Hummingbirds are important pollinators for tube-shaped flowers since pollen gets stuck to their heads when they dip deeply into a flower to feed. Hummingbirds are unique fliers with the ability to fly up, down, backward, and to hover in place. The feeders we put out should be considered supplemental food at most – and please don’t add any colored dye to the food. It is actually detrimental to the hummers! Water and sugar is all they need in a 4 to 5 to 1 ratio

– 4 or 5 cups of boiled water to 1 cup of sugar, mix it up, cool, and serve to your guests. Never substitute honey or sugar substitutes for regular sugar – they cause bacterial and fungal threats to the birds.



Photo Courtesy Lynn Pyle, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*)

Hummingbird Favorites

Natural nectar is preferred by hummingbirds. So, if you want to provide a steady supply of nectar for these high-energy delights, then add some of their favored plants to your garden. Hummers prefer long, tubular flowers they can stick their beaks and long tongues (which have straw-like tubes) into to suck the nectar out. Here are a few easily found options to ponder.



Esperanza, or Yellow Bells, (*Tecoma stans*) is a native, Texas Super Star plant. Denton County is positioned at its northernmost zone for cold hardiness. Take a little extra care protecting this beauty from really cold temperatures. It can be grown in a large container – I’ve hauled mine in and out of the dining area and garage for years! They are fast-growing with

Hummingbird Feeder Plants (Cont.)

bright yellow 2.5-inch flowers and shiny green foliage. Esperanza grows 3 to 6 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide. The plant tolerates summer heat and will bloom from spring through the hot summer and into fall. It is deciduous and sometimes develops long, woody seed pods in the fall. Periodic pruning will help it maintain a nice structure. It can be grown in full or partial sun and has a Firewise rating of 10, the highest fire-resistant rating. Esperanza is happy in any soil as long as it is well drained. Propagate Esperanza by cuttings or seed.



Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*) is a drought tolerant, heat loving, native, perennial shrub that gets no more than 5 feet by 4 feet with red or orange blooms. It is perfect for hummers' beaks and tongues – so much so it is often called Hummingbird Bush! Another plus for gardeners is its bloom time – midsummer to frost. In very cold temperatures, Flame Acanthus can die back to its roots, but will reemerge in spring from the ground. It is late to leaf out in spring, so be patient, and can be pruned or even severely cut back in the early spring before leaf-out.

Flame Acanthus adapts well to sunny, well-drained sites and is a good choice for places with poor soil and reflected heat sources, like sidewalks and driveways. Supplemental water encourages flowering in the hottest times. The leaves are small and thin, allowing the blooms to really show off. Flame acanthus works well as a border plant or informal hedge and as a specimen plant. It has pale bark, so even without its leaves and blooms it can add interest to your garden if placed in front of a dark background.



Courtesy Marcus, Joseph A., Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Flame Acanthus

requirements, and adapts to many types of soil. The easiest way to propagate bush honeysuckle is by soft or semi-hardwood cuttings taken in late summer to fall. Seeds collected in late summer to early fall from ripe berries need to be cleaned immediately and must be stratified for two to three months.



Honeysuckles

All honeysuckles will attract humming-birds, whether a vine or a bush. **Lonicera Albiflora, White Bush Honeysuckle**, is a native of the Hill Country and North Texas. It is non-aggressive and usually grows as a 4 feet tall deciduous bush with white flowers and vine-y branches that can reach up to 10 feet. The white flowers are followed by clusters of orange-red berries in the fall which attract birds. Plant this honeysuckle in partial sun, where it can climb walls, columns, trellises, and fences. It, too, has high heat tolerance, but low water

Hummingbird Feeder Plants (Cont.)



Threadleaf Giant Hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*), often called Hummingbird Mint, is a xeriscapic perennial which hummingbirds love. It is cold hardy for our area and heat and drought-tolerant, in addition to being deer and rabbit resistant. In the Mint family, it's a good self-seeder and will naturalize. Like many drought-tolerant plants, Threadleaf Giant Hyssop has gray-green foliage. The unusual, fragrant orange or pink flowers have lavender calyxes that bloom from late spring through to fall. You may find Threadleaf Giant Hyssop labeled as Sunset Hyssop because of its colorful flowers. Cut it back in late summer to encourage the fall rebloom. It grows 36 to 42 inches high and 18 inches wide in full sun to partial shade, with very little water. If you plant it in a large pot – 3 gallons or larger – be sure to give it excellent drainage. This plant does not like wet feet! It will need repotting every two to three years.



There are many other plants with tube-like flowers which attract hummingbirds. Some of these include **Turk's cap** (*Malaviscus drumondii*), which thrives in sun or shade, **Scarlet Beebalm** (*Monarda didyma*), **Bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa*), **Mealy Blue Sage** (*Salvia farinacea*), **Snapdragons**, which are great for those early arriving hummers, **Desert Willow** (*Chilopsis linearis*), **Coral Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera sempervirens* – look for the Latin name so you don't end up with the highly aggressive Japanese honeysuckle), and **Penstemons**. The resources below provide more options for your landscape.



Hummingbird Feeder Plants (Cont.)

Resources

Texas Parks & Wildlife, "Hummingbirds,"

https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/nonpwdpubs/introducing_birds/hummingbirds/

Texas A&M AgriLife, Aggie Horticulture

"Esperanza, Yellow Bells, Hardy Yellow Trumpet, Trumpet-flower, Yellow Elder"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/tecomastans.htm>

"Flame Acanthus, Wright Anisacanth, Hummingbird Bush, Muicle"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/anisacanthusquadrifid.htm>

"Mealy Blue Sage"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wildseed/mealybluesage.html>

Native Plant Society of Texas, "Coral honeysuckle is the perfect vine for landscapes"

<https://npsot.org/wp/story/2010/1252/>

The Hummingbird Society, "Hummingbird Flowers - The Best 18 Plant Families for Natural Nectar"

<https://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/hummingbird-flowers/>

The National Gardening Association Plants Database, "Sunset Hyssop"

<https://garden.org/plants/view/75156/Sunset-Hyssop-Agastache-rupestris/>

Texas SmartScape, "Sage, Mealy Blue"

<http://www.txsmartscape.com/plant-search/plant-details.php?id=377>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Database

"Anisacanthus quadrifidus ar. wrightii"

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=anquw

"Lonicera albiflora"

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=loal

Editor's Note: This article is a shortened reprint
from *The Root* May 2019.

For the complete article, visit
[Gardening Basics - Hummingbird Feeder Plants](#)



You're Invited

May 2023, Monthly Meeting & Program
"Navigating the Farmer's Market: Getting Your
Products to the Public"



Laura Miller, Tarrant County Extension Agent, presents how to get
your products available for sale at local farmer's markets.

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

Your Homeowners Association And What are you allowed to do in your Garden?

BY MIKE JAMES

For some readers, this is an emotional and controversial subject. The whole purpose of this article is to demystify this question of what you can or cannot plant in your own residential garden. We will briefly discuss Texas Senate Bill 198 which was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry on 14 June 2013. As in all laws, regulations, and/or ordinances, there is frequently room for interpretation. (See pages 16 & 17 for the law as it was signed.) Know that the language of the law provides the overriding guidance that the HOA must use to write their local ordinances and covenants that you must then comply with.

So, if just the mention of this subject has raised your hackles or if you are the Classical Texan with the attitude "this is my land and nobody is going to tell me what I can do with it," I hope you will read on because this does not have to be stressful.

During the writing of this article, I was afforded the opportunity of visiting with two DCMGA leaders. Ms. Kim Wootton currently lives in an HOA with some rigorous covenants and Kim has many years' experience working with the HOA and how it interprets Senate Bill 198. I also had chance to interview Ms. Kathryn Wells who has lived in HOA communities, although she does not live in one now. And finally, I was fortunate to listen to Diane Wetherbee from Lantana speak on "Encouraging Native Landscaping in an HOA Community." Using their own words, all three of these individuals confirmed my own personal experience in regulatory advocacy working for individuals attempting to comply with an ordinance or an environmental regulation.

Why does the HOA exist in the first place? It exists to protect the homeowner's interest and investment. HOAs want Uniformity in Landscapes – mowed green turf grass and nice round (or rectangular) pruned balls for shrubs.



**Rain Barrels, Wildlife Waystation,
2023 Garden Tour**

Rain harvesting systems are legal in HOAs via TX SB 198.

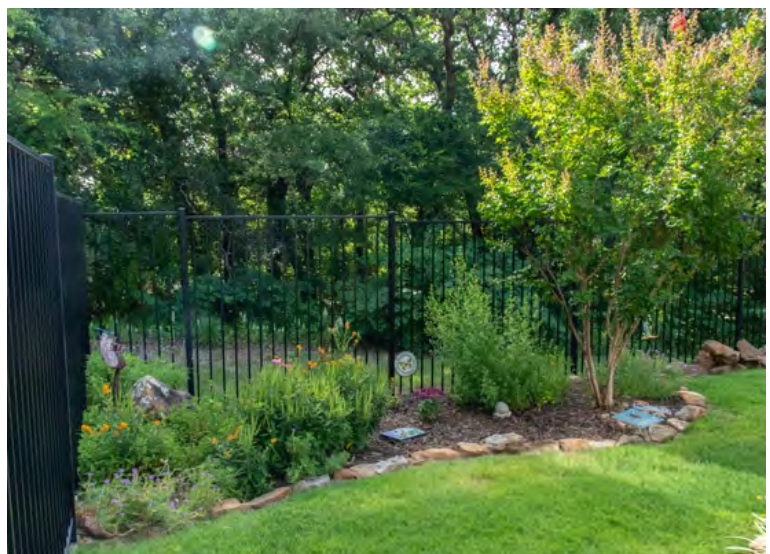
Your Homeowners Association (Cont.)

The HOA may consider the native landscape to be unkempt or weedy. SB 198 addressed this concept and allowed for alternative thoughts to be considered as you lay out and maintain your landscape. Native grasses are allowed in your landscape. Simply speaking, what do you have to do? Be a part of the solution. Get involved with your landscape. Be involved with your HOA and the rule-making process in a constructive manner.

Diane Wetherbee suggests that we adjust our general terminology when talking with others, including our HOA. When we hear the phrase xeriscaping, many of us automatically think of a rocky sandy barren desert with a bunch of cacti. That is what we had in the desert. Diane asks what do you think of when you hear the word "Wildscaping?" A patch of weeds surrounded maybe by a bunch of out-of-control Johnson Grass. Would the terminology "Native Landscape," "Waterwise," or, on an even grander scale, "Earth-Kind® Landscape" help us talk to the HOA more clearly?

The fact that I can have a rain barrel or other rain catchment system is of great interest. Personally, I am proud that my home with its little yard is a registered "Monarch Waystation" and one day I will be able to use the terminology "Native Wildlife Habitat." Two days ago, I had new baby Monarch caterpillars in my backyard, my Native Landscape. I happen to think that Green Milkweed is important to my landscape. It and many other native plants are allowed in my landscape.

Whether this is your first time to hear of this State Law or you have been dealing with your HOA for years, please know the best way to get to a successful resolution of a question will always be to maintain civility, to not raise your voice or get angry. Don't get your feelings hurt because someone does not agree with you. Remember, the person at the HOA is frequently your neighbor. In many cases they may be your friend. And it is certainly possible that the HOA might have a different opinion than you do. And if it is not confusing enough already, there may be a constraint from your city – something as simple as what tree can be planted between the sidewalk and the curb.



Wildlife Waystation, 2023 Garden Tour
Earth-Kind® Landscaping

Your Homeowners Association (Cont.)

As much as anything, your success in receiving approval for an exception or for the installation/modification of an existing or brand-new bed in your yard will depend on your behavior and your knowledge of the ordinances currently in place in your HOA. Your success will depend upon your level of understanding of the rules in place today. Remember, your rules may be different from the ones in my neighborhood. Regardless, if you must do something today, follow the existing rules. Know them well before you walk into the room of your Landscape Review Committee. Pay attention to the deadlines for submittal of an application for review. Be Polite.

From Ms. Wetherbee we are reminded of an important aspect of dealing with your HOA – very simply, get involved. If your plant is not on the approved list for your neighborhood and you really want to use the plant in your landscape, you may need to propose an addition to the approved plant list.

Proposals of a plant not on the list, or additions and modifications to the overall landscape, will likely require some or all the following submittals or reasons in order to receive approval.

- Are the suggested plants native to North Texas?
- Is the plant drought tolerant, contributing to water conservation practices?
- Does a specific season for planting require approval i.e., planting a new tree in the fall?
- How does a new plant contribute better food, shelter, and/or nesting material for your local wildlife?
- Does a new plant improve soil infiltration and minimize runoff while adding better organic material underground?
- Be willing to indicate the value of diversity. How many butterflies or moths depend upon a Japanese Maple when you want approval for a Mexican Plum?
- Earth-Kind® Landscaping reduces the need for fertilizers and other chemicals required by turf.
- Year-round Color.

I have confidence that most people reading this article already know most or all of this, but what we all do at times is get so emotionally involved in the process we truly cannot see the forest for the trees. Step Back, Get involved, Be Civilized, and remember to Treat your neighbor, the HOA member, with respect.



For another DCMGA member's experience with HOAs, read Marti Hector's
["Saving Water – Educating HOAs" from October 2019 The Root.](#)

Texas SB 198 (2013)

AN ACT

relating to restrictive covenants regulating drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 202.007, Property Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(a) A property owners' association may not include or enforce a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from:

- (1) implementing measures promoting solid-waste composting of vegetation, including grass clippings, leaves, or brush, or leaving grass clippings uncollected on grass;
- (2) installing rain barrels or a rainwater harvesting system;
- (3) implementing efficient irrigation systems, including underground drip or other drip systems; or
- (4) using drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf.

(d) This section does not:

(1) restrict a property owners' association from regulating the requirements, including size, type, shielding, and materials, for or the location of a composting device if the restriction does not prohibit the economic installation of the device on the property owner's property where there is reasonably sufficient area to install the device;

(2) require a property owners' association to permit a device described by Subdivision (1) to be installed in or on property:

- (A) owned by the property owners' association;
 - (B) owned in common by the members of the property owners' association; or
 - (C) in an area other than the fenced yard or patio of a property owner;
- (3) prohibit a property owners' association from regulating the installation of efficient irrigation systems, including establishing visibility limitations for aesthetic purposes;
- (4) prohibit a property owners' association from regulating the installation or use of gravel, rocks, or cacti;

Texas SB 198 (2013) (Cont.)

(5) restrict a property owners' association from regulating yard and landscape maintenance if the restrictions or requirements do not restrict or prohibit turf or landscaping design that promotes water conservation;

(6) require a property owners' association to permit a rain barrel or rainwater harvesting system to be installed in or on property if:

(A) the property is:

(i) owned by the property owners' association;

(ii) owned in common by the members of the property owners' association; or

(iii) located between the front of the property owner's home and an adjoining or adjacent street; or

(B) the barrel or system:

(i) is of a color other than a color consistent with the color scheme of the property owner's home; or

(ii) displays any language or other content that is not typically displayed by such a barrel or system as it is manufactured;

(7) restrict a property owners' association from regulating the size, type, and shielding of, and the materials used in the construction of, a rain barrel, rainwater harvesting device, or other appurtenance that is located on the side of a house or at any other location that is visible from a street, another lot, or a common area if:

(A) the restriction does not prohibit the economic installation of the device or appurtenance on the property owner's property; and

(B) there is a reasonably sufficient area on the property owner's property in which to install the device or appurtenance; or

(8) prohibit a property owners' association from requiring an owner to submit a detailed description or a plan for the installation of drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf for review and approval by the property owners' association to ensure, to the extent practicable, maximum aesthetic compatibility with other landscaping in the subdivision.

(d-1) A property owners' association may not unreasonably deny or withhold approval of a proposed installation of drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf under Subsection (d) (8) or unreasonably determine that the proposed installation is aesthetically incompatible with other landscaping in the subdivision.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph437761/m2/1/high_res_d/SB198.pdf



Pond Life *The Interdependence Of Species*

BY JANICE GOETZ

The pond ecosystem is a diverse and complex network of life, where various species interact with each other to maintain balance. One of the most fascinating aspects of this ecosystem is the relationship between pond life, such as insects and plants, and the lotus flowers that are commonly found growing near the water's edge.

Lotus flowers are well-known for their beauty and cultural significance, but they are also important for the pond ecosystem because they play a key role in the pollination process.

In the case of lotus flowers, the primary pollinators are insects such as bees, butterflies, and beetles. These insects are attracted to the nectar and pollen of the lotus flowers, and as they feed, they transfer pollen from one flower to another, promoting cross-pollination.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz



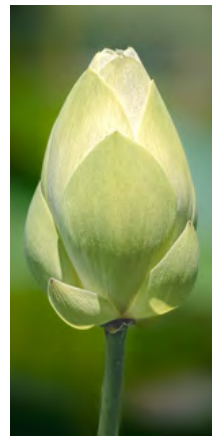
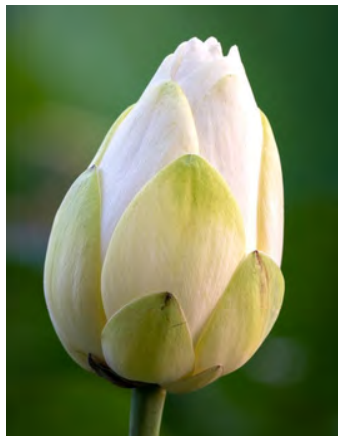
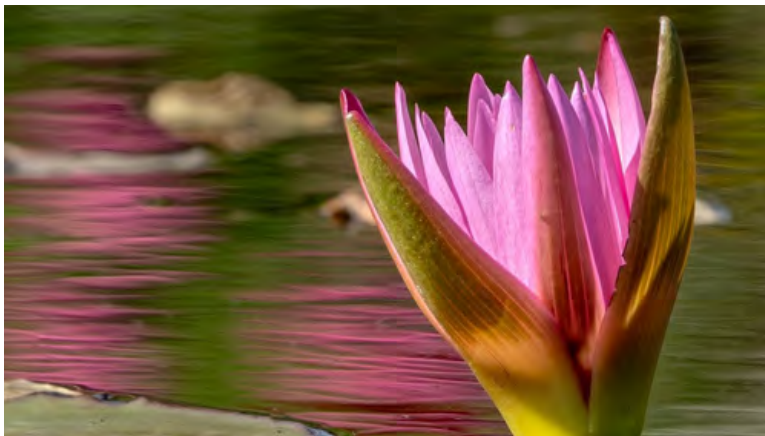
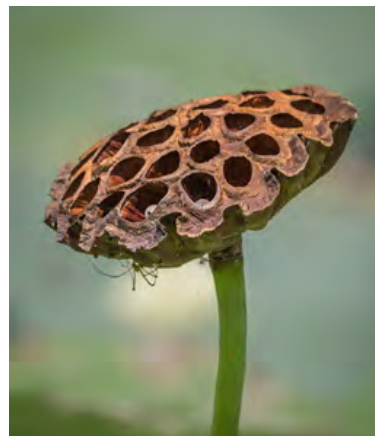
The relationship between pollinators and lotus flowers is a symbiotic one, meaning that both species benefit from the interaction. The insects receive a source of food, while the lotus flowers receive the pollen they need to produce seeds.

Other species of insects, such as ants and flies, are also attracted to the nectar and pollen of the lotus flowers and play a role in the pollination process.

In addition to insects, other pond life, such as birds and small mammals, may also play a role in pollination by feeding on the seeds produced by the lotus flowers. These animals help to disperse the seeds and promote the growth of new plants in different areas of the pond.

Pond Life (Cont.)

The relationship between pond life and lotus flowers is an important aspect of the pond ecosystem, and it demonstrates the interdependence of species and the role that each plays in maintaining balance. By understanding this relationship, we can better appreciate the beauty and significance of the pond ecosystem, and take steps to protect and preserve it for future generations.





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



***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>



***Resources & Education Opportunities
for Master Gardeners and the Community we
serve can be found on the Calendar at
[Upcoming Events.](#)***

DCMGA Members & Interns

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

Horticulture Scholarships

BY JERRY ALEXANDER

On February 21, 2023, the Blue Ribbon Scholarship Committee met to select students worthy of receiving a scholarship for the upcoming school year. The Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) was fortunate enough this year to award two scholarships to deserving students. The scholarships totaled \$1,500 dollars.

The first recipient is familiar to us because he has received two other scholarships for 2021 and 2022. His name is Evan Price, a native of Pilot Point, Texas, and currently a student at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is continuing his education, but with a new major in Environmental Science. He stated that after getting involved with the Environmental Science Club on campus, it peaked more interest in what he really wanted to do in the future and hopefully, will make him more well-rounded. Evan continues to be an outstanding academic student. He has completed 112 hours and has a 3.774 GPA. He will be receiving a \$1,000 scholarship.

In addition to Evan's academic achievement, he is working as a Teacher Assistant this spring and has applied for a summer research position. This still leaves him time to volunteer at his church and Habitat for Humanity, just to name a couple. We are very pleased with Evan's accomplishments and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Our next recipient is Dylan DeBerry. He will be graduating from Guyer High School this spring with a 3.6364 GPA. He plans to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, this fall and major in Natural Resource Management with a minor in Agribusiness. His goal is to complete his degree in four years and return to Denton to work with parks and recreation in the area of natural resources – local lakes and nature preserves.

Dylan has been a member of FFA for four years, as well as breeding rabbits during this time. He also competed in Entomology – 1st place District in 2021-2022, livestock shows, etc. while in FFA. Additionally, he was president of Guyer FFA- 2021-2022. He will be receiving a \$500.00 scholarship for the 2023 school year. We are proud to award this scholarship to Dylan and wish him well on his career path.

Congratulations



A Few of Our Favorite Resources

Epic Gardening: Daily Growing Tips and Advice (Podcast)

Kevin Espiritu | Urban Gardener, Hydroponics Enthusiast, Plant Lover. The *Epic Gardening* podcast is a daily gardening tips and advice show brought to you by Kevin Espiritu, an urban gardener, hydroponics enthusiast, and all-around plant lover. Every day, a gardening question from YOU will be answered in a fun and informative way in under 10 minutes!

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/epic-gardening-daily-growing-tips-and-advice/id1221085548>

Texas Fruit & Vegetable Gardening, 2nd Edition: Plant, Grow, and Harvest the Best Edibles for Texas Gardens (Fruit & Vegetable Gardening Guides), by Greg Grant, Cool Springs Press; (April 20, 2021).

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.



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!



2022 Cumulative Volunteer Service Awards

We recognize veteran members and graduating interns yearly for their cumulative volunteer service hours. For 2022, 59 members receive awards for cumulative volunteer service ranging from 100 to over 7,000 hours! These members have served nearly 65,000 cumulative hours.



BUTTERFLY

100+ Intern Hours

Mary Carlson (2022)
 Steve Carroll (2022)
 Sydney Chase (2022)
 Anne Cushman (2022)
 Penny Davis (2022)
 Peggy Fox (2022)
 Sherry Galbreath (2022)
 Mike James (2022)
 Johna Johnson (2022)
 Karen Kearns (2022)
 Teri Kettle (2022)
 Allison Lohse (2022)
 Regan McCamey (2022)
 Missy McCormick (2022)
 Rhonda McKinzie (2022)
 Kari Miley (2022)
 Bill Moen (2022) Matthew
 Phelps (2022)
 Amanda Price (2022)
 John Shelton (2022)
 Ivy Summerfield (2022)
 Debra Wallace (2022)
 Tray Webber (2022)
 Reesa Wilkins (2022)
 Ricky Wilkins (2022)



GARDEN FORK

500- 999 Hours

Judy Allen (2020)
 Barbara Beane (2018)
 Beckey Cortines (2020)
 Linda D'Amanda (2019)
 Sheila Daniel (2019)
 Linda Gonzales (2015)
 Marti Hector (2017)
 Debby Ishee (2017)
 Mike James (2022)
 CeCe Kenney (2017)
 Gresha Leamon (1999)
 Mary Lehrer (2017)
 Michele Rawleigh (2018)
 Kim Shaneyfelt (2017)
 Laura Thompson (2016)
 Deborah Williams (2019)



SHOVEL

1000 - 1499 Hours

Gloria Alexander (2015)
 Daniel Arenas (2013)
 Kathryn Fast (2016)
 Cheryl Huckabee (2018)
 Barbara Prins (2014)
 Kathy Rainey (2017)

Cumulative Volunteer Service Awards (Cont.)



FLOWER BOUQUET

1500 - 1999 Hours

Beverly Duncan (2018)
Karen Gibson (2017)
Ann Hillman (2017)
Lela Khan (2019)
Karen Roberts (2016)
Lee Ann Yates (2016)



CACTUS

2500 - 2999 Hours

Jolayne LaCour (2014)
Debbie Smith (2019)
Katherine Woodward (2013)
Kim Wootton (2017)



SUNFLOWER

3500 - 3999 Hours

Kathryn Wells (2017)



WATERING CAN

2000 - 2499 Hours

Clarice Luce (2003)



BLUEBONNET

7000+ Hours

Mary Morrow (2001)



59 members receive awards for cumulative volunteer service ranging from 100 to over 7,000 hours!



DCMGA President Cheryl Huckabee presents awards to Kathryn Wells (left) for 3500+ hours and Mary Morrow (right) for 7000+ hours served.



**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: I just came in from outside where I had to dodge the biggest wasp I've ever seen! What is it & how to I get rid of it?

A: Your reaction is very similar to my own the first time I encountered a cicada killer wasp. In fact, I came inside and immediately googled "aggressive, mutant wasp." Upon reading about it I realized that it is unlikely to bother humans unless they feel threatened, so don't swat at it! (This is true of most stinging insects.) The more aggressive males do not even have a stinger. Cicadas, which may cause plant or tree damage with their v-shaped egg deposits, are sought out by cicada killer wasps for the purpose of feeding their own grub-like larvae.

There are other scary-looking insects that are really garden helpers. Some are:

The ruthless praying mantis has a bottomless appetite for grasshoppers.

Red paper wasps are shorter than 1/2" long with red bodies and black wings. They reduce the presence of caterpillars, aphids,

scale insects, and whiteflies by paralyzing their prey to lay eggs inside of them.

Dragonflies lay eggs on a water surface or sometimes insert them into aquatic plants or mosses. Dragonfly larvae will eat mosquito larvae (also water-born) which helps keep mosquito populations under control.

Adult lacewings can be green or brown with their transparent wings showing a distinct network of veins. Their larvae are often found hiding under debris and resemble alligators, with oblong, soft bodies and distinctive sickle-shaped lower jaws. While the adults feed only on nectar and pollen, they lay their eggs around infested plants so that their larvae can eat thousands of aphids, scale, spider mites, mealy bugs, caterpillars, whiteflies, and thrips.



An adult crane fly, sometimes known as "mosquito hawks," "skeeter-eater," or "daddy longlegs," only has a lifespan of 10 to 15 days. Although the adults resemble mosquitoes, they do not bite or sting humans but feed primarily on plant nectar. Their

larvae feed on decaying organic material & help in nature's decomposition process of grass plants.

Despite their delightful name and appearance, ladybugs are ferocious predators! Before they get their bright red colors, they start out life as very different-looking, somewhat startling larvae, cruising around on plants and feasting on aphids. Ladybug larvae can eat up to 40 aphids an hour!



Earwigs eat mites, aphids, nematodes, slugs, and a wide variety of nuisance insects in the garden. They are mostly harmless unless they amass in large numbers when they may become a voracious threat to your garden.

Rough stink bugs emit a foul odor from their abdominal glands and look like army tanks. They prey on aphids, beetle larvae, and caterpillars and are gardeners' good friends.



There are thousands of species of ground beetles, many of which are beneficial to your garden. Ground beetles can be brown, black, or metallic green or blue in color. Most hunt garden pests like snails, slugs, and cutworms at night, so you may not notice them during the day unless you flip over a rock.

Spiders are creepy for most of us, but they are one of the most beneficial insects in the garden as they prey on mosquitoes, flies, hoppers, ants, aphids, and many other pests.

The brown widow spider originally entered the U.S. in Texas in the 1990s. It resembles the black widow, however, its identifying hourglass is yellowish-orange instead of bright red as on a black widow. Brown widow bites are of minor risk to humans, as their fangs are too short to penetrate the skin, but they aggressively seek out black widows to bite, thus causing the black widow population to decline. Found under eaves, window ledges, recessed handles of garden furniture or plastic trash bins, their diet includes mosquitoes, flies, crickets, ants, and roaches.



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.

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

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events

**May
4**

Gardening For Birds and Butterflies.

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

**May
10**

Denton County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting & Program
"Navigating the Farmer's Market: Getting Your Products to the Public"
Everyone is invited to attend.
Global Spheres Center 10AM-12PM

**May
13**

Garden Tour

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!
9AM - 4PM

Check out this link for more information bit.ly/40OTfEB

**May
18**

Plant Propagation

If your piggy bank is suffering a loss due to those numerous trips to the nursery or garden center, consider propagating your annual or perennial plants from cuttings, division or layering. Denton County Master Gardener Cheryl Huckabee will help you get started

Wise County Horticulture Club Wise County Fairgrounds
6PM - 7:30PM

**May
25**

Snakes - Always Getting a Bad Rap

Susan Pohlen, Elm fork Master Naturalist, will give us the inside info on snakes common to this area!

ASSC Anne Stuart Science Complex TWU
6:30PM - 8:30PM

**June
10**

Permanent Garden Class

Learn to understand the elements around it and how they are connected and learn from nature by observing, engaging, and activating your "Garden Brain." Our goal is to equip you so you can take action and not be afraid to explore and become the best gardener version of yourself!

Free, but pre-registration required:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ca5ae29a3f9c07-permanent#/>
Global Spheres Center 8AM - 5PM

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.





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](https://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 or from a Master Gardener

**Denton County Master
Gardener Association**

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DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE 2023

VEGETABLE, FRUIT, HERB & FLOWER SHOW

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | YOUTH & ADULT DIVISIONS

BRING YOUR VEGETABLES, FRUIT, HERBS & FLOWERS
TO COMPETE FOR RIBBONS & CASH PRIZES

VENDOR BOOTHS, EDUCATION BOOTHS
+ FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 | 9:00AM TO 1:00PM
NORTH TEXAS FAIRGROUNDS (WEST WING)
2217 CARROLL BLVD DENTON, TEXAS
*REGISTRATION FROM 9:00AM-10:00AM



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER





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.

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Social Media

Facebook:

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

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

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Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

- May 10 General Meeting & Program, "Navigating the Farmer's Market: Getting your Products to the Public" - Global Spheres, Corinth
- May 13 2023 DCMGA Garden Tour

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Content

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

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

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