

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



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# Buds From The Board

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE, PRESIDENT

*The month of leaves and roses,  
When pleasant sights salute the eyes,  
And pleasant scents the noses.  
—N. P. Willis (1807-67)*

June in Texas is HOT! The average temperatures range from 73-91 degrees F, with long 11-hour sunny days and typically only 5 days of rain. June 2022 was one of the hottest on record in North Texas. Let's hope June 2023 is not a repeat.

We Master Gardeners have learned to plan all our outdoor activities in the cooler morning hours. Plenty of fun activities this month are in the cooler mornings, evenings, and indoors. June 3, the Strawberry Moon at 10:43 p.m. when the brightest view occurs. You might think the Strawberry Moon would be reddish pink, but it was named by the Native American Algonquin tribes to mark the ripening of June bearing strawberries.

June 5 is World Environment Day, established by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness about the environment worldwide. This year, the event is focused on Beating Plastic Pollution.

June 10 is Denton County Farm Heritage Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Denton Historical Park. Learn about Denton County's agricultural history from the antique tractor, multi-era displays, crafts, and more. While you're there, stroll through the beautiful Bayless-Selby House Museum gardens maintained by Denton County Master Gardener volunteers.

June 17 is the Denton County Master Gardener Association Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show. Bring your prized vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers to compete for ribbons and cash prizes. This year's event is in the air-conditioned North Texas Fairgrounds, West Wing building, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and features education and vendor booths in addition to the competition.

June 18, Father's Day, is wonderful to plan a stroll through the Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch and enjoy the beautiful roses, one of June's birth flowers. Four large established rose gardens are easily accessed on trails that wind through the gardens.

June 24 is Midsummer Day, traditionally the midpoint of the growing season, halfway between planting and harvesting. Plan to check your garden daily for the many warm-season vegetables and fruits that will be ready to harvest in June. When to Harvest Vegetables and Fruit for Best Flavor is a handy guide from The Old Farmers Almanac.

## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

June 26-29, 9 a.m.-noon, kids can have fun learning about the outdoor world with Denton County Master Gardeners and Elm Fork Master Naturalists at the Outdoor Science with Attitude Camp hosted by Denton Parks and Recreation.

Watch for June's other birth flower – honeysuckle- when you're out and about. Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), one of my favorites, and White Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera alboflora*) are non-invasive Texas natives. Their long tubular flowers are hummingbird magnets and beautiful. Read "Hummingbird Feeder Plants" in the May 2023 issue of *The Root* to learn more about attracting these fascinating creatures.

We thank you if you joined us at our Annual Garden Tour on May 13. We hope you had as much fun touring the gardens as we did sharing them with you. Visit the Event Calendar on our website for more gardening events in June.

Drink lots of water, stay cool, and happy gardening!

*Cheryl*



## Propagation Team Member *Kathi Efflandt, Class of 2010*

BY JANET GERSHENFELD

If you have not had the pleasure of spending time with Kathi, you need to make it a priority to take one of her classes. Effortlessly and graciously, she is a propagation expert and, in mere moments, turns one plant into ten. It is her superpower. Her passion has always been plants.

Kathi decided to become a Master Gardener after meeting one of our founding members, Tom Harpoole, at his store. Budgets were tight for Kathi then, as a single woman owning her own business. She had placed several coleuses in her cart. While she and Tom chatted, he showed her how to propagate a half dozen of the coveted coleus and would only sell her the one original plant ... sending her on her way with a handful of little cuttings in pots ... the magic hit her! Thanks to Tom Harpoole's true Master Gardener spirit and generosity of knowledge, she joined the 2010 intern class.

She shared her gardens with us on her first garden tour in 2011. Diving in with both feet, she shared her magical small city property with the public. Her gardens were charming and showcased her handmade recycled window greenhouse and beds stuffed full of unique as well as native plants. She became a frequently requested speaker with our bureau and 6 years later, after a terrible storm took out her two huge trees, she was on the garden tour again showcasing a garden that transitioned from shade to sun.

Kathi and her handsome husband Randy now have a large acreage property north of Krum. She has been establishing demonstration gardens and is transforming this property into a place for her business, Native Roots Perennial Farms, where she grows not only plants but also gardeners. She teaches propagation to veteran Master Gardeners in a series of 6 classes a year. There is a classroom and many opportunities to sit, visit, and learn about all things gardening.



## Propagation Team Member Kathi Efflandt (Cont.)

She has taken the Propagation Specialist course and has been a highly valued member of the Propagation Team since 2015. Kathi built a new greenhouse with her own hands and then took the Advanced Training for Greenhouse Management. She teaches for SWAT, LISD teachers training, and speaks to garden groups, Chambers of Commerce, and herb and plant associations across the region.



Generous in every aspect of her gardening and time, she helped raise money for DCMGA by doing containers for sale at our previous fall festivals, she helps Dee Payne with decorations, and offers her wholesale license to keep our costs down.



Our organization has been blessed by Kathi's cheerful, sweet, and generous donation of time over the past 14 years. She is truly one of the unseen pillars of continuing strength and outreach that has been why we at DCMGA have grown into such a knowledgeable and far-reaching strong presence in Denton County. Thank you Kathi for all you have done and all you still want to give us.



## Meet Dale Powell

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Dale Powell brings the characteristics from his professional experience as a successful business manager and engineer to DCMGA – self-motivated and organized, good communicator and listener, problem solver and open to change, consistent and reliable, trustworthy, and transparent, and the ability to set goals and drive towards them. He has become my trusted advisor during my first term as president.

Dale grew up in the desert of Tucson, Arizona. It is a challenging environment for a gardener. Before 1980, Tucson's urban landscape looked like many others in the U.S., with grass lawns and other water-loving plants lining the residential streets. Dale's mother grew ornamental plants and a turfgrass lawn during that time. In 1977, Tucson began the "Beat the Peak" campaign encouraging residents to use less water through conservation education and progressive water rate structures as an incentive to conserve. This change prompted Dale's family to convert to a xeriscape landscape. Although Dale describes his evolution into gardening as slow, he began showing interest in it at ten years old. He planted an olive tree in his yard that was still there when he left his family home.

Dale received two degrees from the University of Arizona – Business and mechanical engineering. He came to Lewisville in 1979 to work for Texas Instruments, then moved to their home in Flower Mound in 1984. Transitioning from the desert environment to the clay soil and weather conditions in North Texas took some time. Dale describes digging a hole in the ground at his Lewisville home and watching it fill with water! His answer was to garden in large containers and raised beds.

At his home in Flower Mound, Dale follows the 12-step method of landscape design in "Designing Your Garden and Landscapes" by Janet Macunovich. Dale has adopted one of Janet Macunovich's design principles: planning the design around what you can see from inside your home. You can view a large raised-bed perennial garden from the large kitchen window in their home. He grows John Fanick phlox, elephant ears, cat mint, and other flowering perennials in this bed. Along the fence line that borders the creek his property backs onto, he and his mother planted Carolina jasmine, native honeysuckle, and wisteria to shield the view of the bare ground.

Big shade trees – oaks, willows, hackberries, and elm trees – provide dappled sun on most of his property. He's learned to deal with the "10 million elm babies" every year! Dale removed Nelly



**Dale Powell**  
**DCMGA Class 2011**

## Meet Dale Powell (Cont.)

Stevens holly shrubs to create an experimental garden bed with drip irrigation. This is one of Dale's first attempts to "grow in the ground" in addition to containers and raised beds.

Dale planned to become a Master Gardener when he retired. As an intern of the class of 2011, he was encouraged by veteran Master Gardener and former TI colleague Barbara Brown to become part of the Fairoaks Senior Residents project and co-leads that project to this day. Dale was awarded the Intern PM of the Year for leading the Fall Garden Fest annual event and went on to lead that project for two more years.

Dale applied his business experience and engineering acumen as Treasurer for DCMGA for multiple terms – 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017 – and stepped in to serve Treasurer vacancies in 2022 and 2023. Dale also served on the Texas Master Gardener Association Board as Treasurer for two years.

His experiences with the soil differences between Tucson and North Texas have led Dale to want to learn more about improving soil and irrigation training. He wants to learn how different soil types behave with varying irrigation methods. Dale also supports higher levels of continuing education for DCMGA members.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know and serve alongside Dale. DCMGA is privileged to have him as a long-term member and looks forward to many more years together.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Dale Powell

### Looking Out Dale's Kitchen Window



**Fairoaks  
Senior  
Residents  
project work  
crew**



*You're Invited*

June 2023, Monthly Meeting & Program  
"Stories Plants Tell"



Dallas County Master Gardener Carolyn Rozier will share stories about the history, characteristics, and uses of plants through time.

June 14, 2023, 10 am  
Global Spheres Center  
7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth, TX 76210

## Summer Heat Features

Summer in Texas is ... HOT! Too hot for anything more than a quick check of plants in the early morning, turning on the drip irrigation, and retreating back to the comfort of air conditioning. With this in mind, we present two short feature articles this month: "The Five Best Houseplants for Beginners" and "Drought-Tolerant Summer Bloomers for North Texas." Create your plan now for beating the impending summer heat!

### ***The Five Best Houseplants for Beginners***

BY GERRI REESE & KAREN GIBSON

Have you ever wanted to live in a house filled with lush, beautiful greenery, but you've never owned a houseplant and don't know where to start? Have no fear; we're here to help!

Your plant selection is essential to your success. We've compiled a list of the five best houseplants for beginners. We chose these plants because they're both beautiful and easy-care.

First, we have the **Monstera plant** (*Monstera deliciosa*), also known as the Swiss cheese plant, because of the holes that form on the leaves with age. These plants thrive in bright, indirect light and like to be kept moist; misting their leaves helps increase the humidity. Monstera plants can grow to between 6–8 feet, so a sturdy support will be necessary. This plant is poisonous to pets, so be careful!

Next up is the **Peace Lily** (*Spathiphyllum*). These plants have big, vibrant leaves and are great at filtering the air.



## *The Five Best Houseplants for Beginners (Cont.)*

It's easy to know when they need water because they will start to droop. But once watered, they perk right back up! Healthy Peace Lilies normally reach 1 to 4 feet tall and wide and bloom showy white flowers 1 to 2 times a year. Peace Lilies are also toxic to pets and children if ingested, with burning of mouth, throat, and tongue the most common side effect.

Third, we have the ZZ or Zanzibar Gem plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*). A low-maintenance plant, the glossy Zanzibar Gem is drought tolerant. It will be very forgiving if you forget to water it a few times. The ZZ plant's growth rate is slow, reaching 2 to 4 feet in height and width, and it prefers bright, indirect light. Since it is toxic to pets and humans if ingested, be sure to wash your hands after touching it.

The Snake Plant (*Dracaena trifasciata*), also called Mother-in-law's tongue, is our fourth recommendation. This plant can grow to 8 feet tall! While it can survive in low light conditions, it grows best with good sunlight for 2 to 6 hours a day. Since the Snake Plant is native to rocky, dry habitats, it needs good drainage. Make sure your pot has a hole at the bottom and allow the soil to dry between watering. Overwatering will cause the roots to rot. Snake plant is a clean air plant, used by NASA to remove certain pollutants, like Formaldehyde and ammonia.

Finally, we have Lucky Bamboo (*Dracaena sanderiana*), or Chinese Water Bamboo, which is not true bamboo. The great thing about this plant is it doesn't need soil to survive, although you can plant it in soil if you desire. Place a few stalks in about an inch of water and watch them thrive. Be sure to use bottled water (chlorine-free) and change it weekly. Add some pebbles to the bottom to give the roots a place to grow. As the plant grows, you will need to add water to keep the roots covered. Also, be aware this plant is toxic to cats and dogs.

And just that easy, you're on your way to becoming a proud plant owner!

### **Resources**

#### **The Spruce**

"How to Grow and Care for Monstera Deliciosa"

<https://www.thespruce.com/how-to-grow-monstera-deliciosa-5072671>

"How to Grow and Care for Peace Lily Plants"

<https://www.thespruce.com/grow-peace-lilies-1902767>

"All About ZZ Plants: Sunlight, Care, & Growing Tips"

<https://www.thespruce.com/zz-zanzibar-gem-plant-profile-4796783>

"Lucky Bamboo Care"

<https://www.thespruce.com/growing-lucky-bamboo-1902994>

## *The Five Best Houseplants for Beginners (Cont.)*

### *Resources (Cont.)*

**Clemson Cooperative Extension, Home & Garden Information Center**

"Peace Lily"

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/peace-lily/>

**New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG)**

"Snake Plant (*Dracaena*)"

<https://libguides.nybg.org/snakeplant>

**NC State Extension, North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox**

"*Monstera deliciosa*"

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/monstera-deliciosa/>

"*Zamioculcas Zamiifolia*"

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/zamioculcas-zamiifolia/>

"*Dracaena trifasciata*"

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dracaena-trifasciata/>

"*Dracaena sanderiana*"

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/dracaena-sanderiana/>

**The Old Farmer's Almanac**

"How to Grow Lucky Bamboo"

<https://www.almanac.com/how-grow-lucky-bamboo>

For more information on Growing Houseplants, check out "Houseplants 101" from the June 2020 issue of *The Root*.



**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>

## Summer Heat Features (Cont.)

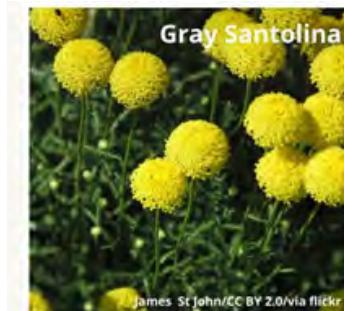
### Drought-Tolerant Summer Bloomers for North Texas

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

What's blooming in North Texas in the heat of July? In our gardens, here are six top drought-tolerant choices that will survive the Texas summer heat and flower!

#### Gray Santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)

- Also known as Lavender Cotton, it is a blooming ground cover with lovely grey evergreen foliage
- Small yellow flowers bloom all summer that attract bees and butterflies
- Low to medium water requirements and prefers full sun



Gray Santolina

James St John/CC BY 2.0/via flickr



Russian Sage

Atarax42/CC BY-SA 4.0/via Wikimedia Commons

#### Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

- Tall, spike-like clusters have purple-blue flowers that attract birds, bees, and butterflies
- Hardy, and heat-loving it resists deer and pests
- Low water requirements and does best in full sun



Butterfly Bush

I. IKAI/CC BY-SA 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons



Black Eyed Susan

FD Richards/CC BY 2.0/via flickr

#### Butterfly Bush 'Ice Chip' & 'Pugster Blue' (*Buddleia x*)

- 'Ice Chip' has white flowers and 'Pugster Blue' has purple flowers on compact mounds of silver-colored foliage
- The fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds
- Does best in full to part-sun and has low water requirements



Wild Bergamot

Eric Hunt/CC BY-SA 4.0/via Wikimedia Commons



Stella De Oro Daylilly

FD Richards/CC BY 2.0/via flickr

## Drought Tolerant Summer Bloomers for North Texas (Cont.)

**Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm')**

- An easy-care plant with bright yellow daisy-like flowers that are good for cut flowers
- Tolerates heat, humidity, and clay soil
- Prefers full sun and has low water requirements

**Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa* L.)**

- Also known as Beebalm, Wild Bergamot is native to the lower 48 United States
- Clusters of lavender, pink or white flowers, bloom on 2-5 ft., open-branched stems
- Tolerates part-shade and full-sun, and has low to medium water requirements

**'Stella de Oro' Daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Stella de Oro')**

- A low-maintenance lily that will rebloom trumpet-shaped golden-yellow flowers often into early fall
- Growing just 1 foot tall, it's best used in the front of the border or mass plantings
- Prefers full to part-sun, well-draining soil and has medium water requirements

Give one of these drought- and heat-tolerant summer bloomers a try in your garden. You won't be disappointed!



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

*For non-DCMGA events, check out this list of Continuing Education Opportunities.*

### DCMGA Members & Interns

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

## It's Thyme to Talk About Herbs

BY SHERRI URSPINI

On a beautiful spring morning in Texas, I found myself disassembling my stackable herb garden. My confidante, Judy Allen, and I had planned a fantastic show-and-tell for the Maids and Matrons in Bowie. This is a special group of senior women that meet in the Veterans Hall once a month. I call it a show-and-tell because, to be frank, it sounds less scary. With my herbal tea in hand and the earthy smell of herbs in my vehicle, I was off to Judy's, where we loaded up more goodies to bless the Maids and Matrons. Judy brought beautifully potted up herbs and I had prepared lemon lavender cookies to accompany their tea to create a special gathering.

When we arrived, Judy and I were greeted with beautifully decorated cottage garden tablescapes. Insert pictures of *Southern Living* here! Ha! You think you are going to be the blesser and here we were being blessed by the experience as well. Before the presentation, we enjoyed a lovely lunch together. Yes, friend, I encourage you to volunteer. The experience might just surprise you.

As I started my presentation, it was as though I had rekindled an old friendship. The engagement ensued. Many of these ladies remembered how their families had used herbs: mint jelly and dandelion jelly were just a few uses. This was nurturing to the soul. We were planting seeds of encouragement with new ideas on how to grow herbs in a small space or using herbs as layers in their landscape.

Many herbs are great companions for our vegetable gardens, like fragrant soldiers fighting off hornworms. I touched upon how many of our herbs have the purpose to nurture the body just as the food we eat. I brought along herb books for an opportunity to do a deeper dive into some herbal tea recipes. One of my favorites is Lemon Thyme – it is a great pick-me-up for low energy. Combining echinacea and thyme is a great immune booster.



Photos Courtesy Helen George & DCMGA Member Judy Allen

### Sherri's Stackable Herb Garden

## It's Thyme to Talk About Herbs (Cont.)

We touched upon seven different herbs – mint, sage, rosemary, oregano/marjoram, thyme, and basil – and talked about growing preferences and pruning techniques. Many of the herbs I mentioned grow very well in a pot and can survive our Texas heat.

In my closing, I explained how I have killed many plants and, in doing so, learned valuable lessons. It is important to just start somewhere. We all learn by doing! I don't believe in a black thumb, purple thumb, or green thumb. Planting herbs can be a great place to start.

Herbs can definitely be beneficial and enhance our lives. So fellow gardeners/volunteers, I pass along encouragement to get out there and be the blesser. You may be surprised by what you encounter. I leave you with my favorite saying, "Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing." Herbs may surprise you too!



**Cottage Garden Tablescapes**



**Herb Gardening, Plus Herbal Medicinal and Recipe Books**



**Sherri Ursini & Judy Allen**



# DCMGA Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

BY DEBBY ISHEE

The DCMGA Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show – one DCMGA's yearly events – will be held Saturday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Historically held on the lawn of the Bayless-Selby home, and in conjunction with the Denton Community Market, this year the show will be held indoors in the West Wing building at the North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 North Carroll Blvd, in Denton.

There will be education booths and vendors surrounding the show to provide education and entertainment while the fruit, vegetable, herb, and flower entries are being judged and awarded their ribbons – in the comfort of an air-conditioned space!

So, spread the word, and grow those plants. Let's make the Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show as successful as our Plant Sale and Garden Tour have been this year!



## Plant Sale Recap

BY PAT & DON EDWARDS

Friday, April 28th was quite a day – unloading plants, setting them out, all the while wondering what the weather was going to do. Fortunately, Mother Nature was kind to us on Hobson Lane and we were able to complete our setup. Out of concern for the possibility of hail and high winds, we moved all the plants to the ground and protected areas. That meant we had more work to do before the sale opened on Saturday.

Saturday, April 29th started early for our volunteers but we had everything in place in time to open at 9 a.m. The line started forming around 8 a.m. and customers with their own wagons and wish lists waited patiently. It turned out to be a beautiful day and by 12:30 p.m. we were sold out! We started with about 3000 pass-along plants and over 3200 nursery plants. Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions and guide customers to plants most likely to succeed in their environments.

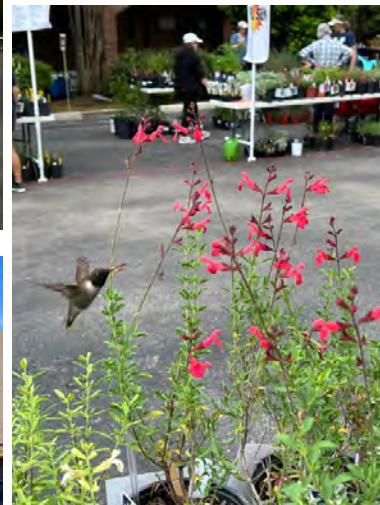
This fundraising event supports DCMGA community outreach and educational programs for the public. We appreciate everyone who comes to our sale and all the volunteers who help make this happen. A special thanks to our gracious hosts at Trinity United Methodist Church for sharing their lovely space with us.



**Don & Pat  
Edwards**



**Plant Sale Day!**



**Hummingbird  
Visitor**



## Class of 2023 Marks Milestone

BY KIM WOOTTON, CLASS PLANNING CHAIRPERSON

On May 9, the members of the DCMGA Class of 2023 completed their classroom training. All 44 Interns chosen by the Class Selection Committee last November successfully completed the class hours required to certify in January as Denton County Master Gardeners.

This milestone was celebrated in class on May 2. The day began with the wonderful team of Pat and Don Edwards, fresh off the Plant Sale, giving a lesson in vermiculture, complete with a worm giveaway. The day ended with a tour of Beulah Acres given by Daniel Arenas. Additionally, the Class Mentors were on hand to provide a delicious picnic lunch, take plenty of pictures, and pause to reflect and appreciate the accomplishments of all those present. Cheryl Huckabee was also on hand to give a few words of congratulations.

May 9 concluded the year's classroom training with a field trip to the Texas A&M AgriLife Dallas Research Center. Talks and tours were led by Janet Hurley, Dr. Faoud Jaber, Dean Mancillo, and Bryant McDowell.

In addition to 70 hours of class time, the Interns are also required to log a minimum of 70 hours of volunteer service on approved projects for the organization. Graduation for everyone who completes the requirements will be held in January at the annual DCMGA Awards Banquet.

The Class Administration Team of Barbara Beane, Melissa Migis, and Kim Wootton want to thank everyone on the Class Planning Team, the Board of Directors, Janet Laminack, Gina Steiner, and all the Master Gardener veterans that continue to ensure the success of our Interns and the Intern Class Program.

Class of 2023, congratulations once again on your accomplishments thus far! We can't wait to see what you've yet to accomplish!



# Denton County Master Gardener Association Wins Search for Excellence Awards

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

The Texas Master Gardener Association sponsors the Texas Search for Excellence Awards Program with guidance provided by the Texas Master Gardener Coordinator from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. The purpose of each award is to recognize outstanding Master Gardener people, associations, projects, and programs throughout the state of Texas for outstanding contributions within the state.

Denton County Master Gardener Association received two 2022 Search for Excellence Awards in the Live Oak category (200+ members)!

**First Place, Workshop Presentation**, for the Fall Into Gardening: Learn to Grow and Manage the Flow Event. This category recognizes an in-person or digital educational program, a teaching opportunity presented by Master Gardeners to the community to provide educational information about a horticultural topic.

**Second Place, Outstanding Association.**  
This category recognizes a Master Gardener Association that contributed programs and/or projects of significant educational value to the community.

Thank you to all our members who made this possible and the community for their ongoing support!



# SWAt (Science With Attitude) News

BY TAMMIE GURLEY

Science with Attitude (SWAt) is a joint project of the Denton County Master Gardener Association, the Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists, and 4-H.

So far in 2023 (thru May 15), we have had .... 6,009 contacts! That's Pretty Incredible!

And now .. The Places we will GO... here are a few of our upcoming events:

Harvest Christian Academy, City of Keller, Explorium - Denton, Lake Dallas MS, O'SWAt Camp, 4-H Clover Camp, Farm-to-Table Camp, Pilot Point Library....come & join us!!

For more information and/or to volunteer for SWAT, contact Tammie Gurley or Marion Arndt via VMS.



**Making Wildflower Seed Balls,  
April 18 at Wellington ES in  
Flower Mound,**

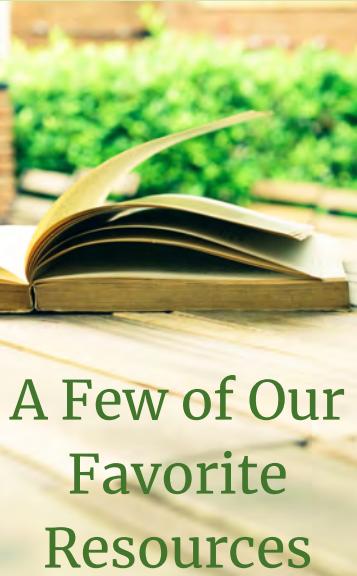
You can also check out our FB page for photos of all the fun events we've covered this year!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sciencewithattitude/>



**DISD Clear Creek School Days**  
**2,058 youth & 665 adults**  
**totaling 2,723 contacts**





## A Few of Our Favorite Resources

### *The No-Till Market Garden Podcast, by Farmer Jesse*

*The No-Till Market Garden Podcast* is a nuts and bolts (and earthworms and microbes) look at how to run a productive, profitable no-till market garden for small and mid-sized farmers.

Listen on Apple Podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-no-till-market-garden-podcast/id1441886206>

*The Old Farmer's Almanac Vegetable Gardener's Handbook, Illustrated edition, Old Farmer's Almanac; (November 12, 2019).*

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!



## Friends We Will Miss



**Donald Wier**  
**Class of 2009**

Donald and his wife Imogene were members of the Class of 2009. They were both active in the Plant Sale and Garden Tours. The Wier's home was in the 2010 Garden Tour (see *The Rototeller* newsletter, Vol. XII, issue 2 for June 2010). Clarice Luce and Darla Bostick were their garden co-captains. Clarice remembers that Donald was very knowledgeable about plants.

Donald and Imogene served with Leah Knack as garden co-captains for Joe and Tina Bohn's home in the 2011 Garden Tour. Donald Wier passed away on May 11, 2023.



## D C M G A —HELP DESK—

Question of the Month



Help Desk Team Contact Information  
940-349-2892  
master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

### BY HELP DESK TEAM

*Q: I am new to gardening. I purchased several flowering perennials, shrubs, vegetable plants, and some basic digging and pruning tools. I received instructions on caring for the plants but wonder if I need to do anything special to take care of the tools?*

**A: Congratulations!** You are starting down a path that will provide visual pleasure, healthy food, and good exercise. To answer your question, yes there are two things you should do to ensure that your tools stay in good shape and help, not harm, your plants. Those are keeping the tools clean and keeping them sharp.

What is the big deal about keeping tools clean? Dirty gardening tools can spread disease from an infected plant to a healthy one. When should you clean my tools? During the growing season, clean and disinfect your tools after touching an infected plant and before moving on to the next plant and after any time you use your tools at a garden site other than your own. You should also do a final cleaning at the end of the season before putting your tools away for the winter.

**How to clean and disinfect tools:** First, remove all dirt and debris from the tool. Use a hard spray of water or slush them in a bucket of water with a bit of dishwashing soap and, if necessary, use a scrub brush to remove the stubborn bit. To disinfect tools, choose a 70% or greater alcohol and spray or dip the entire tool. Then rinse thoroughly. This method works best for hand tools like pruners and trowels.

For larger tools like shovels, loppers, spades, rakes and support cages, a mild (10%) bleach solution is recommended. This will kill fungi, bacteria, and viruses within seconds.

Make sure all parts of the tool are treated then allow them to dry completely. Then rub metal parts with a few drops of linseed oil, Tung oil, or mineral oil. If rust develops, use steel wool or wire brush to remove it and then re-oil.

**How to sharpen garden tools:** First clean the tool or equipment thoroughly as described above. Sharpen the cutting edge of pruning shears, loppers, hedge clippers, and mower blades. Sharpen the scoop edge of shovels, spades, and trowels.



Click these links for how-to guidelines for sharpening hand tools:

Cornell University Cooperative Extension:

[https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/cwas/files/2013/01/Caring\\_for\\_Your\\_Tools.pdf](https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/cwas/files/2013/01/Caring_for_Your_Tools.pdf)

University of Florida Gardening Solutions:

<https://gardenningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/tools-and-equipment/sharpening-your-tools.html>

If you're not comfortable taking on the sharpening task, some local hardware stores will sharpen tools. Or, a quick Google search will also provide options for local sources that will sharpen tools and equipment. After sharpening, wipe all metal surfaces with lubricating oil to remove and prevent rust then wipe any wooden handles with boiled linseed oil.

These websites offer additional information about caring for your tools:

University of Florida:

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/leonco/2013/12/20/winterizing-garden-tools/>

Clemson Cooperative Extension:

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/winter-tool-care/>



*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

**JUNE 10** **PERMANENT GARDEN CLASS**  
 LEARN TO UNDERSTAND THE ELEMENTS AROUND IT AND HOW THEY ARE CONNECTED AND  
 LEARN FROM NATURE BY OBSERVING, ENGAGING, 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#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4ca5ae29a3f9c07-permanent#/)  
 GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER 8AM - 5PM

**JUNE 14** **MONTHLY MEETING AND PROGRAM**  
 PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETING AND PROGRAM, "STORIES PLANTS TELL." DALLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER CAROLYN ROZIER WILL SHARE STORIES ABOUT THE HISTORY, CHARACTERISTICS, AND USES OF PLANTS THROUGH TIME. THE MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING WILL FOLLOW THE PROGRAM.  
 GLOBAL SPHERES CENTER 10 AM

**JUNE 15** **CARING FOR MONARCHS IN YOUR YARD**  
 EVERYONE LOVES MONARCH BUTTERFLIES, BUT DID YOU KNOW THEY ARE DESIGNATED A THREATENED SPECIES, MEANING ACTION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT THEM FROM GOING EXTINCT? SPONSORED BY THE WISE COUNTY HORTICULTURAL CLUB. LIZ MOYER MASTER GARDENER WISE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS WOMEN'S BUILDING, 3101 FM 51 DECATUR 6-7PM

**JUNE 15** **ALL ABOUT ROSES**  
 DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS DON AND PAT EDWARDS ARE VERITABLE FOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ROSES. COME LET THEM HELP YOU ENJOY SOME OF THESE PERENNIAL FAVORITES IN YOUR LANDSCAPE  
 LEWISVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY 6:30-7:30 PM

**JUNE 17** **DENTON COUNTY FRUIT, VEGETABLE, HERB AND FLOWER SHOW**  
 SHOW OFF YOUR EDIBLE HARVEST AND FAVORITE FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN AT OUR FRUIT, VEGETABLE, HERB, AND FLOWER SHOW. ADULTS AND YOUTH CATEGORIES AVAILABLE.  
 NORTH TEXAS FAIRGROUNDS, DENTON 9AM-1PM

**JUNE 17** **SUMMER SEED SWAP**  
 SHARE SEEDS YOU NO LONGER WANT WITH OTHERS AND TRADE FOR DIFFERENT ONES. THERE ARE SURE TO BE UNUSUAL OR HARD TO FIND SEEDS TO SHARE.  
CARROLLTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AT JOSEY RANCH LAKE 2-3:30PM

**JUNE 22** **MONITORING BLUEBIRDS**  
 JERRY HAMBY WILL SHARE HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE LBJ NATIONAL GRASSLAND, WHERE HE AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS MAINTAIN AND MONITOR MORE THAN THIRTY EASTERN BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS CONSIDERATIONS FOR INSTALLING BOXES IN YOUR BACKYARD. IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL  
ANN STUART SCIENCE COMPLEX CHECK WEB SITE FOR ZOOM LINK 7-8:30PM

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  
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 ENTER





### 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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#### Twitter:

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

#### Pinterest:

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

#### YouTube:

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

### Save the Date

June 14      General Meeting & Program, "Stories Plants Tell" - Global Spheres, Corinth

June 17      2023 DCMGA Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

### Contact Information

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Content  
Submission deadline for the July edition of *The Root* is Thursday, June 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.